

## Portrait of Character Education Values in Literary Works Case Study of the Novel Savana by Ima Lawaru

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### A B S T R A C T

The study of language and literature entitled *Character Education Values in the Novel Savannah* by Ima Lawaru explores the character education values presented in the story of a coastal child from Torina who dreams of conquering the world but loses that ambition after becoming a victim of sexual violence by an unknown person. This research aims to describe the character education values and analyze the storyline in the novel. Using a descriptive qualitative method and library research approach, data analysis was carried out through comparison, categorization, and inference techniques. The findings reveal that the novel contains 12 character's education values: religious values, tolerance, discipline, hard work, creativity, curiosity, national spirit, love for the homeland, respect for achievement, friendship and communication, social concern, and perseverance. These values offer meaningful implications that can be applied in character education in both schools and higher education institutions in Indonesia.

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## INTRODUCTION

Literary works are media used by writers to convey their ideas and experiences. They can also reflect the author's views on various problems observed in the environment, as expressed through poetry, drama, and prose—divided into short stories and novels. One of the most popular and significant forms of literary work is the novel. The term *novel* comes from the Italian *novella*, which means a story or piece of news. Novels typically portray human life, particularly how individuals interact with their environment and with one another. Within novels, there are often cultural, social, educational, and moral values, including character education reflected in the development and actions of each character (Febriyani 2022).

Character formation is the system of instilling character values in educational participants, which includes components of knowledge, awareness or will, and actions to implement those values—both in relation to God, oneself, others, the environment, and the nation—so as to become a well-rounded human being. Thus, character education is a person's conscious action to apply values related to goodness in connection with God, the environment, and oneself (Karmila, Meliasanti, and Sutri 2021).

One of the novels that contains the character of educational signs is the novel *Savannah* by Ima Lawaru, which tells the story of a child from Torina Beach who has a dream to conquer the world. However, on his journey, he has been raped by someone unknown. So, the desire to conquer the world is lost since he became a victim of somebody's lust.

*Savannah* is the main character in the novel *Savannah* by Ima Lawaru. It is described as a beautiful, lively, cheerful and full of adventurous spirit girl. The story of his life is outlined in the novel *Savannah*, hinting at A, life his teenage years were full of happiness and pride in the

wealth, nature, and beauty of his hometown. However, throughout the journey of the main character's life, experiencing various shocks almost life just took his life. The main figure of helplessness made him almost end his life.

Bad luck befell Savannah, causing her and her family to be ostracized in their hometown. The relentless gossip of the Torina residents became unbearable for her parents, prompting her father to move the family to his brother's village in Morotai. After years of struggling with the trauma she had endured, Savannah slowly began to rebuild her life, learning to forget the past and trying to connect with new people. As time passed, her spirit gradually healed—until, in the midst of her recovery, her world was shattered once more. Her life was destroyed again, and the dream she once held so dearly was crushed by someone she never expected.

The novel *Savannah* was selected as the object of study because it contains educational values that can be turned into life lessons. In addition, the novel is based on a true story told by the author. It offers important lessons for children and teenagers, especially young women, to always remain alert—because immoral acts can be committed by anyone, can happen to anyone, and can occur anywhere. Relevant studies on Character Education Values in novels have been conducted by (Febriyani 2022), (Haliza Fitri 2023), (Ellawati Ellawati, Susi Darihastining, & Henny Sulistyowati 2023), (Resmi, Suciati, & Mualafina 2022), (Syaidah & Amir 2019) which focuses on the comparison of Character Education Values between Characters. The author is interested in another form, namely the novel *Savannah*, contains educational characters signs that can be used as lessons in living life and this novel is a true story told by the author. This novel can also be used as a lesson for teenagers, especially women, so that they are always alert Who just because Immoral acts can be committed by anyone and can happen to anyone and anywhere.

#### New Concept

Novel is a prose, a design that presents characters and a series of incidents and backgrounds that are arranged. As an imaginative work, it reveals new aspects of humanity in a profound and subtle way. Novels are not only entertainment, but also as an art form of studying and researching aspects of life and moral values, which guide readers about noble character. Novels are literary works that contain intrinsic and extrinsic elements that have important roles and are interrelated. Novels typically portray human life through interactions with the environment and with others. In the novel there are cultural, social, educational and moral values (Febriyani 2022). Meanwhile, according to (Syaidah & Amir 2019). Novels are human objects, human facts, and cultural facts Because in the form of human creation it is broad and complex. Based on expert opinion, it can be concluded that the novel is a work of fiction that will conditionally mark the character of education.

#### Character Education Values

Character formation is a system of instilling educational character values of participants which includes components of knowledge, awareness or will and actions to implement the values that are said, both to God, oneself, others, the environment, and the nation so as to become a perfect human being. Thus, educational character is a person's conscious action To apply values related to goodness with God, the environment, and oneself Only (Karmila et al. 2021). Character education as an activity carried out consciously and planned in facilitating and shaping participants to become perfect noble personal morals so that they are able to make a positive contribution to the life of the nation and state (Zahro 2022).

Character building is not only important, but absolutely done by each nation if they want to become a civilized nation. Many facts prove that developed countries are not only because the nation has its own abundant strength, but also because the nation has superior characters such as honesty, responsibility, hard work and others. Character education is something important to form a quality generation. Character education is one of the efforts to guide someone to become a good person, so that the filter is able to influence the bad (Munayah, Iim. Santika, Tika. Mutjaba 2022).

## METHODS

This research will be conducted in May 2025 on the novel entitled Character Education Values in the *Savana Novel*. This research is classified as library research. The method used in this study The method used in this study is quantitative descriptive, namely a descriptive sensory analysis method that uses the researcher's ability to appreciate product perceptions with words.

The data that became the focus of the study were words, sentences and expressions that were considered according to the title of the character education signs studied in the *Savannah novel* and the main data source in the study This is Savannah novel book by Ima Lagaru, published by Oceania Press at Jalan Kehutanan No. 04 RT. 05 RW. 02, Seturan, Catur Tunggal, Depok, Sleman, DIY.

Data collection techniques using reading techniques and note-taking techniques are the right choices to study this, especially since the data collected is in the form of text from the novel. Reading techniques allow researchers to understand in a comprehensive way the contents of Ima Lawaru's Savannah novel, including the character value education contained therein. While note-taking techniques help in recording and compiling data that is relevant to the focus of research, such as quotes that show the character of the value education you want to research. Thus, these two techniques are complete to each other to collect data in a systematic and organized manner.

The data analysis technique used in this study is a qualitative descriptive technique. This technique is used considering that the data in this study is in the form of words or groups of words which are qualitative data. so that need explanation with method descriptive. The steps used to analyze the data in the following research are as follows:

### Comparison

The data that has been obtained from repeated reading of novels entered to in data card. After the data is collected, the data is then compared to between One each other. This step done with hope difference category between data can found.

### Categorization

The data has been compared and then grouped. The data grouping is based on character education markers, including: religious values, honesty, tolerance, discipline, hard work, creativity, independence, democracy, curiosity, love for the homeland, national spirit, achievement, love of peace, a fondness for reading, friendship and communication, environmental awareness, social care, and responsibility.

### Inference

The data that has been grouped based on categor, next described in accordance with interpretation and knowledge researcher about values education. Description done sequentially one by one. Based on description that has been done furthermore made conclusion.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The research results found values education in the novel Savannah by Ima Lawaru There are values education character .

No	Educational value Character	Quote	Information
1	Religious Values	<p>When he heard my scream, he rushed into my room in a hurry. All of a sudden, his trembling hands wrapped around me from behind, hugging me gently. He slowly rubbed my head, which was still bandaged, while muttering several verses he believed could calm me down. Mom kept whispering them in my ear until she saw that I had begun to settle.</p> <p><i>"Astaghfirullah, astaghfirullah, astaghfirullahaladzim, my child. I'm sorry, son,"</i> I heard her say. Her voice was shaking. I didn't scream anymore.</p>	Page 58-59
2	Tolerance Value	<p>Even though my school is a school where the majority of students are Christian and all the teachers are also Christian except a religious teacher of mine, but me and my Muslim friends Still go to school with comfortable - comfortable just</p>	Page 113

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there. Even friends near me Alone is majority they			
3.	Discipline Value	He so patient, disciplined, and very caring with things small tits He is sluggish. Not yet Can Sleep if Not yet find One the button that came off. He will be very angry if goods that have been kept in place move position without to the best of my knowledge him. he will not reluctant - reluctant must pinch, even hit with a wood or a blade bamboo, if the rules that have been made together, agreed together, then violated by his children alone.	Page - 26-27
4	Work Values hard	Father sailed across almost every island in the archipelago for trade. He sold agricultural products or distributed goods such as <i>bakaki</i> from Maluku to Java, and bananas and nuts from Flores to Wakatobi. He transported them from one island to another, from one city to the next – even selling groceries, basic necessities, and other items – using only a wooden boat.	Page 37
5	Value of Creativity	Like mushrooms that grow in the rainy season, Mom was always flooded with orders. From making curtains to sewing uniforms, it all became her business. People from cities and distant villages, who used to order curtains in Ternate where the prices were much higher, gradually started coming to Mom instead.	Page 205
6	The Value of Curiosity	What really happened? Why did Dad suddenly become so depressed? And what is the connection between Father and that strange conversation? Also, who is La Komparu? <i>Komparu</i> – what a funny name. Not to mention, every now and then while they were talking, that strange man kept glancing in my direction as I pretended to sleep. Maybe he knew I was only pretending, which is why he kept looking at me. I was starting to feel more and more uneasy.	Page 180
7	Spirit Value Nationality	Uncle excitedly explained to Father, Mother, and all of us about Roy, the young collector who has never received any recognition from the local government for his service as a caretaker of history on the island. Even though, if you think about it, half of the historical items stored in the World War II Museum in Juanga belong to him personally – the rest are government-owned. Roy and his family still live in a small, cramped hut to this day.	Page 180
8	Value of Love for the Country	Although the majority of the public uses different local languages, within our family – and among families of refugees from the 1999 Ambon riots in general – we always use the Ambonese language. Ambonese, a language from Maluku, is used in daily communication. It is also used to socialize with children, teenagers, and young people in the village.	Pg.34
9	Value of Appreciation Performance	The handyman, known as a fairly skilled footballer, was well-regarded at our school. His athletic, muscular build resembled that of most football players. His slightly narrow eyes and straight hair weren't much different from those of Korean actors – who, at the time, were very popular among teenagers. In every inter-school football match, he and his team were always chosen to compete. Our school was proud to have such a talented student.	p.82
10	Friendship and Communicative Values	"You're just a local, La. Why are you acting like you're someone else, hahaha. We're all the same here, La, no need to be shy," he said, laughing. Despite his bloated belly, that man still carried the unmistakable trait of generosity – generosity typical of migrants. Moreover, my father was also a good friend of Kepu. I knew that from their past conversations. He even asked us not to bother hiring laborers to carry our luggage.	Page 145
11	Social Care Values	"You don't see the condition of the child? His health is more important right now!" one of them said, full of emotion. The mother who was being reprimanded suddenly fell silent, then bowed her head. Maybe she felt guilty.	Page 52
12.	Value of Responsibility	"But... we're only leaving this house temporarily, right, Pa? We'll still come back here, won't we, Pa?" "I don't know... Life – your life, my child – is more important now. That's why we must leave this island. There's no use staying. I won't change my decision."	Page 98

*Religious Values*

Religious is an attitude and behavior of obedience in carrying out the teachings of the religion one believes in. Tolerance towards the implementation of other religious worship, and living in harmony with adherents of other religions.

"When she heard my screams, she ran into my room in a hurry. Suddenly her hands shivered, hugging me slowly from behind. Then she rubbed my head slowly, which was still bandaged. While muttering a number of verses that she believed could calm me down. Mother continued to whisper in my ear until she saw that I was calm.

" Oh my God, astagfirullah, astagfirullahualadzim my son. I'm sorry, son." I heard it. The sound shook. I didn't scream anymore." ( Lambru , 2017: 58-59).

Story excerpt at the religious sign event, namely the moment of mother's worry hearing Savannah screaming. So she was afraid so that her voice and hands shivered when hugging and whispering a paragraph in Savannah's ear. Story description excerpt at the religious lie show sign in Savannah's gratitude to God. Savannah's mother by reading the paragraph can make Savannah calm. Which parent doesn't? sad when seeing her son screaming with full fear like someone who has lost his mind. Now Savannah's mother is very grateful and believes the moment of reading the verses that made Savannah calm. This is our teaching to believe in the verses of the Qur'an and can be applied in everyday life.

#### *Tolerance Value*

Tolerance is an attitude and action of respecting differences in religion, tribe, ethnicity, opinions, attitudes and actions of others from oneself.

"Even though my school is a school where the majority of students are Christian and all the teachers are also Christian except for my religious teacher, but I and my Muslim friends still go to school comfortably there. Even friends near me Alone is majority them " ( Lawaru , 2017: 113).

Quotes from the story about tolerance show signs, namely even though Savannah school is dominated by Christian students and teachers, Savannah and her Muslim friends still feel comfortable going to school there. Moreover, Savannah has close friends with the majority coming from circles with different religions. The value of tolerance is reflected in the open and accepting attitude of Savannah's classmates, without looking at religious differences. This shows that in the Savannah school environment, religious diversity is appreciated and accepted in a positive way. This attitude of tolerance is very important to form a harmonious relationship between each other, building strong friendships without being influenced by differences in religious beliefs.

#### *Discipline Value*

Discipline is demonstrated action behavior orderly and obedient to various terms and conditions .

Small breast matters . She is slow. She can't sleep if she hasn't found one loose button. She will be very angry if the items that have been stored in their place, move positions without her knowledge. She will not hesitate to have to pinch, even, be hit with wood or bamboo, if the rules that have been made together, agreed upon together, agreed upon together, are then violated by her own children." ( Labaru , 2017: 26-27).

Citing the story above reflects the sign of discipline, namely someone who is very patient, disciplined, and pays attention to small details in his daily life. Properties like this indicate that the person May have high standards for marking discipline, and they apply it truly in everyday life, including in educating their children. Their firm reaction to breaking the rules shows important values in building good character and behavior. However, it is also important to remember that in providing discipline to children, a balanced and child-centered educational approach in a positive way is also important To ensure they understand important rules and discipline without having to use physical violence.

#### *The Value of Hard Work*

Working hard is a behavior that shows real effort . overcome various constraint study and assignments , as well as finish task with as good as Possible .

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"Father sailed to sail almost every island in the archipelago for trade. Selling the land's produce, or sharing the land's produce such as bakaki from my shame to Java, gaharu wood from Irian to Java, bananas and nuts from Flores to Wakatobi. Bring from this island to that island. This city to that city. Even selling basic necessities , basic necessities , etc. , only with use wood boat " ( Lawaru : 2017: 37).

Quote the story above shows the sign of Working hard for the father figure. He sailed to sail in the islands of the archipelago for trade. sailing from Maluku to Java to sell bakaki, from Irian to Java to gaharu wood, or from Flores to Wakatobi for bananas and nuts shows that this father Not only worked hard to find a livelihood, but also had knowledge of Indonesia's natural resources and the best way To utilize it. Therefore, this story teaches the importance of the sign of Working hard To adapt to different environments and situations .

*Creativity Value*

Creativity is the ability to think and do something to produce new methods or results from something you already have.

"Like mushrooms growing in the rainy season, Mama is always flooded with orders. Starting from making curtains to uniforms, it has become Mama's new business field. People from cities and distant villages, who previously ordered ready-made curtains in Ternate at prices many times higher, high , in terms of gradually switch to Mama" ( Lawaru , 2017: 205).

Citing the story above shows that his creativity in designing curtains and uniforms has attracted the attention of customers from various places, even from far away areas. This illustrates that creativity Not only affects business in a positive way, but also expands its influence in increasing social plus signs. This is teaching Us that marks creativity in educational character Not only involves the ability To produce new innovative ideas or products, but also the ability To recognize opportunities, adapt to market demand, and develop business in a sustainable way.

*Curiosity Value*

The feeling of wanting to know is an attitude and action that always tries to know more deep and wide from something to learn , see , and hear .

"What really happened? Why did father suddenly become gloomy? Then what is the relationship between father and the person he was talking to? Also with la Komparu. Komparu? That's a funny name. Not to mention when they occasionally talked, the strange man still glanced at me who was pretending to sleep. Maybe he knew I was pretending to sleep, so he kept staring at me. My feeling was getting worse." ( Lawaru , 2017: 185).

Citing the story above shows the character education signs of desire that you know, where Savannah shows the desire to understand the situation that caused the emotional change towards her father, and what the relationship between her father and La Komparu is. This story quote highlights the importance of values known desire in educational character, where Savannah shows the desire To understand the situation and people around her more in . So, educational character values such as curiosity, are very important To understand the world around us, both in the context of the story and also real life.

*Nationality Spiritual Values*

Nationalism in spirit is a method of thinking and acting, and having insight that places the interests of the nation and state above the interests of oneself and one's group.

"Uncle was very happy to explain to father, mother, and all of us about Roy, a young collector who also did not get the slightest appreciation from the government area questioning his services as a guardian of history on the island. Although if you think about it, the historical records stored in the World War II museum in Juanga are half of his personal belongings and half are owned by the government. Roy and his family are still live in a hut small and narrow " ( Lawaru , 2017: 180).

Citing the story above shows that there is a sign of high nationalism in it. This can be seen in Roy's character, even though he did not get official appreciation from the local government for his services as a caretaker of history, he remained persistent in carrying out his duties and persistently to preserve historical items even though life in economic conditions simple and minimal facilities. This is teaching us to appreciate and understand the importance of contributing in a positive way to the nation and state, even though we do not always get recognition or support. large from the surrounding environment.

#### *Value of Love for Country*

Love of country is a method of thinking, behaving and acting in a way that shows loyalty, concern and high appreciation for the language, physical, social, cultural, economic and political environment of the nation.

"Although the majority of the public uses a different language, in our family and in the families of the refugees from the 1999 Ambon riots in general, we always use the Ambonese language. The Ambonese language, Maluku, is used for everyday language. The Ambonese language is also used in socialize children children , adolescents and young people in the village " ( Lagaru , 2017: 34).

Quoting the story above reflects a deep love for their homeland and their own culture, where they consciously choose to maintain their local language and traditions, even in situations where the surrounding environment tends to use a different language. This action shows pride in their cultural identity and a strong desire to continue to inherit the younger generation, so that local values do not die out and continue to develop in their public. The values of character education, especially marking the love of the homeland that can be drawn from the quote the importance of maintaining and preserving identity culture and language area as part from inheritance nation .

#### *Performance Value Appreciation*

Value performance is driving one's own attitudes and actions to produce something useful . for society , and acknowledge as well as honor the success of others.

"The stupid handyman who is known as a fairly skilled footballer is relied on in our school. His body is athletic, muscular, like most footballers. His eyes are slightly slanted and his hair is straight, not unlike Korean actors. Where currently Korean actors are very popular with teenagers. In every inter-school football match, he and his team always send. Our school is proud is student talented like he " ( Lagaru , 2017: 82).

Citing the story above shows that the education of the sign reflects the character is the achievement of the value of the sign, although the stupid craftsman is known as a naughty figure he also has extraordinary achievements in football, his success in this sport makes him relied on by his school in every inter-school match, which is a source of pride for the school.

The message of this quote is the importance of appreciating and recognizing someone regardless of their background or other aspects of their personality. Although the Naughty One may have naughty characteristics, his athletic achievements have made a significant positive contribution to his school, showing that every individual has the potential to contribute and excel in their respective fields.

#### *Values of Friendship and Communication*

Friendly and communicative are actions that show suggestions of enjoyment in talking, socializing, and cooperating with others.

"You can kill one La, kabilanga you wow dhaga iko 'o atu, hahaha . Kita- kitamo ala'a na ana ghara La, bhara I elementi . You talk like that La, as if you were a foreigner only, hahaha . We- we are only This La, do not be shy." Behind the stomach was bloated, it seems that the Chief Who maintains a typical generosity. Typical migrant generosity . In addition, my father is also a Good Friend of Kepu. That I know the past of their talk. Even He asked us not to bother renting laborer For lift goods we " ( Latiru , 2017: 145).

Citing the story above shows that although the Chief initially looks foreign or Unfamiliar with a particular Language or culture, his friendly and communicative attitude allows him to be quickly accepted and become part of the environment Kepu also

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shows a strong friendship with Father. In addition, Kepu also shows typical generosity with real actions to help others selflessly, such as offering help to Father's family to lift their default goods. The values of communicative character education from this story are the ability to communicate in an effective, friendly and empathetic manner is very important in building harmonious and mutually beneficial relationships with others around us a.

*Social Care Values*

Social care is an attitude and action that always wants to provide assistance to other people and communities in need.

"You don't see, How is the child's condition? His health is more important Now!" That's what one of them said in an emotional tone. The mother was reprimanded It suddenly became silent. Then lowered her head. Maybe she felt guilty" (Lawaru'2017: 52).

Quoting the story above shows that when a mother asks for Savannah without looking at the condition, a number of mothers forbid it and even scold the mother, because Savannah's current condition is not in good or better health. main. The summary quote of the story presented above shows the lesson of existence as a form of social care sign. In the quote, the villagers still show concern for the community. The value of caring social in education character teach us to sensitive to environment around .

*Value of Responsibility*

The answer that is not enough is a person's attitude and behavior in carrying out their duties and obligations towards themselves, society, and the environment (nature, social and culture), their country and their religion .

"But... we're only leaving this house temporarily, right, Dad? We'll still come back here, right, Dad?"

"I don't know..." The children's lives are more important now. For that, we have to get off this island. It's no use. I don't will change decision " ( Labaru , 2017: 98).

The quote above reflects the character of the education of the sign of insufficient responsibility possessed by the father figure, even though Savannah's mother did not want to leave the island, Savannah's father remained firm in his decision. That behavior was for the good of his family and children. The quote about giving a lesson to us, that as the head of the household must be able to decide the best way to his family although the decision that has been made very burdensome the hearts of those he loves.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the results and discussion of the novel *Savannah* by Ima Lawaru, it can be concluded that the novel contains strong character education values that are relevant to learning Indonesian language and literature. Researchers identified 12 key character values in the novel, including religious values, tolerance, discipline, hard work, creativity, curiosity, national spirit, love for the homeland, appreciation of achievement, friendship and communication, social concern, and resilience. These findings highlight *Savannah* as a strategically valuable educational medium – not only rich in linguistic and cultural aesthetics but also in moral content that supports the development of students' character. As such, the novel is well-suited to be used as alternative teaching material in Indonesian language and literature learning, as it effectively integrates human values with meaningful and emotional life experiences. Literature teaching plays a crucial role in shaping students' understanding and values, and when done effectively, it fosters character formation. By studying *Savannah*, students can explore life lessons, deepen their empathy, and develop motivation to read, write, present, and reflect. The character education values in the novel serve as practical examples for students to apply in their daily lives, making it highly beneficial for both learners and the general public.

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