

## Analysis of Moral Value in 'The Silent Child' Short Movie by Rachel Shenton (2017): Literary Study

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### Abstract

*This research aims to analyze the kinds of moral values and the characteristic of moral values that found in the "The Silent Child" short movie. The method use in this research is qualitative research. Data collection is conducted by watching the short movie of "The Silent Child" and by reading the subtitle. Meanwhile, to analyze the data, the writer conducting some steps. There are; (1). Seeing the movie, (2). Reading the subtitle, (3) Identifying moral value found in the movie, (4). Drawing conclusion. The result of this research is we known about a message, moral value such as; bravery, peace ability, confident, wisdom, cooperation, friendliness and kindness, and the dominant moral value in the "The Silent Child" short movie.*

### Keywords

movie analysis; moral value;  
short movie; the silent child;  
literary



## I. Introduction

Watching movie becomes part of everyday life for some people. The people have different purposes in watching movie such as for refreshing, spending their time, getting information and perspective, learning foreign language and trying to understand other cultures. Due to advance technology development such as internet and smartphone, people can watch movie anytime and anywhere.

According to Hornby (2006:950) movie means a series of moving picture recorded with sound that tells a story, shown at cinema/movie. Movie is produced by producing something, people, things, animals with a camera. The function of the movie is to educate, entertain, and inspire the audience. A movie can teach us a history, science, and human behavior.

According to Christopher, movie includes lines of dialogue and depicts obvious developments of character that 2 explicitly communicate meaning to the people. Explicit content or a kind of "moral of story" socio-political attitude expressed by filmmakers towards the characters through actions and words. By using movie, people can educated moral, cultures, social, education and etc. According to Yousuf and Dadabhoy (2013) A movie can show pictures to the audience so that they can present themselves lucidly.

Moral value is the values that express ideas about good life. Moral value is logic term that a principle or action or character of human is true or false and good or bad. According to Johnston (2002) moral values is expressed in attitudes that become visible in opinions and concrete behavior. Attitudes based on moral values refer to society life, being with others, and the reflective view one's own indentify.

The silent child is the short movie of oscar nominated and winning the best short movie award. This movie tells about A deaf 6-years-old named Libby lives in a world of silence untul a caring social worker gives her the gift of communication. This movie has a lot of moral values for audience. The Silent Child produced by Rachel Shenton, Chris

Overtone, Rebecca Haris, and Philip York at production company Slick Films. This movie tells about family, love, feeling, prestige and togetherness.

This research aims to seeking answers to the following questions:

1. What is the message in the "The silent Child" short movie?
2. What is the kinds of moral value in the "*The Silent Child*" short movie?
3. Which moral values is the most dominant appearing in "*The Silent Child*" short movie?

## II. Review of Literature

Literature is an imaginative and creative work that is made to involve the audience of the work emotionally and intellectually through various types of literature. The types of literature are novels, poetry, movies, music, drama, fables, and short stories. Literature is reflection of social, political, economic, and cultural realities. Literature according to Ima (2013:3) is a medium through which a person can convey his or her ideas or protest against different norms of society.

In making a classification of literature, Conolly (1995:1) mentions three characteristics of literature. First, that literature has a power. Second, literature is also vivid. Third, the language of literature is clear.

### 2.1 Movie

Movie is the moving images that tells story and that people watch on screen or television. According to Michael Rabiger, a movie are entertaining and interesting, so they can make the audience think more deeply. Movies can be categorized into several types, such as documentary movie, noir movie, fictional movie, animated movie, silent movie and short movie. A short movie is a movie that have a more short duration than a normal movie. If a normal movie have 120 minutes for 1 movie with a full story, so a short movie just have 6-15 minutes in 1 movie for full story. Like a normal movie, a short movie has a storyline and a message to be conveyed.

### 2.2 Moral

According to Hurlock Elizabeth, "moral" comes from Latin word mores, meaning manners, custom and folkways. In addition, Hurlock (1956) states true morality is a behavior that is in accordance with social standards and is carried out voluntarily by each individual. A morality contains (1) belief about the nature of the man, (2) beliefs about ideals, about what is good and bad or beliefs about something desired, (3) rules laying down what ought to be done and not to be done (4) motives that incline us to choose the right or the wrong course.

In relation to the values, moral are part of values, namely is moral values.

Moral value is a term in logic that a character of human is true or false, right or wrong and good or bad. Moral values are taught to improve character development, moral character education, and for the health of the moral character of the society (George and Uyanga, 2014). Education and skills are the main keys in gaining social status in community life (Lubis *et al*, 2019). Education is one of the efforts to improve the ability of human intelligence, thus he is able to improve the quality of his life (Saleh and Mujahiddin, 2020). Education is expected to be able to answer all the challenges of the times and be able to foster national generations, so that people become reliable and of high quality, with strong characteristics, clear identities and able to deal with current and future problems (Azhar, 2018).

## 2.3 Kinds of Moral Value

- a. Respect  
Respect is courtesy, honor, and attention shown to someone or something that is important. Also respect is a way to feel or show admiration for someone.
- b. Kindness and Friendliness  
Kindness and friendliness is a very great human value. Involves part of several other values, such as empathy, sympathy, sensitivity and courage values.
- c. Courage or Bravery  
Courage is facing something that is likely to have unfavorable consequences. Also courage, which is where we have to choose a difficult choice with a very big consequences.
- d. Peace Ability and Calmness  
Peace ability and calmness is where we can control ourselves when we face an uncomfortable situation. By controlling an emotions, understanding, and calmness to feel better and careful.

## III. Research Method

This research uses a qualitative research. Qualitative research is the data collected are in the form of word or pictures rather than number (Bogdan and Bikle, 1992). In collecting the data, the researcher used documentation method to get the data. Because, the researcher used the video on the internet as the object of collecting or getting the data. In doing this research, the writer take the data from watching the short movie and reading the subtitles of “The Silent Child” short movie. In collecting the data, the writer did some steps as follows;

1. Seeing the short movie of “The Silent Child”.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2GbxFIVQv8c&t=809s>
2. Reading the subtitles.
3. Identifying the moral values and the message of the short movie.
4. Drawing conclusion

## IV. Results and Discussion

### 4.1 Data 1

This can be seen in minutes (00:02:57 – 00:03:03). This is seen in the scene when Sue is talking to Joanne about Libby, and suddenly Seb, Sue's son comes and says that the exam will start in 25 minutes. Sue immediately said that Seb got the G.C.S.E and better not make him late. This shows that Sue is more concerned with Seb because Seb is smarter and seems to have a bright future compared to Libby who is deaf.

Scene 1



*Seb: Mum, my exam starts in 25 minutes.*

*Sue: Yes, I'm coming.*

*Seb's got his G.C.S.E's and he got A in his mocks. So, I better not make him late.*

**(performed at minutes 00:02:57 – 00:03:03).**

**(This moral value is also mentioned at the end of the story, when Libby is finally admitted to a public school and she can only sit quietly in the crowd of other students, feeling quiet and lonely.)**

## Scene 2



*Joanne: I love you. (sign language)*

*Libby: I love you. (sign language)*

### **Moral value in the data 1: Bravery**

Bravery is a situation where a person has the courage to face the difficulties she/he experiencing. Like a situation under one's pressure and coercion, which requires her/him to face it. There is a scene that includes a 'bravery moral value' when Libby enters a public school. Libby wasn't ready to enter public school because she still had a hard time understanding the movements of someone's lips. However, she had the courage to enter a public school because of coercion from his parents.

The message that I found in this scene is **don't discriminate because every human being is the same.**

## 4.2 Data 2

This can be seen when Sue is consulting and telling Joanne. In that scene, Sue suggested that Libby would be better off learning lip reading than sign language because other people might not be able to use sign language. In fact, Libby has shown good progress in using sign language.



Sue : *I just wondered how she'll get on with the sign language at shcool?*  
 Joanne : *How'd you mean?*  
 Sue : *Well, I'm not sure that many people know it?*  
 Joanne : *Well she'd need to have an interpreter sat with her and extra support and well I'm not trying to talk myself into a job but I'd be more than happy to help.*  
 Sue : *Right okay. I'm just wondering if we should focus more on the lip-reading, rather than the sign language?*  
 Joanne : *Well as it stands at the moment Libby's going to struggle with speech. So, a combination of sign language and lip-reading will have best results.*  
**(performed at minutes 00:09:38 – 00:10:06)**

**Moral value in the data 2: Peace ability, wisdom, and confident.**

**(This shows the peaceful personality of Joanne when she is discussing with Sue about Libby. Joanne answered Sue's every question calmly, wisdom and confident).**

The message that I found in this scene is **don't ignore every child's development process.**

**4.3 Data 3**

This can be seen in the scene when Joanne and Sue are talking on the phone. Sue said that she is Libby's mother, she knows what is best for Libby, she just wants her child to be perfect, to be normal, performed at minutes 00:14:47-00:15:19. This is also alluded to at 00:16:22-00:16:50 minutes. Eventually, Sue sends Libby to a public school and stops working with Joanne.

**Scene 1**



Sue : *I know that she's progressing, but I'm worried. She's learning this language that I don't know and no one in her school will know. When you have a child you want them to be normal, you want them to be perfect.*  
 Joanne : *She is normal Sue. She's just deaf*  
 Sue : *Look, I know it's your area of expertise, but you must understand. I'm Libby's mother and I know what's best for her.*  
 Joanne : *No, of course you know best. It's just the schools don't always understand deafness and you have to fight for the support, but it is out there.*  
 Sue : *I know what I'm doing Jo, you must understand I've been a mother for a very long tim.*  
**(performed at 00:14:47-00:15:19)**

## Scene 2



*Sue : Just, em, sorry this is difficult thing to say, but Paul and I have been talking and we think it's best if Libby stops the sign language.*

*Joanne : What? Why?*

*Sue : We think that speech therapy is a better route to take.*

**(performed at minutes 00:16:21-00:16:36)**

### Moral value in data: Respect

**(Here shows Joanne's personality who respects others. He respected all of Sue's words and answers even though they were unpleasant to hear and uncomfortable).**

*Sue : Look, I know it's your area of expertise, but you must understand. I'm Libby's mother and I know what's best for her.*

*Joanne : No, of course you know best. It's just the schools don't always understand deafness and you have to fight for the support, but it is out there.*

The message that I found in this scene is **don't be selfish and imposes your own will.**

## 4.4 Data 4

This is in the scene when Sue and Joanne are on the phone. On the phone Sue said that she just wanted to make Libby normal and perfect like any other child. However, he doesn't understand how Libby feels when she has difficulty communicating because of her lack.



*Sue : I know that she's progressing, but I'm worried. She's learning this language that I don't know and no one in her school will know. When you have a child you want them to be normal, you want them to be perfect.*

*Joanne : She is normal Sue. She's just deaf.*

**(performed at minutes 00:14:48-00:14:58)**



#### **Moral Value in the data 4: Cooperation**

(It shows Sue's personality, who always discusses and collaborates with Joanne about Libby's development).

The message that I found in this scene is **don't focus on the 'normal' label too much.**

#### **4.5 Data 5**

This can be seen in the scene of Paul's mother and Joanne. Paul's mother said that Libby's grandfather had also been deaf since birth. And her grandfather only worked as a cleaner.



*Joanne : Hi, I'm Joanne. I look after Libby.*

*Paul's mom : Hello darling, is she being good for you?*

*Joanne : Libby? Yeah, she's great, she's so bright.*

*Paul's mom : Is she? Do you think she'll be able to get a job one day?*

*Joanne : Yeah, I think she'll be able to have a career in whatever she likes.*

*Paul's mom : Oh God bless her. Her granddad was deaf you know, from birth. He had a job as a cleaner.*

**(performed at minutes 00:13:11-00:13:38)**

#### **Moral Value in the data 5: Kindness and friendliness, and confident.**

(This shows that Joanne has a good and friendly personality, because she greeted Paul's mother first and answered every question Paul's mother had with a smile and confident).

The message that I found in this scene is **don't look down on people who have shortcomings.**

#### **4.5 The Most Dominant Moral Values in "The Silent Child" Short Movie**

In the "The Silent Child" short movie, the most dominant moral values in this movie is 'Try to focus on what the possibilities are and what's good for your child at the same time'. This is scattered throughout the film. Where Libby's mother, Sue, and her husband Paul have ambitions to send Libby to a public school, where everything goes normally. While Libby has a weakness, namely deafness. Sue asked Joanne to help Libby talk or to better understand her surroundings. To prepare for school in public schools. Libby has shown progress in sign language. However, Sue felt it was not effective because in public schools not everyone could use sign language. According to Joanne, a mixture of lip reading and sign language will produce the best results. However, Sue still wants instant results and still sends Libby to a public school, where Libby is still not ready and ends up lonely in a public school.

## V. Conclusion

Based on the results of the analysis in Finding and Discussion regarding the moral value in the 'Silent Child' short movie, the author conclude that there are 8 moral values (78.12%) in some movie scenes. The moral values are bravery, kindness, friendliness, confident, cooperation, respect, peace ability, and wisdom. And in this short movie has the most dominant moral values, that is 'Try to focus on what the possibilities are and what's good for your child at the same time' this is scattered throughout the film.

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