

Moral Values in the Novel “Pasta Kacang Merah” By Durian Sukegawa: A Literary Sociology Approach

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Abstract

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This study aims to describe the moral values contained in the novel "Pasta Kacang Merah" by Durian Sukegawa using a sociology of literature approach. The moral values analyzed include the relationship between humans and themselves, the relationship between humans and others, and the relationship between humans and God. The method used in this study is a qualitative descriptive method with content analysis techniques on relevant quotations from the novel. The results of the study show that this novel is full of moral values, such as an attitude of gratitude, discipline, patience, and humility which are reflected in the relationship between humans and themselves. In relationships with others, the values of empathy, tolerance, solidarity, and respect for others are found. Meanwhile, the relationship between humans and God is seen through spiritual awareness, an attitude of surrender, and gratitude for life. The moral values contained in this novel not only enrich the character of the characters, but also provide valuable lessons for readers about the importance of building good character and maintaining harmonious relationships with others and God. This research is expected to contribute to the development of literary studies, especially in understanding the role of literary works as a medium for character formation and instilling moral values

Keywords: Moral Values, Novels, Red Bean Paste, Sukegawa Durian, Sociology of Literature

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INTRODUCTION

Literature is a human creation, both written and oral, that is capable of evoking readers' emotions (such as love, hatred, affection, sympathy, or beauty) accompanied by messages. Literary works use figurative language to demonstrate the beauty of the work itself. The purpose of literary language is to create a distinguishing sense between literary and non-literary works. The figurative language used in literary works evokes emotions through imaginative thought. Literature is not only beautiful, but also contains messages for its readers. These messages can be contemplated by readers to observe issues in philosophy, life, and art (Jahuri, 2010: 4).

The existence of literary works can be understood by considering social factors (Wiyatmi, 2011:7). In literary works, the author, as a member of society, portrays social reality. Darmono (1978:13) states that “The essential mission of the author is to place the characters he creates in fictional situations so that they may discover their own ‘destiny’ and subsequently find meaning and values

within society.” According to Endraswara (2011:78), literature also uses humans as the object of study, just as sociology uses humans as its object of analysis. Thus, literature and sociology are two different disciplines that can strengthen one another.

Literary works contain values that can be emulated by readers. Value is something worthwhile, precious, and useful for human life. Setiadi (cited in Robingah, 2013:3) states that “Value is something beneficial for humans both physically and spiritually.” According to Plich and Manila (1993:25), “Values are consequently revealed in the way human beings behave as well as in the way they assess value objects.” The writing of literary works is constructed from various building elements, namely intrinsic and extrinsic elements. Extrinsic elements contain various values of human life. One of the values embedded in literary works is moral value.

As a value contained in literary works, moral value plays a significant role in opening the hearts and minds of literary readers regarding human attitudes and behavior in life. Moral values in literary works, particularly novels, usually reflect the author’s worldview concerning moral values. Moral values are rules that apply within society, including speech, actions, and behavior in relation to God, oneself, and others (Subur, 2015:55). Although morality exists within individuals, morality essentially exists within a system manifested in rules. Today, incidents of moral decline among humans are increasingly widespread along with the rapid development of science and technology.

One form of literary work is the novel. A novel is a fictional story that is longer than a short story and contains a complex plot, encompassing various events and deeper character portrayals. According to Semi (1988:34), a novel does not merely highlight a single main event, but presents a series of interconnected events that support the development of the story. The length of a novel also has no fixed standard, as it is determined more by the completeness of the story elements and the author’s narrative needs.

Durian Sukegawa, as the author of the novel *Pasta Kacang Merah*, presents the cultural background and social life of Japanese society in his work. As a writer living within the environment of modern Japanese culture, Sukegawa places social issues, humanity, and moral values at the center of attention in his novel. The novel *Pasta Kacang Merah* becomes a medium for Sukegawa to express human inner struggles, voice empathy toward marginalized groups, and convey moral messages that are often neglected in social life. This is in line with Hoggart’s opinion (1975:162), which states that literary works help retell the tendencies of values embraced by writers regarding their society. Literary works at all levels are always illuminated by the values embedded within them. Therefore, what authors do is convince readers and demonstrate that literary works are truly integrated with individual life within the social structure of society.

An author is part of his or her era. Therefore, to understand and appreciate a literary work, it is necessary to examine the extent to which the era and environment influence the author’s way of thinking, shape aesthetic preferences, and color the characters in the work (Hudson, 1955:4). Literary works play a role in showing how humans live their lives, both within and outside the framework of these values, especially when tensions and conflicts arise from choosing to live

beyond the boundaries of such values. This idea is also in line with the view of Goenawan Mohammad (1972:26), who states that ultimately literary works function to sharpen and deepen our inner experiences as readers regarding various aspects of life, and ultimately life itself (Mohammad, 1972:26).

The study of sociology of literature always relates literary works to the supporting society, the source society, the target society, and the society from which the author originates. Therefore, to analyze the novel *Pasta Kacang Merah* by Durian Sukegawa, an understanding of the socio-cultural system of Japanese society as well as individual behavior in social life is required. The values and meanings in the novel *Pasta Kacang Merah* will be assessed based on the extent to which this work reflects the social and cultural context of Japanese society. The problems that may be proposed in this study are: “To what extent does this novel portray the social and moral behavior of Japanese society?” and “How relevant is this novel to the social structure and cultural values of Japanese society?”

This novel contains various moral values related to life, such as empathy, acceptance of differences, forgiveness, and respect for human dignity. Through the sociology of literature approach, this study will describe and analyze the moral values reflected in the novel *Pasta Kacang Merah* by Durian Sukegawa, and relate them to the social conditions of Japanese society that form the background of the story.

METHODS

This research uses a qualitative research method with a descriptive approach. Qualitative research focuses on natural data and does not involve numerical calculations, but instead produces data in the form of words, quotations, and narrative sentences. This study aims to describe the moral values contained in the novel *Pasta Kacang Merah* by Durian Sukegawa.

The research was conducted from December 2024 to April 2025 by analyzing documents in the form of a novel. The research data consist of words, sentences, and paragraphs containing moral values. The data sources consist of primary and secondary data, with the main source of the research being the novel *Pasta Kacang Merah* by Durian Sukegawa, published by Gramedia Pustaka in 2015.

The data collection technique was carried out through several steps, namely reading the novel, understanding the content of the story, taking notes on quotations containing moral values, and then collecting the data to be analyzed. The data analysis technique used descriptive analysis by identifying, classifying, and interpreting the data according to the research problems in order to find the relationships and meanings of the moral values in the novel.

The presentation of the data analysis results uses an informal technique, namely explaining the research findings in ordinary words without using formulas, tables, or diagrams.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Research Results

The results of this study reveal that the novel *Pasta Kacang Merah* by Durian Sukegawa is rich in moral values reflected through its characters, plot, and

interactions among the characters. This study found that the moral values in the novel can be categorized into three main aspects: the relationship between humans and themselves, the relationship between humans and God, and the relationship between humans and other people. The following are the findings based on each aspect:

1. Moral Values in Human Relationships with Themselves

The study found that the main characters, Sentaro and Tokue, demonstrate various moral values related to the relationship between humans and themselves, including:

- 1) Gratitude: Sentaro experiences an inner transformation after remembering his mother's affection and comparing Tokue's red bean paste with factory-made products. This awakens a sense of gratitude within him for the experiences and love he once received.
- 2) Discipline: Both Sentaro and Tokue demonstrate discipline in their work. Sentaro learns to be responsible and consistent in his job, while Tokue emphasizes the importance of precision and patience in every process of making red bean paste.
- 3) Patience: The value of patience is reflected in Tokue's calm attitude when facing rejection, as well as Sentaro's effort to manage his emotions and face life's challenges with perseverance.
- 4) Humility: Tokue shows humility in her attitude and in accepting her limitations, both in terms of age and physical condition, and she does not demand excessive rewards for her work.

2. Moral Values in Human Relationships with God

The spiritual aspect of this novel is also quite prominent. The study found several moral values related to the relationship between humans and God, including:

- 1) Awareness of God's Greatness: Tokue possesses strong spiritual awareness, reflected in the way she interprets nature as a form of communication with God's creations and as an expression of gratitude for life.
- 2) Surrender to God: Sentaro is portrayed as someone who surrenders himself and prays to God, especially when facing life's difficulties. He believes that everything will improve according to God's will and continues to hold hope for a better future.

3. Moral Values in Human Relationships with Others

The study also found that this novel is rich in moral values related to human relationships, namely:

- 1) Caring for Others: The characters in the novel show concern for the conditions and feelings of others. Sentaro pays attention to Tokue's limitations, while Tokue also cares about Sentaro's health and well-being.
- 2) Helping One Another: There are mutual helping relationships among the characters, whether in the form of material assistance, emotional support, or moral encouragement. This value is reflected in the interactions between Sentaro, Tokue, and the other characters around them.
- 3) Deliberation: Decision-making in running the dorayaki business is carried out through discussion and two-way communication, showing the importance of respecting the opinions and experiences of others.
- 4) Forgiveness: The characters in the novel learn to forgive mistakes and let go of

resentment, while understanding that emotional wounds can heal over time.

- 5) Keeping Promises: The values of integrity and responsibility are reflected in the characters' efforts to fulfill the promises and commitments they have made.
- 6) Respecting Others: Mutual respect, appreciation of others' efforts, and consideration for other people's feelings become the foundation for building harmonious social relationships in the novel.

Overall, the results of this study show that the novel *Pasta Kacang Merah* not only presents a touching story but is also rich in moral messages relevant to everyday life. The moral values contained in the novel can serve as inspiration and lessons for readers in facing various dynamics of life.

DISCUSSION

The discussion in this study focuses on the forms of moral values found in the novel *Pasta Kacang Merah* by Durian Sukegawa. The aspects obtained from this study include moral values related to the relationship between humans and God, the relationship between humans and themselves, and the relationship between humans and other people.

1. Moral Values in Human Relationships with Themselves

- 1) Gratitude

(1) "*Pasta kacang merah dari Tokue sama sekali berbeda dengan pasta kacang merah plastikan... Bayangan sosok sang ibu yang mengajarnya cara menulis saat ia kecil berkali-kali muncul di depan matanya.*" (Sukegawa, 2015:16)

This quotation contains the moral value of gratitude. Through the comparison between Tokue's red bean paste, which is made with great care, and the factory-made paste, which feels bland and mechanical, Sentaro begins to realize the meaning of sincerity and affection in his life. Memories of his mother patiently teaching him to write as a child awaken emotions that he had long suppressed. Although he previously tried to avoid memories of his past, this moment revives his awareness and gratitude for the love and sacrifices his mother had given him. This reflection becomes an emotional turning point for Sentaro in understanding the importance of appreciating relationships and affection he once received, especially from his parents.

- 2) Discipline

(2) "*Sentaro berdiri di depan pemanggang sepanjang hari.*" (Sukegawa, 2015:5)

This quotation illustrates the value of discipline. Although the sentence is brief and does not explicitly describe Sentaro's character or attitude, his action of standing in front of the griddle all day reflects strong dedication to his work. This shows that he continues to carry out his duties with discipline, even though his life is difficult and he is burdened with personal problems. Implicitly, the sentence suggests that Sentaro is not someone who easily gives up and that he remains responsible for his work, even under unfavorable circumstances.

(3) "*Setelah mencampur pasta kacang merah yang baru dengan yang lama, Sentaro akan mulai membuat adonan dorayaki... Sentaro memutuskan membuat sendiri.*" (Sukegawa, 2015:10)

This quotation contains the value of discipline. Sentaro demonstrates

commitment to his work by consistently following the process of making dorayaki step by step, from mixing the red bean paste to preparing the batter himself. His decision to continue the process despite economic limitations and poor-quality ingredients reflects professionalism and consistency in carrying out his responsibilities. He does not surrender to circumstances but continues striving to do his best in his work. This action teaches the importance of maintaining work quality even in difficult situations and shows that dedication in small matters reflects a person's integrity.

(4) "*Sentaro tidak boleh datang terlambat. Karena itu ia berbaring jauh lebih awal dari biasanya.*" (Sukegawa, 2015:26)

This quotation reflects the value of discipline. Sentaro begins to show a change in attitude by taking concrete steps to avoid being late to the shop, namely by resting earlier than usual. This shows that he has begun to value time, not only for himself but also because of the new responsibility of working together with Tokue, who would soon help at the shop. This action marks Sentaro's growing commitment and awareness of his role and responsibilities. He is no longer indifferent as before but starts organizing his life more carefully. This small change reflects Sentaro's determination to become a more responsible and disciplined person in his daily life.

(5) "*Pertama-tama, saat air hampir mendidih, dia akan menambahkan air. Setelah mengulanginya beberapa kali, dia meniriskan kacang merah di saringan, membuang air rebusannya...*" (Sukegawa, 2015:34)

This quotation illustrates the value of discipline shown by Tokue in making red bean paste. Unlike Sentaro, who previously cooked carelessly, Tokue performs each stage with great precision and patience. She follows traditional methods such as *shibukiri* (the process of removing bitterness from the beans by repeatedly changing the boiling water) and stirs gently so that the beans remain intact. This action reflects professionalism and dedication in maintaining quality, even though the work may appear simple.

(6) "*Hari-hari Sentaro jadi lebih menantang setelah memutuskan bergulat tanpa libur dengan pembuatan pasta kacang merah...*" (Sukegawa, 2015:49)

This quotation reflects the value of discipline in work. Sentaro's decision to continue working without rest, even though his body felt exhausted, shows a significant change in his attitude. He no longer works merely out of obligation but begins to show seriousness and perseverance in the process of making red bean paste. This action proves that Sentaro has a strong commitment to his responsibilities, both as a dorayaki maker and as the shop owner. Although his days become more difficult, he does not avoid the challenges but faces them with determination and discipline. This change reflects character growth and awareness that success and quality can only be achieved through consistent hard work.

3) Patience

(7) "*Wanita itu sekonyong-konyong menunjuk kertas yang ditempel di jendela kaca... 'Kalau aku, apakah boleh melamar?...Tapi... sepertinya memang agak... mustahil. Maaf. Aku mohon maaf.'*" (Sukegawa, 2015:7)

This quotation illustrates the value of patience. Although Tokue is elderly and comes with great hope of applying for a job, she remains calm when Sentaro

gently rejects her. She does not show anger, excessive disappointment, or force her will, but instead chooses to apologize and withdraw respectfully. This attitude reflects generosity of heart and the ability to accept reality, even when facing rejection for something she has long desired and awaited. Tokue demonstrates that in life, not all hopes are immediately fulfilled, and it is important to remain polite, open-hearted, and resilient in the face of disappointment.

(8) *"Sentaro berdecak ke arah langit-langit."*

"Saat itu Sentaro meminta maaf. Ia memberi anak itu dorayaki baru."
(Sukegawa, 2015:29)

This quotation contains the value of patience in dealing with difficult situations. Although he feels annoyed when the schoolgirls cause trouble, spread false rumors, and mock him sarcastically, Sentaro does not immediately vent his emotions. His action of clicking his tongue toward the ceiling shows restrained irritation, yet he still chooses to control himself and not explode in anger. Furthermore, he wisely apologizes and gives the child a new dorayaki. This action shows that Sentaro begins to understand the importance of maintaining relationships with customers and demonstrates responsibility and empathy, especially in dealing with conflict. He learns that responding calmly and patiently is far more meaningful than reacting emotionally.

(9) *"Namun, sementara ia mematikan api dan menggerakkan spatula, pasta kacang merah yang ia kira terlalu encer berangsur-angsur mengental."*
(Sukegawa, 2015:10)

This quotation reflects the value of patience. In the process of cooking red bean paste, Sentaro faces a dilemma: if he cooks it too long, the paste may lose its quality; if too quickly, it may burn or remain undercooked. In this situation, he chooses to restrain himself and carefully follow Tokue's instructions. He turns off the heat and stirs slowly until the paste naturally thickens. This action illustrates Sentaro's developing attitude as he begins to appreciate the process and no longer acts hastily as before. He learns that good results require time, patience, and precision. The moral value shown here is the importance of being patient and trusting the process, especially when facing doubts or temptations to take shortcuts.

(10) *"Tapi aku harus bersabar menghadapinya karena mereka pembeli."*
(Sukegawa, 2015:40)

This quotation reflects the value of patience. Sentaro feels disturbed by the noisy and irritating behavior of the teenage customers, yet he restrains himself from reacting negatively. He realizes that as a seller, he has the responsibility to continue serving them well without letting his emotions affect his attitude toward customers. This statement shows that Sentaro begins to understand the importance of maintaining politeness and patience in the workplace, especially when dealing with diverse customer personalities. He demonstrates emotional maturity by placing professionalism above personal feelings and prioritizing good service to maintain relationships and the shop's reputation.

(11) *"Tubuhnya mulai kelelahan. Ditambah lagi ia merasa kesal pada perubahan sikap hatinya. Namun, ia tidak mau menambah beban pekerjaannya yang sekarang."* (Sukegawa, 2015:49)

This quotation illustrates the value of patience in facing physical and

emotional challenges. Although Sentaro experiences obvious physical exhaustion and inner turmoil due to changes in his attitude, he chooses not to give up or increase the burden of his work. He tries to remain focused and manage the pressure without letting frustration control him. This attitude shows emotional maturity and steadfastness in undergoing a difficult process, as well as commitment to continue learning and improving himself. Sentaro faces these challenges patiently, understanding that every change requires time and effort.

(12) "*Sentaro berdiri terpaku, memandangi gadis itu dari belakang... Mengetahui bahwa wajahnya mungkin akan cacat, mendengar kabar bahwa dia tak akan bisa keluar dari balik pagar itu seumur hidup —di mana kiranya gadis itu dapat menemukan harapan?*" (Sukegawa, 2015:154)

This quotation contains the value of patience in facing suffering and uncertainty in life. Both Sentaro and the girl are confronted with difficult situations and bleak futures. The girl must accept the bitter reality of possible facial disfigurement and lifelong confinement, while Sentaro stands helplessly witnessing and feeling that despair. Patience here is not merely waiting, but rather inner resilience in accepting painful realities, maintaining hope, and finding strength within limitations. This attitude reflects emotional maturity and courage in facing unavoidable suffering, while also teaching that patience is an important foundation for finding hope amid hardship.

(13) "*Mari kita berjuang sedikit lagi menjual dorayaki.*" (Sukegawa, 2015:166)

This quotation contains the value of patience in facing challenges. The sentence reflects optimism and encouragement to keep trying even though the dorayaki business is not yet successful. The invitation to "struggle a little longer" reflects determination not to give up easily, but instead to remain patient and work hard in order to achieve success.

(14) "*Kau sudah berjuang keras", katanya... "Kau sudah berhasil".*" (Sukegawa, 2015:10)

This quotation contains the value of patience and perseverance in facing suffering. The statement is a form of appreciation for Tokue's struggle in enduring various hardships in life, including physical suffering and social isolation caused by her illness. The sentence emphasizes that although her life journey has been full of challenges, her perseverance and patience have resulted in achievements worthy of recognition.

4) Humility

(15) "*Kalau aku, apakah boleh melamar?*" (Sukegawa, 2015:6)

This quotation reflects the value of humility. The elderly woman expresses her intention to apply for the job politely and without being forceful, even with a tone full of hesitation. She realizes that her age may be an obstacle, yet she still dares to try and respectfully conveys her desire. This attitude shows that courage to take a step forward does not always have to be accompanied by aggressiveness, but can also be demonstrated through humility and respect for situations and other people. It also illustrates the importance of respecting oneself while honoring the surrounding environment.

(16) "*Kau boleh memberiku upah setengahnya saja. Tiga ratus yen.*" (Sukegawa, 2015:7)

This quotation reflects the value of humility. Tokue willingly accepts wages far lower than usual, showing that she does not place excessive importance on material gain, but instead focuses more on her intentions and contributions. This attitude reflects self-awareness of her limitations and position, while also showing a sincere desire to participate and give her best despite simple circumstances. Such sincerity serves as an example of moral values that teach the importance of wholeheartedness in working without expecting excessive rewards.

2. Moral Values in Human Relationships with God

1) Realizing the Greatness of God

(17) *"Setiap kali melangkah, pohon-pohon di sekitar mengajaknya bicara."* (Sukegawa, 2015:238)

This quotation contains the value of spiritual awareness. Tokue feels a sense of communication and presence from the natural world around her, which implicitly reflects a deep inner relationship between humans and God's creations. This kind of spiritual awareness teaches the importance of living in harmony with the surrounding environment and being open to the messages conveyed by nature as a form of acknowledgment and gratitude for the greatness of the Creator.

(18) *"Kemudian, seolah baru saja terlahir, bulan bulat sempurna mengapung di atasnya."* (Sukegawa, 2015:239)

This quotation contains natural symbolism rich in spiritual meaning. The appearance of the perfectly round moon after the tree planting symbolizes perfection, the cycle of life, and the connection between humans and the magnificent universe. This moment can be interpreted as a reminder of the greatness of God's creation and the importance of human awareness of one's position in harmony with nature and the Creator. The symbol of the moon strengthens spiritual values and inner reflection, inviting readers to contemplate the greatness of nature and the profound meaning of life that continuously moves and develops.

2) Surrendering Oneself to God

(19) *"Sentaro berdoa supaya makanan manis senantiasa ada di meja lipat. Ia menyukai ibunya yang tersenyum dan berkata, 'Ini enak sekali, Sentaro.' Sentaro memikirkan pasta kacang merah Yoshii Tokue yang sangat enak. Ia membayangkan bila ibunya masih hidup dan mencicipi pasta kacang merah tersebut..."* (Sukegawa, 2015:17)

This quotation contains the moral value of surrendering oneself to and trusting in God. Sentaro, who is facing bitterness and sadness in his life, expresses prayers and hopes that a better life and peace may come. The symbol of sweet food that made his mother happy becomes a symbol of hope and happiness that he longs to achieve. This act of praying represents surrender and complete trust in God's power to overcome all difficulties and suffering in life.

(20) *"Suatu saat, ketika zaman telah berubah, dia akan dapat kembali ke tempat yang diterangi sinar matahari."* (Sukegawa, 2015:154)

This quotation contains the values of hope, acceptance, and surrender. The sentence describes a calm belief that better changes will come in the future, as well as an attitude of accepting the present condition with perseverance. Surrender

here does not mean giving up, but rather trusting in destiny and God's power to lead life toward light and well-being. This hope becomes a source of inner strength that helps one face uncertainty and life's hardships with optimism and patience.

3. Moral Values in Human Relationships with Other People

1) Caring for Others

(21) *"Sentaro mulai menghitung dengan sempoa dalam benak. ... Tapi... batin Sentaro. Tangannya yang memegang cangkir terhenti. Bagaimanapun, ia mengkhawatirkan jemari Tokue. Bayangan jemari bengkok itu berkelebat di benaknya... Mendadak Sentaro mendapat ide. Kalau begitu, bagaimana jika Tokue hanya membantu membuat pasta kacang merah?" (Sukegawa, 2015:18)*

This quotation contains the moral value of caring for others. Sentaro does not merely think about financial benefits when considering hiring Tokue, but also pays close attention to Tokue's physical condition and limitations. He demonstrates sensitivity and empathy by worrying about Tokue's deformed fingers and trying to find a solution so that Tokue can still contribute without feeling burdened or experiencing difficulties. This attitude reflects sincere concern and respect for the dignity and well-being of others.

(22) *"Ya, kau sudah bekerja tanpa henti. Istirahatlah."*

"Daripada memikirkanku, sebaiknya kau istirahat dua sampai tiga hari ke depan." (Sukegawa, 2015:10)

This quotation shows Tokue's care and concern for Sentaro's exhausted condition. Sincerely, she advises Sentaro to rest for the sake of his health and well-being while reassuring him that the work at the shop can be handled without burdening him. Tokue's attitude reflects genuine empathy and concern, as well as a sense of shared responsibility in running the business.

(23) *"Jadi, kau ingin memecat seseorang yang sehat-sehat saja cuma karena dulu dia pernah sakit?" (Sukegawa, 2015:98)*

This quotation shows Sentaro's concern for Tokue. He firmly defends Tokue, who once suffered from Hansen's disease (leprosy), by emphasizing that she has recovered and can no longer transmit the disease. This attitude illustrates Sentaro's effort to protect Tokue from discriminatory treatment and injustice often experienced by former patients. Sentaro acts as a defender of Tokue's rights and dignity as a human being.

(24) *"Tokue, menggeleng. 'Tidak seperti yang kalian pikirkan. Pakaian mereka memang membuat orang cemas. Orang-orang di sini, baik yang melakukan perbaikan, bersih-bersih, dan bekerja di rumah sakit sini, tidak ada lagi yang berpakaian seperti itu. Itu truk katering.'" (Sukegawa, 2015:129)*

This quotation shows Tokue's caring attitude by giving a calming explanation to prevent misunderstandings. She realizes that the appearance of certain people may cause anxiety, so she tries to clarify the situation to create a more comfortable atmosphere. Tokue's attitude reflects her sensitivity to the surrounding environment and her concern for the feelings of others, as well as her intention to maintain social harmony.

(25) *"Sentaro berdiri di belakang Tokue, ingin mengucapkan sesuatu yang dapat menenangkan gadis itu." (Sukegawa, 2015:154)*

This quotation reflects the growing concern within Sentaro. He is not only

physically present, but also strongly motivated to comfort someone who is emotionally hurt. Although he does not know exactly what to say, his desire to offer comforting words shows that he cares about the suffering of others. In this situation, Sentaro demonstrates that someone's presence and good intentions can already mean a great deal to those who are struggling.

(26) *"Aku ingin kau mengajarnya. Memang anak ini masih payah, tapi dia anak baik."* (Sukegawa, 2015:154)

This quotation reflects caring. The shop owner does not judge someone solely based on their current abilities, but also sees the potential and goodness within the child. Although the child is still inexperienced, he is still given the opportunity to learn and grow with proper guidance. This shows a belief that everyone has room to improve if given opportunities and accompanied with patience. This action also demonstrates moral values such as trusting the process, giving second chances, and caring for the future of the younger generation.

(27) *"Setelah membicarakannya dengan yang lain, kami memutuskan untuk menanam pohon somei-yoshino. Karena Toku suka pohon sakura."* (Sukegawa, 2015:239)

The choice of tree based on Tokue's preference demonstrates genuine care and respect for Tokue's memory and feelings. It reflects love and compassion for others, even after they have passed away.

2) The Aspect of Helping One Another

(28) *"Siapa yang telah menyelamatkanmu ketika kau sedang terpojok oleh utang?"* (Sukegawa, 2015:98)

This quotation shows that in the past, the shop owner helped Sentaro when he was trapped in debt. Implicitly, this quotation contains the moral value of helping others, where assistance is given to someone facing life difficulties. Such help serves as a reminder of the interdependence among human beings, even though it may later develop into a relationship of power or obligation. Morally, this quotation illustrates the importance of remembering and appreciating the help of others, as well as the social consequences of mutual assistance, whether in the form of gratitude or moral pressure to repay kindness.

(29) *"Tokue, tolong ajari aku lagi cara membuat pasta kacang merah."* (Sukegawa, 2015:105)

This quotation shows a relationship of mutual assistance between Tokue and Sentaro. Through her expertise and experience, Tokue has guided Sentaro in the process of making high-quality red bean paste. When Sentaro asks her once again to teach him, it reflects humility, openness to learning, and recognition of another person's abilities. This request also reflects Sentaro's respect and trust toward Tokue, as well as harmony in human relationships based on collaboration and mutual appreciation. The implied moral value is the importance of learning from others, not being ashamed to ask for help, and maintaining good relationships by valuing the knowledge and experience of others.

(30) *"Aku ingin kau juga tetap membuat dorayaki di sini. Selain itu, aku ingin kau membantu calon pemilik toko kita."* (Sukegawa, 2015:193)

This quotation illustrates mutual assistance and a spirit of togetherness in facing changes and the future of the business. The shop owner shows trust and hope in Sentaro to remain part of the dorayaki shop while also guiding the future

owner who is still learning. This request reflects the value of intergenerational cooperation, concern for the development of others, and commitment to maintaining the sustainability of the business collectively. Furthermore, there is a moral message that the success of a business does not depend solely on one individual, but also on the support and involvement of many people who help and guide one another.

(31) *"Moriyama duduk di sampingnya... membelai bahu Wakana yang gemetaran dengan jemarinya yang bengkok... Ia hanya terus mengusap-usap bahu Wakana."* (Sukegawa, 2015:229)

This quotation demonstrates the value of helping others. Moriyama's gentle act of stroking Wakana's shoulder reflects sincere and profound emotional support. Even without saying a single word, Moriyama's presence beside Wakana during her sadness symbolizes empathy, sincerity, and emotional support. He tries to comfort Wakana simply through affectionate touch, showing that help does not always have to take the form of grand actions, but can also be expressed through comforting presence and simple yet meaningful care.

3) The Aspect of Deliberation

(32) *"Sentaro menjelaskan kepada wanita itu bagaimana toko dikelola...Tokue memprotes panjang lebar...Akhirnya Sentaro bersedia mengikuti arahan Tokue."* (Sukegawa, 2015:27)

This quotation illustrates two-way communication and mutual respect between Tokue and Sentaro in managing the dorayaki shop. Although they initially have differing opinions, Sentaro explains the usual procedures while Tokue objects because she considers the quality of ingredients and better preparation methods. Nevertheless, they continue to maintain open and patient dialogue. Sentaro eventually agrees to follow Tokue's advice, showing recognition of another person's experience and expertise, as well as willingness to learn and compromise for mutual improvement.

(33) *"Tokue bilang dia tidak keberatan..."*

"Sentaro pun menghubungi penyuplai lalu memesan kacang merah..." (Sukegawa, 2015:32)

This quotation reflects harmonious cooperation and communication between Tokue and Sentaro in running the dorayaki business, particularly in decision-making regarding raw materials. Tokue responds openly and does not impose her will, while Sentaro responds with concrete action by contacting the supplier and ordering red beans. This demonstrates deliberation and joint decision-making, where both parties listen to and respect each other's opinions. This situation reflects values such as mutual trust, shared responsibility, and equal collaboration, which are important foundations for building healthy and productive working relationships.

4) Forgiveness

(34) *"Jika ada seseorang menjahati dan mempermainkan perasaan gadis itu, suatu saat rasa sakit yang ditimbulkan akan berakhir."* (Sukegawa, 2015:154)

This quotation contains the meaning of forgiveness and letting go of resentment over mistreatment received from others. There is a strong belief that pain, disappointment, and emotional wounds will not last forever, but will

gradually fade over time. This attitude reflects emotional maturity and wisdom in facing suffering, where a person learns to be patient, accept reality, and open space for healing. By letting go of resentment, a person can restore inner peace and move forward without being burdened by past wounds. It also reflects a positive attitude toward the natural process of psychological recovery, which is important for maintaining mental health and social relationships.

5) Keeping Promises

(35) *"Lagi pula, aku masih punya utang kepada kalian." (Sukegawa, 2015:95)*

This quotation shows that the shop owner emphasizes the importance of keeping promises and fulfilling responsibilities that exist between herself and Sentaro. She feels that there is a moral and social bond in the form of an obligation to repay or fulfill commitments that have been made, which is why she asks Sentaro to continue working as a form of appreciation and acknowledgment of their relationship. This attitude reflects noble values of integrity and honesty, where a person must be responsible for promises or debts they have, both materially and morally. Thus, keeping promises is not only about fulfilling words, but also about maintaining trust and harmony in social relationships.

(36) *"Kau bahkan berusaha memperbaiki penjualan kita yang sudah anjlok kemarin." (Sukegawa, 2015:193)*

This sentence emphasizes Sentaro's effort and commitment in fulfilling his responsibilities as part of managing the shop. Despite facing the challenge of declining sales, Sentaro continues striving hard to improve the situation for the sustainability of the business. This attitude reflects the values of perseverance, responsibility, and dedication in carrying out the duties entrusted to him. By trying to fulfill existing expectations, Sentaro demonstrates integrity and sincerity, which are very important in building trust and maintaining good relationships in the workplace and business environment.

6) Respecting Others

(37) *"Sentaro refleksi mengganggu memberi salam." (Sukegawa, 2015:6)*

This quotation shows an attitude of respecting and honoring others, especially those who are older or more senior. Although Sentaro's response still appears somewhat stiff, it reflects his social awareness in showing politeness in everyday interactions. Such an attitude reflects fundamental ethical values in maintaining good relationships and building harmonious communication with others. Respecting others through courteous behavior becomes an important foundation for civilized social life.

(38) *"Malam itu Sentaro minum minum di warung soba. Ia menyantap soba ditemani tempura dan sake panas... Sentaro melempar stoples yang diterimanya ke tempat sampah begitu saja. Bukannya ia tidak merasa bersalah berbuat demikian... Tak lama kemudian, Sentaro mengambil wadah itu kembali... Pikirnya, ia bakal merasa telah menuntaskan kewajiban terhadap orang yang lebih tua apabila sudah mencobanya sedikit saja." (Sukegawa, 2015:15)*

This quotation contains the moral value of respecting others, particularly in the context of honoring older people. Although Sentaro initially feels hesitant and uncomfortable, he still tries the red bean paste given by Tokue as a form of

respect and responsibility toward Tokue's kindness. This attitude reflects awareness of the importance of appreciating the gifts and efforts of others, as well as avoiding arrogance or rude rejection. By trying the paste, Sentaro shows sincere respect and appreciation toward Tokue as a fellow human being, while also nurturing mutual trust and respect as the foundation of good social interaction.

(39) "*Pasta kacang merah yang kau berikan sangat enak.*" (Sukegawa, 2015:21)

This quotation contains appreciation for the skills and efforts of others, especially in the context of respecting hard work and sincerity. Sentaro directly praises Tokue's red bean paste, which has a special taste. This statement is not merely praise, but also a sincere acknowledgment of Tokue's ability as a meticulous and dedicated traditional food maker. Sentaro's attitude shows that he no longer judges Tokue based solely on her outward appearance as an elderly and "different" person, but begins to see Tokue's true qualities through the taste of the paste she makes. This reflects the moral value of not underestimating someone based on stereotypes or prejudice, but appreciating individuals based on their abilities and good intentions.

(40) "*Aku tidak akan mengatakan apa-apa dulu soal Tokue. Sebab pada dasarnya ia pun belum tahu apakah Tokue sungguh-sungguh dapat bekerja dengan tangannya yang kaku itu.*" (Sukegawa, 2015:29)

This quotation contains the moral value of respecting others, particularly in maintaining someone's dignity and not judging them too quickly based on physical conditions. Although Sentaro doubts Tokue's ability because of her stiff hands, he chooses not to immediately express these doubts to others. This shows that Sentaro tries to respect Tokue as an individual and does not want to embarrass her in front of other people. Sentaro's attitude reflects awareness of giving Tokue the opportunity and space to demonstrate her abilities directly rather than judging her based on prejudice or assumptions.

(41) "*Aduh... Dalam hati Sentaro menjawab 'tidak', tetapi tak ia ucapkan.*" (Sukegawa, 2015:41)

This quotation contains the moral value of respecting other people's feelings. In this situation, Sentaro actually disagrees with Tokue's wish to meet the customers, but he chooses not to express his refusal directly. This attitude shows that Sentaro tries to protect Tokue's feelings and does not want to hurt her with words that might wound her emotionally. Although he feels doubtful inside, Sentaro still considers the emotional impact of his words on Tokue. This reflects awareness of the importance of being wise and empathetic in communication, especially toward someone who has shown good intentions and enthusiasm. By restraining himself from directly saying "no," Sentaro respects Tokue as a person and subtly demonstrates courtesy.

(42) "*Kalau salah seorang dari kami ada yang meninggal dunia, satu pohon baru akan ditanam di sini.*" (Sukegawa, 2015:238)

This quotation contains the moral value of appreciating life and honoring those who have passed away. The tradition of planting a tree as a form of respect symbolizes deep appreciation for a person's existence and contributions during their lifetime. The planted tree becomes not only a physical marker, but also a living memory that continues to grow over time. This action reflects awareness of

the importance of remembering the deceased in a meaningful and compassionate way.

CONCLUSION

This study deeply examines the forms of moral values contained in the novel *Pasta Kacang Merah* by Durian Sukegawa, focusing on three main aspects: the relationship between humans and themselves, the relationship between humans and others, and the relationship between humans and God. Through the analysis of quotations in the novel, it was found that the most prominent moral values in the relationship between humans and themselves are gratitude, discipline, patience, and humility. In the aspect of human relationships with others, the novel highlights values such as caring for others, helping one another, deliberation, forgiveness, keeping promises, and respecting others. Meanwhile, in the relationship between humans and God, the novel presents spiritual values such as awareness of God's greatness and surrender to God.

Overall, the novel *Pasta Kacang Merah* not only offers a touching story but is also rich in moral lessons relevant to everyday life. The moral values presented in this novel can inspire readers to better appreciate themselves, others, and the Creator, as well as to develop positive attitudes in facing various life challenges. This study confirms that literary works play an important role in shaping character and instilling noble moral values in society.

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