

CULTIVATING SPORTSMANSHIP AND NEVER GIVING UP IN THE CHILDREN'S STORYBOOK "DUDUNG SUKA BALAP KARUNG" BY PRATIWI AMBARWATI

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Abstract. The children's storybook "Dudung Suka Balap Karung" by Pratiwi Ambarwati is an educational medium in which it instills the value of sportsmanship and never giving up in early childhood. This research aims to analyze how these values are conveyed through the actions of the main characters, storylines, and moral messages. The method used is qualitative descriptive, with a content analysis approach, this research is focused on book narrative and illustration. The results show that the main character, Dudung, is described as an enthusiastic child, brave to face challenges, accept defeat with open arms, confident, honest, joyful, grateful, and never give up in sack racing competitions. This book is also an effective and attractive means for teachers and parents in developing emotional intelligence, moral understanding and social behavior of children, supporting the formation of positive character.

Keywords: Early childhood character education, Never giving up, Sportsmanship, Storybook

INTRODUCTION

Character education is an important foundation in the formation of a superior person, not only academically intelligent, but also morally and mentally mature. Children's character is formed through the stages of stimulation that they get when living their daily lives (Tuti Andriani, 2012). In daily life, there are two character values that are very relevant and complementary, namely sportsmanship and never giving up, this is in the context of physical education. Sportsmanship teaches individuals to uphold honesty, respect the rules, and accept the results of the competition with open arms. Meanwhile, never giving up fosters determination, persistence, and motivation to continue to try to face difficulties, failures, or obstacles.

When children are vulnerable at the age of 0-6 years, children experience a rapid growth and development process (Novan Ardy Wiyani, 2015, p.21). The early childhood phase is a very strategic time when starting the formation of children's characters, so this period is often referred to as the *golden age*. For this reason, the generation must have a character that can uphold spotism. Sportsmanship is closely related to behaviors and values which can be defined as a consistent attitude to respond to situations (Pradipta, 2015).

Character is a concept of morality, which consists of a number of characteristics that can be formed through sports activities. Sports education contains many character values such as sportsmanship, honesty, courage, hard work, self-control, responsibility, cooperation, justice, and wisdom in facing opponents. To cultivate these character values can be through play. Play is a basic need for children (Maghfiroh, 2020). Mayesti (Sujiono, 2009) said that playing is an activity that children do throughout the day because for children play is life and life is a game. Play is a fun activity for early childhood (Indar Yabu et al., 2024). Play also has an important role for early childhood, because through play, children can not only grow physically but also develop psychologically, children can socialize with their environment, cooperate, share and be able to understand the feelings of others.

In playing, sportsmanship is needed which is a mental attitude and behavior that reflects honesty, respect, humility and accepting defeat from the results of the competition, whether won or lost. Sportsmanship is an attitude developed for elementary school preparation (Sari et al., 2020). Never giving up cannot be obtained instantly from the child. But something that can be trained and shaped (Manurung et al., 2021). In training and shaping it, the involvement of parents and teachers, the community and education around the child is needed. After getting support, an unyielding attitude is also needed when participating in the game. The child's world is a world of play, children learn to gain new experiences through play. Play can be done in various forms when children are active. In the excitement of play, it is very necessary for children to never give up an attitude that needs to be instilled from an early age through concrete games and requires more physical activity. Physical activity through movement will also affect the physical and mental health of children. Early childhood has excessive physical activity, this is based on the characteristics of early childhood, namely active and energetic (Nuria Sekolah Tinggi Agama Islam Terpadu Yogyakarta & Zainal Abidin Sekolah Tinggi Agama Islam Terpadu Yogyakarta, n.d.). This activity can be through competitions or matches accompanied by attitudes and behaviors based on moral awareness.

Character formation in early childhood is very important because at this time moral, social-emotional and independence values begin to develop. In the storybook entitled "Dudung Suka Balap Karung" by Pratiwi Ambarwati it is a reflection of the importance of sportsmanship and never giving up on children from an early age. Fear of failure, worry, and lack of confidence can be overcome with the spirit of sportsmanship and never giving up. The character of Dudung is described as a child who has an extraordinary spirit in participating in sack racing competitions. With determination, diligent practice and enthusiasm in participating in the sack race, Dudung was finally able to win the race, even though he had fallen. The author conveys the message that persistence, honesty and the spirit of never giving up victory is a real victory. These values are the basis of sportsmanship and unyielding character that needs to be developed in children. This book can be an effective medium to instill character values in a fun and contextual way.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study uses a descriptive qualitative approach with the type of content analysis research. This research aims to explore the meaning related to the values of sportsmanship and unyielding attitudes contained in the children's story book "Dudung Suka Balap Karung" by Pratiwi Ambarwati.

RESULT AND ANALYSIS

1. Enthusiastic Participation in the Competition

Play is a very important activity for the growth and development of children. Play must be done on the initiative of the child and the child's own decision. Play must be done with pleasure because playing fun can result in a learning process in children. Therefore, play activities are very important for the growth and development of children. Through play activities, children can explore, imagine, and socialize with their fellow friends (Mutiah, 2013). This learning process through play can be done through fun competitions and in accordance with the characteristics of early childhood. Exploring children's potential is very necessary, so that parents and teachers can direct and educate according to their talents. Every individual has potential in him either naturally or from environmental factors (Madrasah et al., 2024). Early childhood play competitions are competitive activities designed to enjoy, educate, and support children's holistic development, including motor, social-emotional, cognitive, and character aspects. These competitions are like sack racing, ball relays, singing and sucking blocks, which are adapted to early childhood abilities to keep them fun and not burdensome. If the race is done in a fun way then the children will be able to participate in the race with enthusiasm, such as high spirits, emotional excitement, and active involvement that follows. So that the growth and development of children can develop well.

In the storybook "Dudung Suka Balap Karung" by Pratiwi Ambarwati, it is said that Dudung was very enthusiastic and excited to participate in the sack racing competition in his village, in preparation for participating in the competition, Dudung prepared himself by diligently exercising, running in the morning, practicing jumping and preparing a good and strong sack. Dudung really hopes to win this race, even though Dudung is worried because it is the first time he has participated in this sack racing competition. Dudung hopes to finish the race to the finish line, so that he can make his parents, especially his father, proud.

2. Courage to Face Challenges

Children's education is carried out through play, children are invited to explore to get to know the surrounding environment, find and utilize objects that are close to children, so that learning is more meaningful for children (Nazia Fuadia, 2022). Children who are ready and sporty will definitely dare to face challenges in any activity. The ability of children to confidently try, survive, and overcome obstacles in physical, social, or cognitive activities, even in the face of uncertainty or the risk of failure, is the courage to face challenges. This attitude is very important for the development of children's character, especially in building never giving up, social courage, and emotional resilience. In addition to being confident in play activities that are packed with competitions, children must also be brave and confident in engaging in game activities, both competitive and non-competitive, by showing courage to face challenges, and overcoming fear.

Dudung was ready to take part in the race, with several participants standing at the start line waiting for the whistle to sound, Despite the fear of falling, Dudung still jumped excitedly quickly not wanting to lose to the other participants. Suddenly Dudung was hit by another participant, fortunately he did not fall, Dudung jumped again quickly and finally fell, this made Dudung lag behind the other participants, even other participants had reached the finish line. Dudung did not give up and continued to participate in the competition with enthusiasm.

3. Happy and Grateful

Joy in early childhood is an expression of positive emotions that are directed through signs such as smiles, laughter, energetic gestures, or cheers that reflect happiness, enthusiasm, and active involvement in an activity, such as games and competitions. Meanwhile, gratitude in early childhood is the ability of children to recognize, appreciate, and feel satisfied for what they have or experienced, both in the form of success, participation, and support from others, by showing positive expressions such as happiness and gratitude. Children who already have a sportsmanship and never give up will be able to be happy and grateful even when facing challenges, accepting with open arms when participating in competitions. Competitions can also educate children to be tawadu (humble), grateful and patient (Baehaqi, 2020).

Dudung felt very happy and happy to participate in the sack racing race, even though he fell and held his sore leg, Dudung kept trying, by reducing his jump so that he could jump faster, finally Dudung was able to reach the finish line. Dudung is grateful to be able to make his father proud. And next time Dudung will participate in the sack racing competition again (Pratiwi Ambarwati, 2023).

CONCLUSION

Based on the content analysis of the children's story book "Dudung Suka Balap Karung" by Pratiwi Ambarwati, it can be concluded that this book is very effective in forming sportsmanship and never giving up in early childhood. The value of sportsmanship and never giving up is in the narrative such as being enthusiastic about participating in competitions, daring to face challenges, being happy and grateful. A qualitative approach through content analysis can reveal illustrations, dialogues and plots in this storybook can convey moral messages in an interesting way and in accordance with children's development. This book also has great potential as a medium for character formation that is culturally contextual and local wisdom.

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