

# AN ANALYSIS OF HUMAN VALUES OF THE MAIN CHARACTERS OF *THE BOOK OF LOVE* MOVIE

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## Abstract

The objectives of this study are: (1) to describe the main characters of *The Book of Love*, (2) to describe the human values of the main characters of *The Book of Love*. In this study the writer used descriptive and qualitative techniques. The writer collected the data through observation of the movie by watching and reading the script of the movie several times to get information about the characters and the human values. Then, the writer collected the data and analyzed them. In analyzing the data, the writer used coding, decoding, categorization, and confirmation. The analysis focused on the characters and the human values in *The Book of Love* movie. The results of the research show that there are three main characters of *The Book of Love* movie; they are Henry, Millie, and Penny. Besides, there are seven human values that the writer found in the movie. Those values are self-direction, stimulation, achievement, security, conformity, tradition, and benevolence. The seven values have good influence in real life. The dominant values presented in this movie are benevolence (helpful) and self-direction (curiosity and creativity).

**Key words:** *Human Values, Main Characters, The Book of Love Movie*

## Introduction

A literary work is an art related closely to human life. It is a way for human beings to express their ideas, thought, and experience. Those works that deal with a normal issue are particularly purpose in mind. Literature is a writing creation that expresses live experience with choosing word and gives dramatic effect in every word. The use of language is connotative; its aim is to make the literary work can be accepted by all audiences.

Literature is a media to deliver creative ideas. In movie as a literature creation has interesting media to communicate with audiences that the moviegoer can catch the message of the movie. Movie has one message that delivered, and audience must find it. It can be said that movie gives message to audience to get ideas of moviemaker.

Movie is a communication medium that gives valuable messages to audiences. Movie has a storyline with interesting words that make this medium to be very important in human existence. The chosen language that is used in the movie is not simple words but has made a connection with literary language in one storyline. It produces a unique creation and feasible to be consumed by all audience.

The writer is interested to analyze the movie entitled *The Book of Love* because it is very interesting, good movie, entertaining and it can describe the real condition and situation, especially about human values that benefit to our life by focusing the discussion on the human values. In this study, it is impossible for the

writer to analyze or discuss the entire problems stated from the movie. Because of the limitation of the knowledge and time, this study is focused only on the main characters and the human values of *The Book of Love* Movie.

## **Theoretical Review**

### **1. Human Values**

Value is a important things to us in our lives (e.g., security, independence, wisdom, success, kindness, pleasure). When, a particular value may be very important to one person, but unimportant to another.

According to Schwartz (2012: 5-7), there are ten basic values; self-direction, stimulation, hedonism, achievement, power, security, conformity, tradition, benevolence, and universalism. Human values are the principles, standards, convictions and beliefs that people adopt as their guidelines in daily activities. Principal human values are the foundation on which professional ethics are built. They are a set of consistent measures and behaviors that individuals choose to practice in the pursuit of doing what is right or what is expected of them by society.

### **2. Main Characters**

The main characters are almost always round or three dimensional characters. They have good and bad qualities, their goals, ambitions and value change. A round character that changes inside as a result of what happens to him is referred to in literature as a dynamic character. A dynamic character grows or progresses to a higher level of understanding in the course of the story.

According to Faruk (213), there are three indicators of the main characters; Main characters are the persons who presented dominantly by the author. Main characters are the persons who have various relationship with characters. And the main characters are the persons who influence the plot most, and they are the theme builder.

### **3. *The Book of Love* Movie**

A common name for film in the United States is movie, while in Europe the term cinema or film is preferred. Additional terms for the field in general include the big screen, the silver screen, the cinema and the movies.

According to Holman (185), "film is literally a sheet or roll of transparent material coated with a light-sensitive emulsion for making photographs or moving pictures. By synecdochial extension a motion picture or cinema made or preserved on such material".

Henry is an introverted architect. After his wife's death in a car accident, he helps Millie, a homeless teenage girl who wants to build a raft ship for an ocean-resistant sail. Penny (Jessica Biel) died in a car accident, and Henry (Jason Sudeikis) the husband, an architect, works, struggles and strives to live his life as well as possible. When he lived in the house he built with the late Penny, he saw a mysterious young girl named Millie (Maisie Williams), a girl that Penny always told him to help her. Although Millie's assembly looks mysterious, but then missed friends and understand each other further, Millie who will have a long life of her past and want to start something new.

## Method

### Data Collection Technique

#### 1. Books

To get the data and theories, the writer visited libraries to read references of books and other related books about literature and the movie. The writer got the data and references which were collected from the library of UST, especially the theory of literature. In this study, the writer used a note card to collect the data related to the theory.

#### 2. Movie

The writer watched and read the script the movie *The Book of Love* for several times to get some information that the writer needed, including the theme, character, setting, plot, and also human values. The writer took the data from the internet to get information about the movie. In this part the writer also used the same note card as the writer used to collect the data.

### Data Analysis Technique

#### 1. Descriptive Analysis

According to Hornby (314), “descriptive analysis is giving a picture in word or describing something without expressing feeling or judging”. This descriptive analysis was based on the data of the movie; it was about the intrinsic aspect. The writer collected the data by watching and reading the script of the movie. The procedures of this analysis are as follows:

##### a. Selection

According to Hornby (1065), “selection is choosing something carefully, as being the best or most suitable”.

##### b. Classification

According to Hornby (204), “classification is the actions or process of classifying or of being classified”.

##### c. Description

According to Hornby (314), “description is saying in word is like”.

#### 2. Qualitative Analysis

Qualitative analysis is a part of primary research. It can be obtained either by the investigation of the subject or phenomenon being studied.

The qualitative data are the intrinsic elements of the movie that are described and discussed in this study. The procedures of this analysis are as follows:

##### a. Coding

According to Hornby (216), “Code is a system of word, letters, numbers or symbols that present a message or record information security or in a shorter form”.

##### b. Decoding

According to Hornby (302), “Decode is used to find the meaning of something, especially something which written in code”.

##### c. Categorization

According to Hornby (176), “categorization is a class or group of people or things regarded as having certain features, etc.”

d. Confirmation

According to Hornby (241) “confirmation is a statement, letter, etc. that shows something is true, correct, or definite”.

## Findings and Discussion

There are two problems to be discussed in this study. They are main characters and the human values of *The Book of Love* movie.

### 1. Main Character

In *The Book of Love* movie, the writer found eight characters, they are; Henry, Millie, Penny, Julia, Dumbass, Wendell, uncle Glen, and Pascal. Based on the indicators of main characters, there are three main characters of *The Book of Love* movie: Henry, Millie, and Penny. They are will describe in below:

a. Henry

Henry is one of the main characters in this movie; he is an introvert man who works as an architect. He is smart, creative and hardworking. He is married and lives with his wife, Penny. He is a loving and responsible man. In everyday life, Henry is a closed and shy man. It can be shown in the quotation below:

Henry: “What’s with all the junk?”

Millie: “I’m building something.”

Henry: “Oh, yeah? I’m an architect. You know, maybe I could, uh help you out.”

(00:24:01-00:24:08)

Based on the conversation above, Henry explains to Millie that he is an architect; it can be seen from this statement “**I’m an architect**”. He is also asked to help Millie to build something that she wanted.

b. Millie

Millie is a teenage girl (15 years old). She lives with her uncle and her dog (Ahab). Her father died seven years ago while sailing. Millie had a book; it was left by her father that contains the messages. She has an aspiration to build a raft. It will be used to set sail to find her father. To build the raft, Millie dumped the wood from the garbage. It can show from the quotation of the dialogue bellows:

Penny: “Hey, bebe. Have you seen that girl who’s been fishing around in our trash before?”

Henry: “girl? No. What girl?”

Penny: “14-15 maybe. Uh...uh. She kind of cool looking. I mean, she’s been rooting around in there for the past few weeks.”

(00:04:31-00:04:45)

From the quotation above, Penny says that the girl who is taking the trash around their home is Millie. She is 14-15 years old. It shows from this statement “**14-15 maybe. Uh...uh. She kind of cool looking**”.

c. Penny

Penny is a photographer. She is a cheerful woman. She is married Henry, and they lived together. He loves children very much. One day he saw a teenage girl picking up trash in front of her house. And he thinks to help the girl. But, it did not materialize, because he died in a car accident.

The quotation that described she is a Photographer; can be shown from the dialogue below:

Millie: "What was she like?"

Henry: "Hmm. Um...She was a bunch of things. She was a Photographer, really bad sculptor, terrible cook. She was a clown."

Millie: "A clown?"

Henry: "Yeah, for children's parties."

(01:19:07-01:19:38)

This is the statement of quotation that explained that Penny was a Photographer and works as a clown, because she loves children.

**"She was a photographer, really bad sculptor, terrible cook. She was a clown".**

## 2. Human Values

In *The Book of Love* movie, the writer finds seven values of the main characters in this movie, there are: self-direction, stimulation, achievement, security, conformity, tradition, and benevolence. Based on the data analysis of *The Book of Love* movie, the human values of the main characters (Henry, Millie, and Penny) are:

### a. Self-Direction

Self-Direction means the freedom of a person in the act without being influenced by anything.

Creativity

Creative means being able to create something that simple to be extraordinary. From this movie we can see the creativity values from the quotation below:

Henry : "What's with all the junk?"

Millie : "I'm building something."

(00:24:01-00: 24: 06)

From the quotation **"I'm building something"**, it shows that Millie will build something from the junks that she collects into a raft. The raft will be used to sail.

### b. Stimulation

Stimulation means the action or something that causes a person to develop becomes more active or enthusiastic.

Novelty

Novelty is something new that tried by someone, whose was never done before it. From this movie, it can shows from the quotation below:

Henry : "Hon, I can't wear purple sneakers to work."

Penny : "They're not purple. Those are magenta and trust me, my love, they're shit."

Henry : “They are?”

Penny : “Try something new, Henry. Be bold  
plus, you could use a little bit of style.”

(00:03:29–00:03:41)

Based on the quotation above, Henry is the type of person who is not confident in something strange. It can be shown from this statement **“Hon, I can’t wear purple sneakers to work”**.

c. Achievement

Achievement means a thing done successfully with effort, skill, or courage.

Successful

Successful is perfect achievement. From the quotation below we can see how Henry gets his success.

Wandell : “Son of a bitch.”

Henry : “They don’t like it?”

Wandell : “It’s worse. They love it.”

Henry : “You...”

Wandell : “They love it. They love it, I’m kidding  
you. Now listen, i don’t like having my hand  
forced, but if I don’t make you a partner,  
someone else will, so as soon as we close  
this deal, we’re gonna draw up the papers.  
Boy. Good job, Henry.

Henry : “Thank you, sir. Thank you.”

(00:07:47 – 00:08:09)

Based on the quotation above, Henry is a successful man at his job as an architect. It has also been recognized by his boss, Wandell. As on this statement, **“They love it. They love it, I’m kidding you. Now listen, i don’t like having my hand forced, but if I don’t make you a partner, someone else will, so as soon as we close this deal, we’re gonna draw up the papers. Boy. Good job, Henry”**.

d. Security

Security means the state of feeling safe, stable, and free from fear or anxiety.

Safety

Safety means the security of self (clean) as well as security for others people (Family safety and security of people around). In this movie, we can see the safety value from the statement below:

Henry : **“We gotta get this stuff. All that stuff,  
it’ll help make the raft more worthy, like,  
um...worthy of the...the sea.”**

(00:43:17 – 00:43:26)

From the statement above, it is explained that Henry will make a raft for Millie, Because he wants Millie to be safe. Because for her Millie is like her son. It show the safety value of others people.

e. Conformity

Conformity means to behave according to the usual standards of behaviour that are expected by a group or society.

Responsible

Responsibility means acting as a form of awareness of the obligations.

Responsible in this section we can see from the quotation below:

Henry : “You want me to come along, you know? I could swing by, pick you up. You know, we could brave the storm together.”

Penny : “Well, there’s no sense in torturing us both. She’ll probably cancel on me anyway.”

(00:05:16 – 00:05:25)

Based on the quotation above, Henry is a responsible husband for his wife. It can shown from this statement” **“You want me to come along, you know? I could swing by, pick you up. You know, we could brave the storm together”**. Henry volunteered to come with Penny to Julia's home (Penny’s mom) and also to pick up his wife after work.

f. Tradition

Tradition is a belief, principle, or way of acting that people in a particular society or group.

Humble

It means of human action that is not haughty and arrogant with what they have. In this movie, it can show from the quotation of the conversation below:

Penny : “I mean, she’s been rooting around in there for the past few weeks. Just kind of thought I...I should talk to her or something. If you see her. Can you help her?”

Henry : “Yeah, I promise. Hey, have you seen my...”

(00:04:45 – 00:04:52)

From the quotation above, it appears that Penny is a caring person with her surrounding people. She asks her husband to help a teenage girl that usually Penny see in front of their hous, as this statement **“If you see her. Can you help her?”**.

g. Benevolence

Benevolence is the quality of being well meaning; kindness.

Forgiving

Forgiving meansready and willing to forgive the mistakes of others. It can see from the quotation below:

Henry : “You know, I...I just wanted to say that I’m sorry that well, for being a real a-hole the other day.”

Millie : “It’s all right.”

(01:14:55 – 01:15:04)

Based on the quotation of the dialogue above, Henry apologizes for his mistake, he said: “**I just wanted to say that I’m sorry**” and Millie said “**it’s all right**”. It means she has it.

## Conclusion

In this movie, the writer found out three main characters. They were Henry, Millie, and Penny. There were seven human values: self-direction, stimulation, achievement, security, conformity, tradition, and benevolence. The self-direction values of *The Book of Love* movie included creativity, curiosity, independence, and privacy. The stimulation values included novelty and during. The achievement values included ambitious, intelligent, and successful. The security values included safety. The conformity values included responsible, loyal, and honoring elder. The tradition values included humble and accepting portion in life, and last benevolence value included forgiving, love, helpful and honest. The dominant values presented in this movie were helpful, curiosity, and creativity.

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