

**EDUCATIONAL VALUES FROM THE
CHARACTERS IN FILM
“FREEDOM WRITERS” DIRECTED BY
RICHARD LAGRAVANESE**

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Abstract

This study aims to find out what are the educational values reflected from the characters in film “Freedom Writers” directed by Richard LaGravenese. The characters that reflect the educational values in the film are Erin, Eva, Marcus, Ben, Tito, Victoria, and Miep Gies. The method of this research is descriptive qualitative research. The research’s results show from 18 values of education by National Education Ministry the writer only finds 17 values i.e. religiosity, honesty, tolerance, discipline, hardworking, creativity, independent, democracy,

curiosity, nationalism, patriotism, appreciation of achievement, friendliness/ communication, love of peace, reading interest, social awareness, and responsibility, while the values that is not in the film is environmental awareness.

Keywords: *Educational Values, Characters, Freedom Writers*

A. Introduction

Rahmat, Tirtanawati, and Purnama (2021: 1) state that education is a learning process in the personality of a person's life, starting from birth to death. Process in education can be found in family, school, and community environments. The current modernization that is happening today makes changes in social life. One of the changes is in terms of morals. According to Indrijati (2017: 184) states the juvenile delinquency of senior high school students in Surabaya, Indonesia getting the results: that 169 subjects skip school, 55 subjects get out of home without their parent's permission, 110 subjects engage in smoking behavior, 74 subjects damage other people properties, 32 subjects steal, 16 subjects exploit others and 7 subjects engage in drug abuse.

The importance of the value of education in today's society, generates us learning, having, and applying the values of education in the aspect of life. The value of education is not just found in real life like school, family, business, and community environment but we can find it in a literary work. Talking about literature cannot be separated from how the definition of literature in itself. According to Aristotle (2006: 63), "Literature is to please and to be useful, to be catharsis, and to be communication media. It includes three components, such as a writer

as a consignor of the message, literary work as a medium to message, and audience as a receiver of message".

The film is one of the kinds of literature that have any values, Klarer (2004: 53) states that "film is made by literary techniques, conversely, the literary practice developed particular features under the impact of the film". Drama or film is a piece of work consisting of literary aspects and aspects of performance. The film often has a storyline that lifts real life which film was made to be interesting to the attention of the audience, the function of the film is not only as entertainment but also education and learning.

Based on the statement above, the writer takes the point that film can give an important role in building character in people. Not all films can be used as educational media, of course the film must contain educational values that can be learned by students. Through the plot of the story and the characterizations in the film, they are able to educate reason, imagination and ethics as well as build and develop their potential. Freedom Writers film by Richard LaGravenese which was adapted from Freedom Writers Diary by Erin is inspiring film and is rich in educational values in it.

B. Literature Review

According to Rahmat (2021: 2), films contain messages and educational values that can be found. The values of education will enable students to grow up to be dignified, to love art, literature and beauty, to respect themselves and others, to respect human dignity, and to have moral and spiritual tastes. Based on Rahmat (2021: 2), the value of education is the value in life that is considered important and has

positive values so that it can affect the nature and behavior of a person. The value that exists in the individual as a personal formation that is social, religious, and cultured. According to the National Education Ministry, there are 18 values in the educational development of culture and national character. 18 values in character education by the Ministry of Education in Putri (2020: 392), as follows:

a. Religiosity

Attitude and submissive behavior in carrying out the teachings of their religion tolerant implementation of the practice of other religions, and live in harmony with other religions.

b. Honesty

Behavior based on an attempt to make himself as one who can always be trusted in words, actions, and employment.

c. Tolerance

Attitude and action that respect differences of religion, race, ethnicity, opinions, attitudes, and actions of others who are different from themselves.

d. Discipline

Action indicating orderly and obedient behavior on various rules and regulations.

e. Hardworking

Behaviors that indicate an earnest effort to overcome barriers in learning and assignments, as well as completing the task as well as possible.

f. Creativity

Thinking and doing something to generate new method or result of something that has been owned.

- g. Independent
Attitudes and doing something to generate new method or result of something that has been owned.
- h. Democracy
Way of thinking, heaving, acting, which assesses the same rights and obligations of himself and others.
- i. Curiosity
Attitudes and actions that are always working to find more in depth and extend from something he learned, seen, and heard.
- j. Nationalism
Way of thinking, acting, and knowing that puts the interests of the nation above self-interest and group.
- k. Patriotism
Ways of thinking and doing that show loyalty, caring, and high appreciation of achievement of the language, environmental, physical, social, cultural, economic and political nation.
- l. Appreciation of Achievement
Attitudes and actions encourage him to produce something useful for society and recognize and respect other people's success.
- m. Friendliness/ Communication
Actions showed pleasure in speaking, associate, and cooperate with others.
- n. Love of Peace
Attitudes, words, and actions that make other people feel happy and safe over the presence of him.
- o. Reading Interest
Habits take time to read the various readings that give him the benefit.

- p. Environmental Awareness
Attitudes and actions which seek to prevent damage to the surrounding natural environment and develop efforts to repair the environmental damage that has occurred.
- q. Social Awareness
Attitudes and actions that always want to help other people and communities in need.
- r. Responsibility
Attitude and behavior of people to carry out duties and obligations he should do, to himself, society, environment (natural, social and cultural), the nation, and the Almighty God.

C. Method of Investigation

The writers apply descriptive qualitative method. The sources of the data are Freedom Writers film by Richard LaGravenese that release on 2007 in California, United State of America and the script of the film from Calameo website <https://en.calameo.com/read/001610144918769dcfd27> (Accessed on January 9th, 2022 at 9.30pm). To collect the data, the writers implement Simak Bebas Libat Cakap (SBLC) method in which the writers only role as the analyst.

To analyze the data, the writers use the data analysis technique model from Miles and Huberman who argued that qualitative analysis consisted of three flows of concurrent activity, there are data reduction, data display, and conclusion or verification. In reducing data, the writers watch Freedom Writers film by Richard LaGravenese first, watching the film for several times until the writers get the information or the data in form of scene containing education values. In data display, the writers use narratives and documentation in every scene film that containing

education value from the characters as data display. The last step is drawing conclusion. According to Miles and Huberman (1994: 11), conclusions are verified as a result of analyst.

D. Findings and Discussion

Based on the findings, the writers have identified 17 values i.e. religiosity, honesty, tolerance, discipline, hardworking, creativity, independent, democracy, curiosity, nationalism, patriotism, appreciation of achievement, friendliness/communication, love of peace, reading interest, social awareness, and responsibility while the values that is not in the film is environmental awareness. In addition, the writer has identified 31 scenes are contains educational values, there are 1 scene of religiosity, 2 scenes of honesty, 2 scenes of tolerance, 2 scenes of discipline, 2 scenes of hardworking, 8 scenes of creativity, 1 scene of independent, 2 scenes of democracy, 2 scenes of curiosity, 1 scene of nationalism, 1 scene of patriotism, 1 scene of appreciation of achievement, 1 scene of friendly/communication, 1 scene of love of peace, 1 scene of reading interest, 1 scene of social awareness, and 2 scenes of responsibility.

1. Religiosity

In Freedom Writers film by Richard LaGravenese the writer find 1 scene of religiosity, is Table 1 (the scene on the value of religiosity by Eva's Father), there are scene and dialogue when Eva is Being Advised by Her Father (Scene 00:01:50 – 00:02:05). Based on the values of religiosity above the implementation in the world of education can be implemented by the teacher can do in class is be the adviser to all students,

give some advice that make the students better in their religiosity.

2. Honesty

In Freedom Writers film by Richard LaGravenese, the writer finds 2 scenes of honesty, i.e. the scene on the value of honesty by Erin. There are scene and dialogue when Erin held a line game to test honesty (scene 00:43:20 – 00:43:57). Next is the scene on the value of honesty by Eva. There are scene and dialogue when Eva dares to speak the truth in court room (scene 01:31:35 – 01:33:15).

The values of honesty are one of the basics of character education in Indonesia. This honest character is important and must be owned by all young people in Indonesia so that the future generation is the best that has the quality of an honest attitude. Erin's teaching makes students able to show an honest attitude to others, this means that honesty is a reference for students to improve the quality of student learning. Therefore, as a teacher, you must apply and teach an honest attitude in the class to friends, teachers, parents, and also the other because an honest attitude can make students educated, which can be seen from their spoke and actions.

3. Tolerance

In Freedom Writers film by Richard LaGravenese the writer finds 2 scenes of tolerant i.e the scene on the value of tolerance by Marcus and Ben. There are scene and dialogue when Marcus and Ben are greeting each other (scene 01:09:50 – 01:09:59). Next the scene on the value of tolerance by student 203. There are scene when all student 203 are dance together (scene 01:23:19 – 01:25:09).

It is important for a teacher to apply the value of tolerance to students during the learning process, by not discriminating against students based on ethnicity, race and religion, and always treating students fairly. This attitude is important to motivate students to respect each other between ethnic groups, races and religions and opinions to make learning better, therefore the learning process will be effective.

4. Discipline

In Freedom Writers film by Richard LaGravenese the writer finds 2 scenes of discipline. The first is the scene on the value of discipline by Erin. There are scene and dialogue when Erin ask student 203 to move their (scene 00:20:59 – 00:22:38). Second is the scene on the value of discipline in front of the class. There are scene and dialogue when Erin invite student 203 to enter the class (scene 01:10:00 – 01:10:06).

In the world of education, discipline is a very important thing, a process of studying classes becomes effective and knowledge given to a teacher well received. Before class it is best that the teacher sets the rules that load about discipline in class, as sitting quietly, not eating and drinking during class, no making noise, and no going out classes without teacher's permission. Teachers also give a punishment if they don't obey. So the process of learning class will be effective.

5. Hardworking

In Freedom Writers film by Richard LaGravenese the writer finds 2 scenes of hardworking. First is the scene on the value of hardworking by Erin, there are scene and dialogue when Erin take part time (scene 00:55:12 – 00:55:40). Second is the scene on the value of

hardworking to take a trip, there are scene and dialogue when Erin asks Dr. Cohn to support her plan (scene 00:56:23 – 00:58:15).

Based on the values of hardworking above the implementation in the world of education can be implemented by the teacher, as a teacher must be smart to make a solution somehow, a teacher must try hard to find a solution to solve the problem. As for the example of Erin, her hard work to facilitate her students could be an example to other teachers in the class. The teacher must have a sense of passion to find a way to learn it lesson to be accomplished. While she is still capable of trying, then the teacher's attack must have the courage to work hard for the purpose of learning can be achieved.

6. Creativity

In Freedom Writers film by Richard LaGravenese the writer finds 8 scenes of creativity, as follows: the scene on the value of creativity in teaching with music, there are scene and dialogue when Erin teaching with music (scene 00:19:44 – 00:20:50). The scene on the value of creativity by the teacher, there are scene and dialogue when Erin held a line game to motivate students (scene 00:41:10 – 00:42:57). The scene on the value of creativity by Erin, there are scene and dialogue when Erin share journal book (scene 00:45:26 – 00:47:19). The scene on the value of creativity in museum of tolerance, there are scene and dialogue when students watch the museum documentary (scene 01:04:46 – 01:05:26). The scene on the value of creativity by student 203, there are scene and dialogue when Erin make a toast for change (scene 01:10:14 – 01:15:00). The scene on the value of creativity

make a letter, there are scene and dialogue when Erin give students the assignment to send a letter to Miep Gies (scene 01:21:30 – 01:22:33). The scene on the value of creativity in debate time, there are scene and dialogue when Erin teaching debate (scene 01:36:57 – 01:37:12). The scene on the value of creativity in teaching with film), there are scene and dialogue when Erin teaching with film (scene 01:37:13 – 01:38:00).

Based on the values of creativity above the implementation in the world of education can be implemented by the teacher who can be performed by a sample of the scene that is creating a method of fun learning methods, not just a method of lectures and teacher center. Teacher can do a study through music that relates to curriculum material, or create student learning center, so students are active in learning.

7. Independent

In Freedom Writers film by Richard LaGravenese the writer finds 1 scene of independent, i.e. the scene on the value of independent by students 203, there are scene and dialogue when students 203 raising fund fair to raise money (scene 01:22:45 – 01:23:05).

Based on the values of independent above the implementation in the world of education can be implemented by the teacher can do in class 85 is be with various strategies like customs activities, and interaction or communication to apply close to students who are conducting social analysis, setting up discipline issues, and using the board.

8. Democracy

In Freedom Writers film by Richard LaGravenese the writer finds 2 scenes of

democracy, as follows: the scene on the value of democracy in library, there are scene and dialogue when Erin asked Margaret Campbell to give a proper reading book for student 203 (scene 00:37:28 – 00:39:05) and the scene on the value of democracy by victoria, there are scene and dialogue when Victoria asked Margaret Campbell to change her classes to room 203 (scene 01:15:05– 01:15:55).

Democracy attitude is important in the classroom or in the process of teaching, to get all the students not to feel selected and to give justice to each student, and to assume all students get the same right in the study process. Some democracy in the classroom can be done with the election of class leader in the way of consultation and mutual, the evenly-picket division in the class, participating in the school activities, giving proposal, advice, and messing to the school for the sake of the school's progress, and appreciates each other's opinions in the school scope.

9. Curiosity

In Freedom Writers film by Richard LaGravenese the writer finds 2 scenes of curiosity. First is the scene on the value of curiosity by Tito, there are scene and dialogue when Tito curios about the Holocaust (scene 00:35:45– 00:36:52). Second is the scene on the value of curiosity by Eva, there are scene and dialogue when Eva want to know the next story about Anne Frank (scene 01:19:20– 01:20:10).

The value of curiosity may be implemented in the gaining knowledge of process primarily based on the evaluation above since the character of students' curiosity is attitudes and actions that usually need to study more deeply and broadly

from something that is learnt, seen, and heard. Asking capabilities, including the teacher asking students and students asking the teacher, can impact the worth of student curiosity. One of the desires of the price of interest in student man or woman training is to foster curiosity in students, which is to generate motivation and inspire students to actively take part in getting to know.

10. Nationalism

In Freedom Writers film by Richard LaGravenese the writer finds 1 scene of nationalism. That is the scene on the value of nationalism by Miep Gies, there are scene and dialogue Living Witness of The Diary of Anne Frank, Miep Gies Shares Her Knowledge and Experience (Scene 01:26:00 – 01:29:00).

Based on the values of nationalism above, the implementation in the world of education can be implemented by the teacher can do in class is instill the values of nationalism in students in the classroom, and provide examples of behavior that reflect the values of nationalism.

11. Patriotism

In Freedom Writers film by Richard LaGravenese the writer finds 1 scene of patriotism. It is the scene on the value of nationalism in honors class), there are scene in honors class (Scene 01:09:07 – 01:09:10). Based on the values of patriotism above, the implementation in the world of education can be implemented by the teacher can do in class is instill the values of patriotism in students in the classroom, and provide examples of behavior that reflect the values of patriotism.

12. Appreciate of Achievement

In Freedom Writers film by Richard LaGravenese the writer finds 1 scene of appreciate of achievement, i.e. the scene on the value of appreciate of achievement by Erin. there is scene and dialogue when write a book “Diary of Freedom Writers” (scene 01:52:27– 01:53:37).

Appreciation is the important thing in life, as a teacher, appreciation attitude becomes one of the most important things in the classes, to make a closeness to the teacher usually uses this appreciation attitude, the example of appreciation in class is giving praise to students when they initiated to answer the teacher's questions. When a confident character in student has been seen teachers can involve such a student's implication to the class management, as being class leader, it also includes the attitude of appreciation attitude toward students.

13. Friendliness/ Communication

In Freedom Writers film by Richard LaGravenese the writer finds 1 scene of friendliness or communication, i.e. the scene on the value of friendliness/ communication in classroom. There is scene and dialogue when Erin gives support to Eva (scene 01:34:27– 01:35:30).

Friendliness or communication in teaching is one of the effective ways that needs to be developed by a teacher in transfer knowledge or relaying matter. Being a teacher that friendliness or communication is not difficult, it can be done by understanding the students in class. Involving students to participate in everything during the study-class study activities, not discriminating with pleasant and loving activities, teachers

should be able to place when to be friends for their students.

14. Love of Peace

In Freedom Writers film by Richard LaGravenese the writer find 1 scene of love of peace, is Table 27 (the scene on the value of love of peace by Marcus), there are scene and dialogue when Marcus apologizes to Mama (scene 01:30:23– 01:31:31).

Implementation of the scene of the mother who forgives her child can be exemplified in a class. A teacher can make an effort in instance in institution of peace love to the students, among them by giving the education given by the teacher. Then the teacher should give more advice and love saying to students so that the student's behavior changes from the bad being good. Teachers can also take a familiar atmosphere with students and make students compromise each other, so that there are equalities among students and not differentiate between friends. Besides that, teacher also applied to student customs to behave anti-violence and caring for fellow, so that creating a peaceful class environment.

15. Reading Interest

In Freedom Writers film by Richard LaGravenese the writer finds 1 scene of reading interest. That is the scene on the value of reading interest by students), there are scene and dialogue when students 203 reading in everywhere (scene 01:18:07– 01:19:20). In the world of education, reading must be the priority of teachers and students.

The implementation teacher in the classroom to grow a fancy reading student can be done by holding a “Read Corner” performed in

classes so students would be interested in reading, this "Read Corner" can be designed with minimalistic and aesthetic places to add interest to the students to visit, when the study teaching takes place the teacher can ask the students to look for a book on " Read Corner " and read it according to their will.

16. Social Awareness

In Freedom Writers film by Richard LaGravenese the writer finds 1 scene of social awareness. That is the scene on the value of social awareness by Erin), there are scene and dialogue when student 203 are fighting in the classroom (scene 00:10:57– 00:12:50).

The implementation that can be done in the classroom is possible by doing cooperation. Teacher can give a group assignment to her students, where in the group activities are charged with partnerships. This cooperation can increase the sense of social consciousness, because in the cooperation of social consciousness, which others need us. This cooperation has a thing that we can help a person without us must follow our own, because in cooperation can solve things together.

17. Responsibility

In Freedom Writers film by Richard LaGravenese the writer finds 2 scenes of responsibility. First is the scene on the value of responsibility by Erin, there are scene and dialogue when Erin asks Andre to fix his score (scene 01:49:23– 01:50:40). Second is the scene on the value of responsibility for students 203, there are scene and dialogue when Erin explained that she could not teach students 203 in third grade (scene 01:50:48– 01:52:16). From both

samples of the scene served in the film are an example of responsibility.

In the world of education, responsibility must be owned by a teacher or a student. Teachers can educate students to have responsibilities with various efforts, among them is the teacher asked the students to come to school on time, teacher asked students to do all the assignments teacher asked students to wear uniforms according to regulations, teacher asked the students not to do cheating during the exam, and there's more. From a small thing like the example of students will be used to fulfill every responsibility given by teachers, if it is a habit then responsibility is not something that is hard to do.

E. Conclusion

Based on the results of research, the students are not excited joining the online learning, they prefer offline learning. They actually pay attention to the lecturer but feel difficult to focus while learning for some distractions. The lecturers explanation is somehow not easy to follow for several reasons, the most is the network connection. On the other hands, online learning have benefit such easy access to information, assignments, and places to learn. It also increases the students' confidence, skill in communication technology usage, as well as self-learning skill. A new creative method in teaching is needed such as mixing online and offline learning, etc. Lecturer's ability in teaching using technology also a must.

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