



**JURNAL PENDIDIKAN DAN SASTRA INGGRIS**

Halaman Jurnal: <https://ejurnal.politeknikpratama.ac.id/index.php/jupensi>

Halaman UTAMA: <https://ejurnal.politeknikpratama.ac.id/index.php>



## MORAL VALUES IN THE ENGLISH CHILDREN'S SONG LYRICS

Andreas Heri Kurniawan,  
Universitas Stekom  
[andreas@stekom.ac.id](mailto:andreas@stekom.ac.id)

### Abstract

*The process of build the character can be done by instilling moral values through messages that can be conveyed by parents through various literary media such as, songs, poems, or fairy tales. this study will describe the moral values of humans who relationship with God, self, and with others. This research will use descriptive qualitative method, it means procedure based on descriptive data in the form of oral or written words from research on subjects who have observed and has the characteristics, the data provided is the original data that have been changed by using systematically method and can be accounted for the truth. The data are used from ten English children's songs with the tittle (1) twinkle little star (2) baa baa black sheep (3) you are my sunshine (4) my daddy is the best (5) Please and thank you (6) sorry, excuse me (7) sick song (8) if you're happy (9) Johny, Johny yes papa (10) Are we there yet? Moral value from human relationship with God, which is obtained from the lyrics of English children's songs relationship with God is a feeling of gratitude for God's power. The moral value of human relations with oneself, in the English children's songs lyrics conveys ways to cultivate self-confidence, joy, and sincere about what happens in this life. moral value that we can get from human Relations with others in English children's song lyrics teach how to behave well with others, respect, and love for others.*

*Keywords: children song, song lyric, moral value.*

### Abstrak

*Membentuk karakter dapat dilakukan dengan proses menanamkan nilai-nilai moral melalui pesan-pesan yang dapat disampaikan oleh orang tua melalui berbagai media sastra seperti, lagu, puisi, atau dongeng. Penelitian ini akan mendeskripsikan nilai-nilai moral manusia yang berhubungan dengan Tuhan, diri sendiri, dan dengan sesama. Penelitian ini akan menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif, artinya prosedur berdasarkan data deskriptif berupa kata-kata lisan atau tertulis dari penelitian terhadap subjek yang telah diamati dan mempunyai ciri-ciri, data yang diberikan adalah data asli yang telah diubah dengan menggunakan metode sistematis. dan dapat dipertanggungjawabkan kebenarannya. Data yang digunakan adalah sepuluh lagu anak-anak berbahasa Inggris dengan judul (1) twinkle-twinkle little star (2) baa baa black sheep (3) you are my sunshine (4) my daddy is the best (5) Please and thank you (6) sorry, excuse me (7) sick song (8) if you're happy (9) Johny, Johny yes papa (10) Are we there yet? Nilai moral dari hubungan manusia dengan Tuhan, yang diperoleh dari lirik lagu anak-anak bahasa Inggris adalah rasa syukur atas kuasa Tuhan. Nilai moral hubungan manusia*

*dengan diri sendiri, dalam lirik lagu anak-anak bahasa Inggris mengajarkan cara-cara menumbuhkan rasa percaya diri, kegembiraan, dan keikhlasan tentang apa yang terjadi dalam hidup ini. Nilai moral yang bisa kita dapatkan dari hubungan manusia dengan orang lain dalam lirik lagu anak bahasa Inggris mengajarkan bagaimana berperilaku baik dengan orang lain, menghormati, dan mencintai orang lain.*

*Kata Kunci: lagu anak, lirik lagu, nilai moral.*

## **INTRODUCTION**

The world of children is a world full of fantasy and is a phase in the process of forming the attitude or character of children in the future. The process of build the character can be done by instilling moral values through messages that can be conveyed by parents through various literary media such as, songs, poems, or fairy tales. Liliani (2010:41) mentions that broadly speaking, children's literature is divided into three genres: poetry, fiction, and literature non-fiction. Fiction has subgenres of realism, formula fiction, fantasy stories, stories traditional. Poetry can be in the form of lyrics of traditional children's songs, lyrics lullabies (nursery rhymes), narrative poetry, and personal poetry. Whereas The non-fiction genre has subgenres of information books and biographies.

Literature is a very appropriate media for educating children, in literature there are values that are very beneficial for the development of children. Parents should indeed carry out the task of guiding and make their children a good person in the future. Therefore, by singing and telling stories to children besides being able to direct a child becomes a person who has character and morals, can also make the closeness of parents and their children so it can create a family so harmonious with children who have a proud personality.

Since birth, children are very easily attracted to a song. By hearing a song, a baby will fall asleep with deep sleep and when they started to talk with only listen over and over again, they can remember and can sing back to the lyrics of the song. Especially if the lyrics you hear are simple and fun for them. This is where the role of parents to introduce children's song lyrics that contain a moral message in it.

Moreover, music is one of literary works in written form. It commonly divided into big major which are fiction and nonfiction. The example of literary works is movie scenario, poem, short story, prose, song lyrics and etc. literary works is useful for human life because it often gives moral messages and value which direct or influence the audiences. Song contains words which called lyrics. Song lyrics expressed the author feeling about something and support by the video clip to enhance the meaning or message for the listener and make it easier to understand. Song does not stand by itself; however, it has lyrics which are the most essential part of it. Without the lyrics, a song will not have any meaning. If a song is seen from rhythm and melody, a song is one of the examples of nonverbal communication, while lyrics is verbal communication of song. When creating a song, a composer tries to express his feelings through the lyrics made. Those can be sadness, happiness, spirit, love, faith, sorrow, etc. The researchers ask the hearer to interpret the song based on their experiences and knowledge, and process it as the basis to understand the lyrics.

Literature as a work of human art in the form of oral and written which has a certain meaning or beauty. In literature contained exploration of the truth of humanity, customs, religion, culture, etc. Literature also offers various forms of stimulating stories readers to do something. Disastra (2004: 63) says, "Creating" and appreciating literary works is an intellectual and emotional experience of a high degree that will be more humane to humans. Literature has various types, one of which is children's literature. Children's literature is literature that is emotionally and psychologically responsive to and understood by children, and it generally departs from concrete facts and easy to imagine. A story about nostalgia that involves a process emotional complex and with abstract language is a story for adults not for children.

Tarigan (1995:35), suggests that children's literature has intrinsic and extrinsic. The intrinsic values of children's literature include: (1) giving pleasure, joy, and enjoyment; (2) cultivate and develop imagination; (3) provide new experiences; (4) develop insight into human behaviour; (5) introduces the universality of experience; and (6) giving the legacy of the previous literature. While the extrinsic value of literature for children includes four things, namely for language development, cognitive, personality development, and social development.

In literature there is lyric poetry, lyric poetry is also interpreted as poetry which is sung; therefore, it is arranged in a short order. In According to Nurgiantoro (2010:27), there is a genre of lyric poetry that is devoted to children's poetry. The genre of children's poetry can be in the form of lyric poems of traditional children's songs, lyrical lullabies, narrative poetry, and personal poetry, as the mother says or sings when she is going to put the child to sleep, persuading children not to be fussy, or making children happy are types of children's poetry. Zaidan, et al. (2007:162) explained about children's poetry according to them, poetry that includes oral traditions in literature; consists of several arrays read or sung; The content includes math problems, games, puzzles, and education.

Song can be called language because song has meaning inside through lyrics. Song lyrics that have been written by song writer can represent the feelings or ideas that want to deliver to the listeners. The song lyrics which are meaningful with the expectation that listeners can enjoy and receive the feeling and meaning of the lyrics. The text in the lyrics of a song that has been sung are a language of meaning. The meaning of the lyrics can be various, like message, story, advise, or value. Something meaningful can be delivered such as moral and educational values.

According to Endraswara in (Murtono, 2007: 66), children's songs are songs who are cheerful and reflect noble ethics. Children's song is a song that usually sung by children, while the nursery rhymes contain simple things that kids usually do. Children's songs usually talk about love for others, God, father and mother, brothers and sisters, the beauty of nature, the greatness of God written in simple language according to children's minds. The song itself is a fun medium for children to get to know the surrounding environment. Through songs, children can know something or learn many things. Children's songs are not only introduced as entertainment, but also use it to take messages and positive meaning about life, especially about character values.

Listening to children's songs is one way for parents to instill moral values in the development process of a child. Listening to a simple song over and over is something

that children really like. Song lyrics, especially those found in children's songs, have great benefits for the development of children's character. According to Jari (2006, pp. 38-39) asserts that children's songs have several benefits, including (1) as a means of relaxation by neutralizing heart rate and brain waves, (2) growing interest and strengthening learning attractiveness, (3) creating more humanistic and fun learning process, (4) as a bridge that builds in remembering the learning material, (5) retention and contact of emotions and aesthetic feelings, (6) the process of internalizing the values contained in the subject matter, and (7 ) encourage students' learning motivation. Thus, it is clear that the song lyrics contained in children's songs can be used as a medium to instill character at an early age.

According to Nurita in (Heni 2013: 6), children's songs also teach a character that has a good influence on their growth. In other words, the positive impact in children's songs that teach about an act of courtesy can affect their minds, souls and bodies because the right children's song can cover all aspects of learning objectives in children. The word moral is a personality trait or character that arises from a person's personal self so that people around him can judge people's morals the. According to Endraswara (2013: 44) moral attitude is a must in literary creation. Literature will describe certain moral attitudes, at least which aims to build society. This moral attitude forms a high-level ideology in social culture.

Moral values in literary works must always exist, because readers who appreciate the results of literature will feel something that is useful for life. According to Hidayah et al (2016: 2) literary works are created in addition to providing entertainment or pleasure, is also a means of inculcating moral values. Existence Moral values in literature are expected to be able to bring out positive values for students' readers, so that they are sensitive to issues related to social life and encourage good behaviour. Literary works can play its role as a medium of communication in conveying the rules of moral values to his readers both children, adolescents and adults. Literature works for develop a keen sense of the subject's values that achieve intimacy with literature. Moral is a very strict rule, it is important to enforce it in a society because it can be a signpost in life as well as a protector for the community itself.

To establish good character in children, education is needed. This education, according to Wahyuningsih (2017), is a way to instill culture within an individual. Education is not only the process to transfer knowledge, but also it can be used as a means to instill culture, morals, character, and socialization.

Moral is divided into several parts according to Hidayah et al (2016: 3) the types of moral values contained are as follows:

a. God's Moral Value

God's moral value is a moral value that concerns relationships man with God. A servant who always prays to God, always be grateful by remembering that the blessings you get from God, and so on.

b. Individual Moral Values

Individual moral values are moral values related to relationships humans with their personal lives or the way humans treat themselves alone.

c. Social Moral Value

As social beings, humans cannot separate themselves from other people. Humans must have relationships with other humans in life everyday life, both within the family, community, and state.

Budiningsih (2008:6) states that understanding of morals is moral consciousness, moral rationality or reasons why one should do so, a decision based on moral values. Often referred to as moral reasoning or moral thinking, which is cognitive aspect of moral values. Based on these presentations, this study will describe the moral values of humans who relationship with God, self, and with others.

## **METHODOLOGY**

The method used in this research is descriptive analysis. descriptive analysis method is a method that aims to describe elements in terms of sides in a literary work by using data collection and documentation (Ratna, 2015:53). This research will use descriptive qualitative method, it means procedure based on descriptive data in the form of oral or written words from research on subjects who have observed and has the characteristics, the data provided is the original data that have been changed by using systematically method and can be accounted for the truth.

Data collection techniques using documentation techniques. The data are used from ten English children's songs with the tittle (1) twinkle little star (2) baa baa black sheep (3) you are my sunshine (4) my daddy is the best (5) Please and thank you (6) sorry, excuse me (7) sick song (8) if you're happy (9) Johny, Johny yes papa (10) Are we there yet? Those songs are very popular and most of the videos have more than 20 million views in youtube. The analysis was concentrated on moral values presented in the song lyric. Those songs caught the writer's interest because its popularity amongst children in Indonesia who were EFL learners, as well. In analyzing the songs, the writer did an in-depth analysis to the lyrics in order to find out the moral values of the songs. Finally, the result would be displayed and narrated into the findings and discussion section.

## **RESULT**

### **1. Human Relationship with God**

The relationship between man and God can be seen from the three lyrics of a children's song that entitled twinkle-twinkle little star, you're my sunshine and if you're happy clap your hand. From the three lyrics of this song, there is a feeling of gratitude in it. In the lyrics of the twinkle-twinkle little star song, the gratitude that appears which is a form of admiration for the power of the almighty God to create everything in the sky that can give a sense of beauty to those who see it. It is contained in the lyrics of,

*'Twinkle twinkle little star, How I wonder what you are.'*

It shows how beautiful you are. This admiration will create a sense of gratitude from the children. In the others lyrics also described their admiration for the creation of the God, it can be seen in the following lyrics

*'Up above the world so high, Like a diamond in the sky.'*

From these lyrics it can be seen that this song exalts God's creation and teaches children to always be grateful for everything that exists.

In the lyrics of the song 'you're my sunshine' expresses gratitude for the happiness given. In this lyric reveals that God is the only light that can make happiness in our life. This can be seen in lyric

*'You are my sunshine, my only sunshine, You make me happy when skies are grey'.*

Meanwhile, in the other lyric, it expresses love and does not want to lose gratitude.

*'You'll never know, dear, how much I love you, Please don't take my sunshine away'.*

In this lyric, it teaches us to always be grateful for the happiness from God and always rely on God in everything.

Whereas in the lyrics of song if you're happy clap your hand, the visible gratitude is the happiness that is always given by God which is expressed by an invitation to always express that happiness. This can be seen in the lyrics

*'If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands, If you're happy and you know it, stomp your feet. If you're happy and you know it and you really want to show it If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands.'*

This song teaches us to always express the happiness that has been given by God by using our body parts to express that happiness.

## 2. Human Relationship with oneself

There are three song lyrics that have a related to individual moral value, the lyrics of the song are please and thank you, sorry excuse me and the train. In the lyrics of please and thank you song, the message that appears is self-confidence, and bravery which found in the lyrics,

*'When you see something you want, What's the magic word? Hmmm.... Please, please, please'.*

In this lyric, teaches children not to be ashamed to socialize with other people, especially to ask for help or say thank you to other people around you. The other part of the lyrics also teaches children to always say please and thank you every day. Because these two words are very useful for life, especially in terms of socializing with their friends. It can be seen in the lyric

*'Please and thank you, please and thank you These are the nice words you can say Please and thank you, please and thank you Say them every day'.*

In this lyric, it is hoped that children can gain confidence and courage to meet other people. As in the lyrics of the song sorry excuse me, the message that appears is also about self-confidence and courage, this can be seen in the lyrics of

*'When you make somebody sad, oops What's the word you say? Hmm Sorry, sorry, sorry.'*

The lyrics of the song teach you to always say sorry if you make a mistake to someone. Besides that, in this lyric also teaches children to say excuse me to other people. We can see from the lyric

*'When you're making too much noise, oops What's the word you say? Hmm Excuse me, excuse me, excuse me.'*

By listening to this song children are taught to be dare to admit their mistakes and be polite to others. In the two songs above, guidance and parental supervision are needed. So that children really understand the moral values contained in the lyrics and they can practise it in their life.

While in the lyric song are we there yet, there is a moral value in the relationship with oneself, namely patience or a belief that he/she can achieve the desired goal by being patient. This can be seen in the lyric

*'are we there yet? Are we there yet? Not yet Are we there yet? Not yet'.*

Besides that, in this lyric it also contains a moral message to find a way out so not to get bored in doing something. For example, by playing a game. This can relieve our boredom. It can be seen in the lyric

*'Let's play a game Look at where we are Won't you look with me And tell me what you see'.*

In this song, there are also lyrics that give a moral value to always be grateful for everything around us. this is found in lyrics

*'What do you see? Eagle What do you see? Deer What do you see? Lake',*

which show a sense of pleasure and joy towards the objects around us.

### 3. Human relations with each other

As social beings, humans are always getting contact with each other, from ten song lyrics which analysed there are four song lyrics that contains a moral value about relationships with others, the lyrics of these songs are baa baa black sheep, my daddy is the best, sick song, johny, johny yes papa. The following is an explanation of the results of the analysis for each song lyrics.

Baa baa black sheep's song lyrics contain a moral value with others, we can learn how to share and love to people who are around us, can be seen in the following lyrics

*'Baa, baa, black sheep, Have you any wool? Yes, sir, yes, sir, Three bags full; One for the master, And one for the dame, And one for the little boy Who lives down the lane',*

this lyric has moral value about sharing with others. By listening to this song, children can learn how to share what we have and teach them to pay attention to those in need.

In the other song lyric of my daddy is the best teaches our children to get a relation with others, that is how to appreciate, love and respect our parents specifically daddy. We can see in the lyric

*'My Daddy is the Best He tells me silly stories He helps me not to be afraid When he turns out the light The best there ever was and I love him'.*

In this lyric shows a very deep love for the father. This song also contains the moral value of pride in having a father who is always ready to help in all activities carried out. In addition, showing a child's love for the father, this song also teaches about the love of a father for the child. it's in the lyrics

*'I love to be your daddy You fill my life with lots of joys You're my favourite girls and boys! I love you!.'*

The moral values contained in these lyrics clearly show a father's love for his child, by listening to this song, the child has the courage to express love for the father and vice versa. Sick song's lyrics contain a moral value with others that is parent's love for their child. It can be seen in the lyric

*'My little baby, not feeling well? You have a fever, mommy can tell Rest little baby, I'll care for you You'll get well soon, I'll make sure you do. My little baby, not feeling well? Your nose is running, daddy can tell Rest little baby, I'll care for you You'll get well soon, I'll make sure you do'.*

In this lyric shows the concern of parents with their child's condition. Whatever happens to their children, parents will always give great attention to their children. With the attention and affection given by parents will make children feel comfortable and have closeness with their parents. Great love from parents will make the atmosphere in the family harmonious and full of love.

The lyrics of the song Johny Johny yes papa teach children to always tell the truth. In this lyric contains the moral value to dare to tell the truth to parents. This can be seen in the lyrics of

*'Johny, Johny (Yes, papa) Eating sugar? (No, papa) Telling lies? (No, papa) Open your mouth (Ah, ah, ah).'*

In addition to honesty, the lyrics of this song also teach children to learn to pay attention and respond to people who talk to them. It gives the value of politeness to the children. Apart from these four songs, if you're happy clap your hand lyrics also have moral values for others. In the lyrics of this song contains a moral message about respect and love for others, can be seen in the following lyrics

*'If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands If you're happy and you know it and you really want to show it If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands If you're happy and you know it, stomp your feet If you're happy and you know it, stomp your feet'.*

This illustrates that the child is a child who socialize with others and love as friends. Nature like this sometimes rarely owned by children who do not socialize with others. This song also gives a moral value to always be happy and share happiness with other friends.

## **CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS**

The conclusions from the results of this study indicate that the moral value from human relationship with God, which is obtained from the lyrics of English children's songs relationship with God is a feeling of gratitude for God's power, created humans with all the completeness of the happiness make it easier to work. Gratitude for God's power created this universe and all that is in it, both in the heavens and in the earth, then all humans should worship only God.

The moral message of human relations with oneself, in the English children's songs lyrics conveys ways to cultivate self-confidence, joy, and sincere about what happens in this life.



Because people who believe in his own ability will become an independent person who is able to survive when faced with a problem and can always find a solution. Next moral value that we can get from human Relations with others in English children's song lyrics teach how to behave well with others, respect, and love for others and the attitude of mutual cooperation that must always be fertilized in social life.

Based on some of the conclusions above, it is necessary to emphasize so that research on children's literature that focuses on moral values is more be reproduced, so that it can be used as a medium of learning to build better morals and character of children in the future. Besides that, it is hoped that parents will pay more attention to the development of their children by providing moral instillation from an early age.

#### REFERENCES

1. Budiningsih, Asri. Pembelajaran Moral. Jakarta: Rineka Cipta.
2. Disastra, Soeria. 2004. Senja di Nusantara. Bandung: PT. Kiblat Buku Utama
3. Endraswara, Suwardi. 2013. Sosiologi Sastra Studi, Teori, dan Interpretasi. Yogyakarta: Ombak.
4. Hidayah, Nur Kholis dkk. 2016. Nilai-Nilai Moral Dalam Novel Negeri Lima Menara Karya A. Fuadi. Jurnal Nilai Moral, 1-11. (Online, 15/3/2017).
5. Jari, S. (2006). Reformasi pendidikan Islam melalui music [Reforming Islamic education through music]. Malang: Artesia Press.
6. Liliani, Else. Pemanfaatan Sastra Anak Sebagai Media Mitigasi Bencana. Jurnal Penelitian Humaniora, Vol. 15, No.1, April 2010: 39-58. (Online, 8/9/2017).
7. Murtono, dkk. 2007. Seni Budaya dan Keterampilan Kelas 3 SD. Jakarta: Yudistira
8. Nurgiyantoro, Burhan. 2010. Sastra Anak (Pengantar Pemahaman Dunia Anak). Yogyakarta: Gadjah Mada University Press.
9. Ratna, Nyoman Kutha. 2015. Teori, Motode, dan Teknik Penelitian Sastra. Yogyakarta: Pustaka Pelajar.
10. Tarigan, Henry Guntur. 1995. Dasar-dasar Psikosastra. Bandung: Angkasa.
11. Wahyuningsih, S. (2017). Lagu anak sebagai media dalam mendidik karakter anak usia dini [Children's songs as a medium in educating the character of early childhood]. ThufuLA: Jurnal Inovasi Pendidikan Guru Raudhatul Athfal, 5(1)
12. Zaidan, Abdul Rozak, dkk. 2007. Kamus Istilah Sastra. Jakarta: Balai Pustaka