

## MORAL VALUES ANALYSIS ON MAIN CHARACTERS AS SEEN ON "MY SISTER'S KEEPER" FILM BY NICK CASSAVETES

Restu Pitri<sup>1</sup>, Asridayani<sup>2</sup>, Sufiyandi<sup>3</sup>

*English Literature Program Faculty of Language Muara Bungo University*

[restufitri865@gmail.com](mailto:restufitri865@gmail.com)

### ABSTRACT

*This research analyzes about the moral values found in the film My sister Keeper by Nick Cassavates. The purposes of this research are to describe kinds of moral values and to describe the good impacts of moral values found in the film My Sister's Keeper by Nick Cassavates. In this research, the writer uses descriptive qualitative methods proposed by Creswell (1994) which uses descriptive technique to describe and to analyze the data. The data is analyzed through some ways: identifying, classifying, analyzing and making conclusion. In this research, the writer used theory from Linda and Eyre's (1997). The results of this research are some kinds of moral value such as honesty, bravery, peace ability, self discipline, respect, kind and friendly, confidence, love and affection, fair and loyalty. The writer also explains the good impact of moral values on the main characters as seen in the film My Sister's Keeper that Sara Fitzgerald and Anna Fitzgerald has different moral values but after Kate died, the relationship between both of them be better. The most dominant kinds of moral values found in the film My Sister's Keeper by Nick Cassavetes is Bravery.*

**Key words:** Moral Value, Good impact, My Sister's Keeper

### I. INTRODUCTION

Literary work produced by people is a medium to express ideas, feeling, or to describe someone or something. The people do not only enjoy exploring the story of literary works but also take messages that conveys in it because each of literary work often includes many moral values related to the values of the society in certain era including in the film.

Wellek and Warren (1993:37) state that literature is one creative an art. It means that literature can be made in form of an art based on her/his imagination, thinking, and experience into written form, so it becomes one of literature work. It means that literature can create imagination and used word choice which interested. As an imagination act, literature is expressed through language by an author, is the essentially thing in creating a literary work because he/she the one who composes a book, article, or other written work. Through literary work, the author is

able to express and create something which is interesting. Literary work is one of human to make something which chose word interesting or beautiful. One example of literary work is Drama. Drama is part of the literary work which is intended to show the action, actor and characteristics in performance. One example of Drama is film.

According to Turner (1999:27), Film is not only reflection of reality in society but it is also representation of reality in society. Film as reflection of reality means that film is only moving the reality into the screen without changes the reality itself. While film as representation of reality means that film formed and represented the reality based on ideology, conventions and codes of its culture. This opinion is also supported by Mc Quail (2010:12) explained that film is one of mass media that can reach to big population quickly, even it reached to rural areas. Watching the film gives us more imagination in our

mind and have the freedom to analyze message that occurs in the film. One of the messages in film is moral value. Moral value has the yardstick which measures a person in doing something positive or negative value. Hazlitt (1964:2) states that Moral is deciding good or bad considered behavior. According to Bertenz in Amin (2002:142), Moral value is value that must be separated with other values. Every value will get quality if it has relation with other values.

In this research, the writer chooses one of film that is interesting to be analyzed is *My Sister's Keeper* film. *My Sister's Keeper* film is a film adaptation of a novel which has a title *My Sister's Keeper* written by Jodi Picoult (2004). The writer interests to analyze *My Sister's Keeper* film because the writer has some reasons why this research is worth to be done. The first reason why the writer chooses this film is the film a famous dramatic film in which tells the family conflict. The second reason is the writer feels the same as felt by the main character Anna Fitzgerald itself. Not only a few moral messages, but also about struggle, sacrifice, learning to understand the will of a child, and every child deserved the same affection from both parents. The third reason is that the research of moral values in *My Sister's Keeper* film is still unavailable before it. Besides, moral values are very important is standard of attitude that based on the determination of right and wrong which regarded by those who make the standard of moral.

This film, the theme of morality, something that is considered right can be wrong, and things that have been considered wrong may be the truth for others. Therefore, the writer is interests in analyzing this film to find the moral values and entitles this: "***Moral Values Analysis on Main Characters as seen on My Sister Keeper by Nick Cassavates***".

## II. METHOD OF THE RESEARCH

In this research, the writer uses descriptive qualitative research. According to Creswell (1994:45), descriptive method is an inquiry process of understanding based on building a complex, holistic picture, analyzes words, and report detailed views of information. Nawawi (1991:55) states that descriptive method is a research method to describe the subject or object of the research based on the fact or the reality. While, Whitney (1960:16) state that descriptive qualitative is fact finding with the right interpretation. Meanwhile, the data derived from the script, file notes, photographs, video type, personal documents, and other official documents.

Based on the statement above, it can be concluded that qualitative research is all about exploring issue, understanding phenomena and answering question, detail data is gathered through open ended question than provide direct quotations. In this research, qualitative research is the most appropriate method, because qualitative research conducts with no emphasis on the figures, but the emphasis appreciation of the interaction between concepts which are empirically examined. In this research, the writer uses some ways to get information as the data in this research.

### a. Technique of Collecting Data

In collecting the data of this research, the writer uses some techniques. The techniques that used by the researcher are:

1. The writer downloads the film at [www.rmcy.us](http://www.rmcy.us)
2. The writer watches the film repeatedly, *My Sister's Keeper* film by Nick Cassavates.
3. The writer collects all the data from the film
4. The writer captures the picture in film.

5. The writer downloads the script of the film from internet.
6. The writer identifies the data that wants to be analyzed and it related to the title of this research.
7. The writer uses some references from some books, thesis and journals/ articles from the internet that have relationship.

#### **b. Technique of Analyzing Data**

In this research, the writer uses qualitative method to analyze the data, because the data of this research in form of words and sentence or this is a qualitative research, the data it would be analyzed through interpreting not statistic analysis. It means that the result of this research it expected be presented in descriptive analysis based on the method and the data that use.

In analyzing the data, the writer watches *My Sister's Keeper* film as the main data. Here are the steps that research uses in analyzing the data of the research:

##### **1. Identifying**

The research identifies the data that was collected before it. In this research, the writer only focuses on kinds of moral value and main character that present moral value.

##### **2. Classifying**

The writer classifies that data based on the importance of this research.

##### **3. Analyzing**

In this step, the writer analyzes the scenes and text that contained of kinds of moral value and relationship between moral with the main character. The research will analyze by using moral approaches.

##### **4. Making Conclusion**

Finally the writer makes the conclusion, suggestion and drawing conclusion from the analysis.

### **III. RESULT**

In this research, the data is reported in writing. The writer uses informal (verbal) method to present the research because the data that analyze in the form of word based on the finding. The writer presents as an introduction the background of the problem that relates with *My Sister Keeper* film, identification of the problem then in order to avoid excessively large discussions, based on the identification of the problem, the writer has limit to discuss only about several problems and formulated these problems through two research questions:

- 3.1 What are the kinds of moral values on main characters as seen on "*My sister's keeper*" film by Nick Cassavates?
- 3.2 What are the good impacts of moral values with the main characters that appear on "*My Sister's Kepeer*" film by Nick Cassavates?

### **IV. DISCUSSION**

The writer presents finding and discussion related to kinds of the moral value those are found on *My Sister's keeper* film by Nick Cassavates based on the theory of Linda and Eyre (1997). Then, the writer analyzes the relationship between the moral values with Main characters that appear on *My Sister's keeper* film by Nick Cassavates. Based on the result of data analysis which is related with Linda and Eyre's theory (1997). In analyzing the film, the writer finds the data and discusses to clarify the data that focuses on the discussion of the two points: 1. Kinds or moral values on main characters as seen on *My Sister's Keeper* film by Nick Cassavates, 2. The Good Impacts of Moral values on the main characters as seen on *My Sister's Keeper* by Nick Cassavates.

#### 4.1 Kinds or moral values on main characters as seen on My Sister's Keeper film by Nick Cassavates.

##### 4.1.1 Bravery

Linda (1997:42) states that bravery is able to meet danger or endure pain or hardship without giving in to fear. People can take some of the choices in life and certainly has consequences that are comparable with the result that will be found. It can be seen in the following conversation:

**Datum 1: (00:16:14 – 00:31:31)**



Mother	:	The ability to make future medical decisions independent of parents...not to be forced to submit treatment including donating her kidney." Anna, what is this? Is this from you?
Anna	:	Yeah, <b>I got a lawyer.</b>
Mother	:	You're suing us? Well, honey, what the hell is going on?
Anna	:	I don't want to do it anymore, Mom.
Mother	:	You don't want to do it anymore? That's it? You don't want to do it?
Anna	:	No.
Mother	:	Guess what? Neither do I and neither does Kate.
Kate	:	Please.
Mother	:	It's not like we have a choice.
Anna	:	<b>That's the thing, I do. I do have a choice.</b>
Mother	:	Really? Is that so?

Based on the datum (1) above, it shows that she insisted on showing her bravery, and was very strict with her argument. The Anna statement "**I got a lawyer**" and "**That's the thing, I do. I do have a choice**" the involved the kinds of moral value bravery. It was shown in the film that's she really tried hard to sue her parents. To meet his body's safety needs, he does not want to give the Kidney to her sister, because if she does it many problems will confront in the future, especially for the safety of her life. So, from two conversations above the writer includes it into Bravery. The conversations below shows how Anna is bravery to her father and her mother. Another conversation also display that Anna Fitzgerald to Sara Fitzgerald:

**Datum 2: (00:18:13 – 00:18:32)**



Father	:	Everyone be quiet. We said she gets the table, she gets the table. Go ahead.
Anna	:	Remember how the doctor said if I did the operation... <b>I would have to be careful for the rest of my life?</b> But I don't want to be careful. Who wants to live like that?
Mother	:	Anna, listen...
Anna	:	<b>I'm important too, Mom. I'm important too.</b>

Another conversation and picture also shows, the writer includes the kinds of moral value “Bravery”. The statement of Anna’s “**I would have to be careful for the rest of my life?”** and “**I’m important too, Mom. I’m important too**”. The statement Anna above, depicts that Anna needs attention from her parents. The feeling to be loved by the family makes her brave to tell what she wants. She desires her parents realize that she is important too for their family. In this way, she tried to prove that life's decision was walking her own hands, not others.

#### 4.1.2 Love and Affection

Love and Affection is a strong love for friend, neighbors, and of love for family (Linda, 1997: 50). People live with their own problems, life is not easy. God always give affection and his love for the human, it can be seen in the following conversation:

**Datum 3: (00:04:21 - 00:04:29)**



Mother	:	<b>Eat, Kate.</b>
Kate	:	I'm eating.
Mother	:	Is it not good?
Kate	:	It's really good, Mom. It's good to me.
Mother	:	<b>I have lentils in the fridge if you want some.</b>
Kate	:	I'm fine, Mom.
Mother	:	<b>You're not hungry?</b>

The conversation above show how mother is love and affection. It happens between mother and her child. Whatever Kate’s necessity, mother always prioritizes

Kate compare with Anna. The Mother statement “**Eat, Kate**” and “**I have lentils in the fridge if you want some**” and “**You’re not hungry?**” So, the writer includes the conversation above into kind moral values of love and affections.

#### 4.1.3 Honesty

Honesty is the inner strength, confidence, that is bred by exacting and integrity (Linda, 1997:40) Honesty is tells the truth, everyone likes it. Telling the truth allows everyone to know what is exactly happened and help people feel safe and peaceful inside. Another conversation also shows Anna’s honesty to her parent. As seen below:

**Datum 4: (00:17:56 – 00:18:06)**



Father	:	I don't understand why you didn't say something earlier.
Anna	:	When? When should I talk to you about it? You're never home. You leave me here with her.
Mother	:	Excuse me? You've never had to do anything you don't want to do, and you know that!
Anna	:	<b>I always wound up doing everything, didn't I?</b>



From the conversation above, Anna's insist that she I always hurt when doing all her mother's wishes. Her parents no one understood her feelings, because they were more concerned with Kate than himself. The Anna's statement **"I always wound up doing everything"**. The purpose of the above statement Anna acknowledged was that she could not do what she liked and Kate could, because Kate was sick. Anna is disappointed because her mother never did anything for her. Everything in his life is in Kate's interests. So Anna felt that she was not human.

#### 4.1.4 Loyalty

Loyalty to family, to work, to state, to the school and to organization and other institution are responsible to us. Support, to serve, to help, trusted and in carrying out consistence promises (Linda, 1997: 46). The conversation below shows the Anna's loyalty for Kate's life:

**Datum 5: (01:24:34 – 01:15:20)**



Kate	:	Anna? Sissy
Anna	:	Oh my God
Kate	:	Don't worry. It's just a new drug for the kidneys.
Anna	:	<b>You in pain?</b>
Kate	:	Pain? My whole life is a pain.....
Anna	:	You will be fine.

That conversation and picture shows how the Anna's loyalty to Kate, even she cared for Kate sincerely. Anna was very attention about the condition of her sister, Anna's attitude takes care of Kate with a sense of responsibility. The statement of Anna **"You in pain?"**. Anna is very thorough in taking care of Kate. Even she is not despite being disgusted for cleaning blood or vomit Kate. The writer includes it into moral value loyalty.

#### 4.1.5 Fair or Justice

An understanding of natural consequences and the law of cause and effect. Appreciate the generous and for giving and understand that revenge is futile (Linda, 1997: 75). It is seen in the conversation.

**Datum 6: (00:08:32 - 00:08:40)**



That conversation shows how Anna is ask justice for her own body and to demand her parents, even though she doesn't have much money to hire a lawyer. The Anna's statement **"And I know that's not enough, but it's all I have and I need your help. Please.....!"**. So, the relation of the main character with "Justice" is circumstance or conditions that make dare to tell Mr. Alexander, that he felt she had only been used by her parents so far, and she also hoped to get love from his parents.

## 4.2 The Good Impacts of Moral values on the main characters as seen on My Sister's Keeper by Nick Cassavates.

The writer explains good impacts of moral values found in *My Sister's Keeper* film based on the data that are written in the previous part. After analyzing all the data in previous point, the writer concludes that relationship among all them main characters better. It can be seen in the explanation below:

### 4.2.1 The Good Impact of Moral values between Anna and Sara (Mother) as seen on My Sister Keeper by Nick Cassavates

In this part, the writer concludes that good impact of moral values is save someone's life. It can be seen from Anna's statement **"I would have to be careful for the rest of my life?"** and **"I'm important too, Mom. I'm important too"**. (Datum 2: **"00:18:13 – 00:18:32"**), the statement is one kind of Moral value that found in film is bravery. It means that Anna is bravery to save her live from her mother. Based on the statement, it can be seen that Anna follows her conscience. Anna say that she is also important, she wants to use the rest of his life as well as possible, that Anna needs attention from her parents.

### 4.2.2 The Good Impacts of Moral values between Sara (Mother) and Anna as seen on My Sister Keeper by Nick Cassavates

In this part, the writer analyze all of this research, the writer concludes that good impact of moral values is care. It is can be seen from Anna's statement The Anna statement **"I got a lawyer"** and **"That's the thing, I do. I do have a choice"** Datum 1: (**00:16:14 – 00:31:31**) Data of bravery. It was shown in the film that's she really tried hard to sue her parents. To meet his body's safety needs, he does not want to give the Kidney to her sister, because if she does it many

problems will confront in the future, especially for the safety of her life.

### 4.2.3 The Good Impact of Moral Values between Anna and Kate

In this part, the writer analyzes all of this research, the writer concludes that relationship of moral values is save someone's life. It can be seen from Anna's statement **"You in pain?"** (Datum 5: **"01:24:34 – 01:15:20"**), the data is one kinds of moral values, loyalty. Anna was very attention about the condition of her sister. Anna is very fond of her sister, even she never complained about taking care of Kate. Man is born entitled to determine her own life, responsible for her choices. Humans live in the word to exist, make every effort so that it existence is recognized and she means it in her life.

## V. CONCLUSION

*My sister's keeper* is a drama movie, a film about a child with leukemia understandably has a small theatrical audience, but *My Sister's Keeper* allows for nuances and takes time to focus this story of an illness on all the people and its affects. The film contains some of moral value within it. moral it self can be defined as the value of human.

In this film, the writer concludes that there are some of moral values such as honesty, bravery, love and affection, fair or justice and loyalty. Kind moral value of bravery is the most dominant values that the writer found in *My Sister's Keeper* film by Nick Cassavates. According to Linda and Eyre (1997:42), bravery is able to meet danger or endure pain or hardship without giving in to fear. Bravery is arising from or suggestive or mastery of fear and intelligent use of faculties especially under duress. From that bravery attitude, Anna was able to claim rights to her own body against her parents.

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