

**THE REFLECTION OF PARENTING IN ISLAMIC TEACHING IN
ROBERT HOGE'S *UGLY***

THESIS



BY

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Penulis

(Shafa Nadhira Laudza)

good and not necessarily that people think is not good is bad. Because only Allah best for His servants.

To learn patience in daily life, one of the media that can teach people about the meaning of patience is a novel, and this statement proved after the researcher read the novel and found the moral lesson of patience. Depdikbud (2005: 788) stated that a novel is a form of life story created by fictional characters but made into a true story. True, which means that proves can be accepted logically. Logic means a relationship between one story and another in the story itself and is a tool to provide information to the reader. A novel is also interpreted as long prose that contains the story of a character's life with character around them, which can be shown through the character behavior and nature of each character.

This study discusses the reflection of patience that is found in a novel entitled *Ugly*. It is a novel written by Robert Hoge in 2015. Hoge was born in Brisbane, Australia, on 22 July 1972. He is a journalist, a science writer, and a speechwriter. This novel tells Robert's life journey that was born with some issues. Throughout his life, Robert had to discover ways to adapt to taking walks with prosthetic legs, dealing with bullying, and making life choices regarding his own decision.

Robert experienced many twists and turns of life when he was born as a disabled child and facing all the ordeals he gets. Pratiwi (2018: 1) states that physical changes caused by congenital disabilities will certainly cause feeling distress from both the parents, family, and the people closest, especially when

receiving bad judgment from others. It is certainly a pressure for people with disabilities and families to face the judgment of others.

The journey that Robert went through drains the emotions and energy he had. Nevertheless, he always has a patience heart to accept all the reality he gets. It cannot be done without the great influence of his parents, who always support him to become a better person who never gives up, can pass all the trials, and accepts himself as he is.

Many studies have discussed the moral value in literary work. The researcher found some studies with the same theme that is moral value. First, Abdul Hakim (2014) studied moral value in the Skripshit novel. This previous study generally focused on the main character's attitude in reflecting good and bad moral behavior in the novel. Whereas, in this study, the researcher specified one type of moral behavior, which is patience, to be able to make a further discussion about patience in the novel.

Second, Eldiana (2017) discussed the moral value in The Little Mermaid short story. This study focused on the kind of moral value based on Kinnier et al. and the Golden Rule. Meanwhile, the researcher only found several types of moral values based on theory. Different from the previous study, this research used a suitable theory based on Gargiulo in identifying the attitude of each character in the story, which makes this research more relevant to the theory used.

Third, Irma Ulfia (2019) about moral values in The Adventure of Pinocchio story, which focused on revealing the categories of moral value and describing the building children's character implied to the novel. This study uses two principles theory to analyze the data. This study used two different

approaches with two different theories. There are moral values based on Linda & Eyre and the theory of children's character building based on Lewis. However, different from this study, the researcher only used one theory that can cover many related aspects. Among other psychological approaches, moral value, and Islamic perspective that makes this study more efficient and relevant in conducting the research

The last, from Zahrotun (2017) that discussed the moral behaviors of Andreas Tangen in Knut Hamsun's *Hunger* novel. The study focused on the moral behavior of the main character to discuss the relation of literary work with moral norms in society. Whereas, this research analyzed three main characters in the novel related to Islamic teaching in being patient.

Based on several previous studies above, it gives an idea to the researcher to conduct the study using the psychological approach by Gargiulo's model about the stages of parental reaction to a disability, continued by the influence of parents in accepting their disabled child accompanied by moral value theory to identify the reflection of patience based on Islamic perspective. The reason the researcher used an Islamic perspective to analyze the novel because the researcher has no idea about other religions. In other words, the researcher only knows Islam religion. In Islam, Muslims are taught to be patient, and it can be found in the characters' attitude in the novel in order to give a precious lesson for the reader that may be considered as moral teaching that may be useful in life.

In the third study conducted by Irma Ulfia (2019), the author used a fairy tale novel by Carlo Collodi entitled *The Adventure of Pinocchio* as the subject of the research. This research used a qualitative method also used two principles theory to analyze. There are moral values by Linda & Eyre and theory based on Lewis about children's character building. The study focused on revealing the categories of moral value and describing the building of children's character related to the novel. The result of the study finds some elements of moral values, and there are love, affection, sensitiveness, honesty, bravery, self-discipline, and respect related to the novel.

In the fourth study conducted by Zahrotun (2017), the author examines the moral behaviors of the main character, Maslahah Mursalah in Knut Hansum's *Hunger*. The aim of the study to analyze moral behaviors portrayed by Maslahah Mursalah as the main character and the effect of the main character's action in *Hunger*. The result of the study proven that the main character in the novel portrayed moral behavior, which caused the advantages for the public. There is evil and good behavior such as self-conception, sense of helpfulness, sense of merciful, lying and distrust, stealing, and sense of getting offended.

Based on previous studies above, the researcher concludes that this research is different from other studies that have been carried out above; first, the novel that the researcher used was *Ugly* novel, and this literary work has never been examined by previous research. The other differences are the subject of the study is the main character. It is chosen so because his disability is also an additional point in this research. This study also explained the other characters' attitude and effort in a test of life with disabilities.

At the beginning of the story, Mary gave birth to Robert on Sunday, 23rd July 1972. However, the situation at that time did not seem enthusiastic. Everything seemed quiet that makes her felt something wrong with her child. After hearing the doctor's explanation about her baby condition (p. 5), she decided to refuse to look at her son. It was shown from the quotation, "Dad had already visited me on his own by the time he saw Mum. When he described how I looked, they both burst into tears. 'Perhaps he'll die,' Mary said to her husband." (Hoge, 2015: 5)

In the quote, "they both burst into tears" (Hoge, 2015: 5) refers to the feelings of Robert's parents. Knowing that their baby condition was born with an un-perfect form, they were stuck in deep sorrow, shocked, and did not expect to get a situation like that.

3.1.1.2 Grief

At this stage, Robert's mother showed a reaction of grieving and experiencing profound sadness, including the first stage, which is very reasonable for parents knowing that they have a disabled child. It is shown in the quote, "The doctor asked my mother if she would finally like to see her baby. Mum knew there was something wrong with me. Until she saw me, though, the pain and the grief need only exist in her mind." (Hoge, 2015:8)

A mother who has not met her baby since she gives birth. Moreover, after a week, the doctor tried to persuade her to meet her child. Finally, she said to the doctor if she changes her mind and chooses to meet her child. Although she did not know what she expected to see her disabled child. The quotation illustrated that the grieving phase showed how her feelings filled with doubt and sadness that only she felt at that moment.

3.1.1.4 Depression

The stage of depression is a form of reasonable consequences of the grieving process that makes the occurrence of deep and drawn-out sadness. The reaction is shown in the quotation, "...She still very sad and could not bring herself to take me home. One day, after she visited me, she cried and told her sister with desperation and honesty, 'He is so ugly.' (Hoge, 2015: 11) It is illustrated by the attitude of mothers who are always crying over the condition of their children.

3.1.2 Secondary Stages

At these stages, parents feel guilty for having children disabled, because they feel unable to look after their children as best they can for nine months of pregnancy. Then, effected their child was born with a disability. Parents also feel ashamed to introduce their children to other people because their children (with disabilities) are considered "disabled" and are different from children in general. Parents tend to be closed about their disabled children. It means parents not allowing their disabled child to go outside of the house or other public spaces and do not allow them exposed to the outside world.

3.1.2.1 Guilt

At this stage, the reaction from guilt included in the secondary stage of parents' acceptance of the child's disability. Parents' guilty reactions arise because they think they also take part in causing a child's disability. This reaction is clearly shown in the quotation, "Mum kept asking other people what she should do. No

Robert's parents are families who work in farm and animal husbandry, while Robert's father also works as a laborer. With all the limitations that Robert's parents have, it never eliminates their efforts to make their child better. As long as it will be good for Robert, they will do everything possible and facilitate the best medical treatment for Robert. This subchapter describes the treatment undergone by Robert's. The doctors performed a series of surgeries and procedures before and after the surgery that Robert had to go through.

Based on the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia article of the procedures before undergoing surgery stated that the surgeon and surgical team would review the medical history, any medications are taken, and any test results. The surgeon will also give a complete physical exam to check the current health. Also, there is a consultation session to have all the questions answered about the surgery itself, also be able to answer questions about insurance coverage and how to go about getting pre-approval for a child's operation.

It will be needed immunization records, insurance card, as well as any referrals may need Guardianship papers, Consultation letters from other specialists to see Current lab results, Copies of any X-rays, CT scans or MRI scans, complete medical history, a list of all medications taking, or recently taken, including prescription and over-the-counter and a list of all allergies (especially latex allergy).

Parents and children will meet with both the advanced practice nurse (APN) and the surgeon after they examine the patient and review information and will discuss a possible option for the patient. In this session, it will complete the surgical and pre-anesthesia evaluation during appointment visits. Also will receive

The first major operation, the doctor was to carve out the skull, move a few pieces, get rid of pieces that they do not need, and put some new items in their proper size. The doctor will also reposition Robert's eyes closer together, reposition Robert's nostrils and make a new nose crave by cartilage from the toes, besides, to complicate the surgeries, even more, the doctors wanted to amputate the right foot at the same time, and the doctors suggested I'd be better used two artificial legs rather than having just one because of the right leg more complicated. The foot on it was angled forward like a ballerina's pointed toes and cannot work properly either (p.26)

In addition to undergoing the major surgeries procedures at the same time, the entire procedure also took twice as much as expected, recording more than twelve hours, which means that it took a long time for Robert's parents to wait for the operation to proceed. Robert, who started as a boy with a right leg and deformed legs, no nose, and eyes on the side of his head. Finally, he can complete the surgical procedure with the position of the eyes already in place, the two amputated legs, and a new nose. Besides requiring a very long time in the operation process, but also requires more energy for Robert to survive during the operation. Robert has been sedated for a long time. Three times the blood has been replaced. Despite all the surgical procedures, Robert survived and was born for a second time.

Not only are the surgeries at risk, based on Celletti in her article titled *The Complete Guide to Rhinoplasty* (2018), there are costs that Robert's parents have to spend on the major operation that Robert undergoes. Rhinoplasties, the operation for reposition the nostrils, eyes, and nose, can range from approximately

to talking rudely about Robert. The mother, who realized that it was her child who was being talked about, immediately turned around and spoke to the two women and defended her son. She spoke to them tough enough to the two women until they left her in shock and left without saying anything.

At that moment, the affection that she gives for Robert is illustrated when she defends her child in front of people who are talking rudely about her child. As time goes by, her attention towards her child shows a form of acceptance in accepting all the shortcomings of his childhood experiences. In this case also clearly illustrated how she gave psychological support for their children by defending their children when there are people who were rude toward her child.

“Mum decided she was ready to take me into the big world. Like the other mums and their kids had done before, we went for a trip to the local shops. Expecting the worst possibility, she held her head high to avoid meeting the stares of other people, but no one commented, and if anyone stared at me, she would do not notice. In the future, whenever she finds people staring at her and her ugly little boy, Mum settled for staring back.” (Hoge, 2015:16)

The quotation above also clearly showed psychological support for her child. The way she is responding to people's judgment, she prefers to be ignorant toward the people who were staring with a strange look to her child in a public place. She will put her head up to avoid eye contact with others. Her fierce attitude towards others makes others reluctant, and no one dares to take a risk for comment anything about her child.

Even though at first she felt ashamed of people's judgment of her and it would destroy her pride of having a child with congenital disabilities, but over time, she was no longer care about people's perception of her and her child. For her, having

Robert's sense of insecurity began to appear after some time he entered school. When Robert had an appointment with a doctor at the hospital, Robert's mother hurriedly told Robert to change his clothes for a hospital appointment. At that time Robert asked his mother if he could use long pants to go to the hospital because he knew that many people would pay attention and realize that Robert did not have perfect legs, and had to use prosthetic legs to help him walk, this made Robert insecure if he has to use shorts is shown in the quote 'Some people look at me and say, "That boy hasn't got any legs. He must have been in an accident," I said.'

However, the sense of insecure that Robert experienced got advice from his mother that Robert did not need to think about what other people said, Robert's mother said that not everyone intends to be mean when commenting on what Robert experienced. It would be good if Robert could be confident in showing himself, shows how smart and shows that he do something that other people may not be able to do. Although this opinion was still not accepted by Robert, he tried to obey what his mother told him.

In the quote "If you wear your shorts, they'll be able to see how clever you are and how well you can manage and all the things you can do that they can't do." illustrates the way of Robert's mother taught Robert to be confident in whatever he was, and always proud of what he had. The role of Robert's mother in dealing with Robert's self-confidence is essential for Robert to become a support system in ensuring that the people around him accept him as he is along with the shortcomings he has.

There is not upon the blind [any] constraint nor upon the lame constraint nor upon the ill constraint nor upon yourselves when you eat from your

me to race, he would not have given me artificial legs." It shows that with the limitations, he has no reason to stop trying.

Another form of support depicted in the quote above is when Robert's mother fully supported Robert's choice to take part in the sprint race competition because it was also for Robert's good. Although she knew if Robert would not be a winner in this race, at least she allowed Robert to try and teach Robert that with the limitations that Robert faced was not a reason for Robert to stop trying and just give up on the situation he was facing. The statement was also confirmed by Robert's mother's quote, saying, "I know Robert can't win,' she told Dad. 'But he can get in there and try.'" (p. 82)

Another form of support depicted in the quote above is Robert's mother's attempt to facilitate what Robert needs in the sprint race. Robert's mother bought race supplies such as a new white sweatshirt, green bottle shorts, one sand shoe, and one long white sock. From both attitudes is a form of support from the family for Robert in dealing with reality. A sense of optimism, confidence, and trying to find the abilities in Robert seen in the form of Robert's parents' attitude towards Robert (p.82)

Sprint race began. Robert did not expect anything from the race. Robert just wants to try something new for him and prove that Robert, with all his limitations, can also do what other people do. It is shown in the quote, "I wasn't thinking about running a record time or qualifying for the Olympics or being a spectacle. I just wanted to run. And win." (Hoge, 2015:83) Robert's decision is also due to the influence of parental support that fully supports whatever Robert chooses, such as Robert's decision to take part in the sprint race in the quotation

Robert had discussed it with Robert's parents, who, in turn, raised the prospect with Robert. This operation will be as massive as Robert's first enlargement operation at four and a half years old. The bumps on Robert's head will be ironed, Robert's nose will become almost normal, and Robert's eyes will move a little closer together. Robert will look much, much better.

However, that continues to be a big question for Robert now, how it feels to look normal. Is making the nose a standard shape makes girls pay more attention to Robert. If the operation goes well, are the other children will stop teasing Robert again? Will he still be called Toe-nose or another lousy nickname? That is still a question for Robert. Known that Robert's age is already enough in making decisions, finally, Robert's parents gave the decision to Robert, would Robert agree to carry out this major operation or not. Everything has been handed over to Robert.

“I was smart enough to know I'd always far from the ordinary – no matter what the doctors did to my face, I will never go to sleep one night and wake up the next morning to found out I'd grown new legs” (Hoge, 2015:178)

The time of decision arrived. Robert's mother and father, Robert and Robert's eldest brother, Michael, were also there, talking about how they operated at the end of the school year, and hopefully, Robert will be back with his friends in January, with new faces and everything. After having had quite a lot of operations since he was a child, the process is long, painful, sad, and that everything can go wrong. Robert thinks whether undergoing all these operations is worth it to the pain Robert felt throughout his life.

"Michael, who had usually been quiet until then, suddenly speak up. 'What use is looking normal if he cannot even see himself?' I paused at that, and everyone turned to look at me. I still have no idea exactly how and why,

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