



MORAL VALUES AND INTRINSIC ELEMENTS IN UNFAMILIAR TWINS: A QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS OF CONTEMPORARY INDONESIAN YOUTH LITERATURE

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Accepted :

11 May 2026

Published :

11 May 2026

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ABSTRACT

This study seeks to investigate the moral values and intrinsic elements embedded in the novel *Unfamiliar Twins* by Kadek Pingetania and to explore their pedagogical implications for English Language Teaching. Employing a qualitative research design with a content analysis approach, the study gathered data from the novel through intensive reading and systematic note-taking techniques, emphasizing the identification of moral values and intrinsic literary elements, such as theme, plot, characterization, setting, point of view, and language style. The findings demonstrate that *Unfamiliar Twins* embodies a range of moral values, including honesty, responsibility, empathy, perseverance, and affection, all of which are intricately portrayed through the novel's intrinsic elements, particularly characterization and conflict development. These findings suggest that the novel possesses considerable potential as an educational resource for fostering moral awareness and character formation. Consequently, the incorporation of contemporary Indonesian literary works into English language instruction may provide a meaningful, contextual, and culturally relevant pedagogical approach.

Keywords: *moral values, intrinsic elements, novel, character education, ELT*

1. INTRODUCTION

Moral degradation among students has become a serious concern in contemporary education, particularly in the context of rapid social, cultural, and technological change. Several studies indicate a decline in students' ethical behavior, empathy, and social responsibility (Setiawan, 2020; Revalina et al., 2023). Although character education has been formally integrated into school curricula, its implementation often remains normative and less effective in shaping students' affective domains (Suyanto, 2021; Attruk et al., 2024; Hafizi & Wiyono, 2023). Literature, especially novels, offers an alternative medium for moral education because it presents moral values through narrative experiences rather than prescriptive

instruction. Literary texts allow readers to encounter ethical dilemmas, reflect on characters' decisions, and develop empathy (Shahabuddin, 2021; Thapa, 2024; Shalini & Aruna, 2022). In this regard, contemporary novels that reflect students' social realities are particularly relevant.

Unfamiliar Twins by Kadek Pingetania is a popular Indonesian novel that portrays adolescent life, family relationships, and moral struggles in a relatable manner. Despite its popularity, academic studies examining its moral values and intrinsic elements remain limited. Therefore, this study seeks to analyze the moral values embedded in the novel and how these values are conveyed through intrinsic elements, as well as to explore its implications for English

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Language Teaching (Sari, 2019; Sitio et al., 2023; Purnamasari et al., 2021).

Literature plays a significant role in transmitting moral values and shaping readers' ethical awareness through narrative engagement (Soe, 2024; Luthfiyyah et al., 2021; Lampropoulos et al., 2022). Scholars argue that novels are particularly effective in presenting moral complexities because they depict ethical dilemmas within realistic social and emotional contexts (Ijam & Al-Ameedi, 2024; Oktaviani & Chan, 2023; Simbolon et al., 2024). Through characters, conflicts, and resolutions, literary works allow readers to experience moral situations indirectly, fostering empathy and reflective judgment rather than passive moral instruction.

Intrinsic elements such as theme, plot, characterization, setting, point of view, and style function as structural devices through which moral meanings are conveyed. Wellek and Warren (2019) emphasize that these elements operate cohesively to construct a narrative's moral framework. Characterization and plot development, in particular, play a central role in illustrating moral consequences, as readers observe how characters' decisions lead to ethical growth or failure. In this sense, moral values in literature are embedded within narrative structures rather than explicitly stated.

Moral values themselves are understood as principles guiding human behavior and ethical decision-making. Pike et al. (2021) identifies values such as honesty, responsibility, empathy, and respect as foundational to character education. In literary contexts, these values emerge through characters' responses to social challenges and interpersonal conflicts. Contemporary scholars further argue that moral values must be contextualized and emotionally experienced in order to be effectively internalized by learners (Alvarez, 2020; Kahar, 2018; Mareta et al., 2019).

In educational contexts, literature-based moral instruction has gained attention as an alternative to conventional character

education approaches. Several studies report that despite formal character education policies, students continue to demonstrate problematic behaviors, including low empathy and moral disengagement (Suyanto, 2021; Revalina et al., 2023). Literature offers a more affective and reflective mode of moral learning by allowing students to engage emotionally with characters and situations that mirror their own experiences.

Contemporary Indonesian novels are particularly relevant for moral education because they reflect current social realities and cultural values familiar to students. Unlike classical literary works that may feel distant due to linguistic or cultural gaps, modern novels present accessible language and relatable conflicts (Putri & Sari, 2023). *Unfamiliar Twins* by Kadek Pingetania exemplifies this trend, portraying adolescent struggles, social inequality, bullying, and family relationships within a contemporary Indonesian setting. Analyzing such works contributes not only to literary studies but also to pedagogical practices that integrate moral education with language learning.

2. METHODS

This study employed a qualitative descriptive design using content analysis (Tisdell et al., 2025; Patton, 2020). The object of the research was the novel *Unfamiliar Twins* by Kadek Pingetania. The data consisted of words, phrases, and passages indicating moral values and intrinsic elements. Data were collected through close reading and note-taking techniques. To ensure trustworthiness, the data were analyzed systematically by categorizing moral values and intrinsic elements and interpreting them based on relevant literary theories (Creswell, 2022).

The participants of this research were selected based on the relevance of the data source to the research objectives. Since this study employed a qualitative content analysis design, the primary data source was the novel *Unfamiliar Twins* by Kadek Pingetania. The

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novel was chosen purposively due to its popularity among young readers and its strong representation of moral issues relevant to adolescent life, such as family relationships, bullying, empathy, and personal responsibility. No human participants were directly involved in this

*3.1.1 Moral Values Found in the Novel***Table 1. Moral Values Identified in the Novel Unfamiliar Twins**

No	Moral Value	Narrative Evidence	Description
1	Honesty	Confessions and truth-telling by main characters	Reflects moral courage in revealing personal truths
2	Empathy	Emotional support during moments of distress	Shows understanding of others' feelings
3	Love and Affection	Familial and interpersonal relationships	Demonstrates emotional bonding and care
4	Courage	Standing up against bullying and fear	Indicates moral bravery
5	Self-Acceptance	Acceptance of identity and background	Reflects personal moral growth

The analysis of Unfamiliar Twins reveals several dominant moral values conveyed through the characters' actions, dialogues, and narrative events. These moral values include honesty, empathy, love and affection, courage, sincerity, self-acceptance, and social responsibility. Each value appears repeatedly across different situations,

*3.1.2 Intrinsic Elements of the Novel***Table 2. Themes and Intrinsic Elements in Unfamiliar Twins**

Theme	Code(s)	Description
Bullying and Social Injustice	Peer abuse, power imbalance	Depicts discrimination in school context
Identity and Self-Discovery	Twin discovery, self-realization	Highlights identity struggle
Family and Brotherhood	Emotional bonding, trauma healing	Emphasizes familial resilience
Social Pressure	Academic and social expectations	Shows impact of elite school culture

The intrinsic elements identified in the novel include theme, characterization, plot,

study; instead, the characters, narratives, and dialogues within the novel served as the units of analysis. This approach aligns with qualitative literary research that focuses on texts as primary research participants.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**3.1 Result**

particularly in relation to experiences of bullying, family conflict, and identity struggle faced by the main characters.

The distribution of moral values identified in the novel is presented in **Table 1**, which summarizes the types of moral values, supporting textual evidence, and brief descriptions.

setting, and style. These elements are interconnected and contribute to the overall

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moral message of the narrative. The major themes and their corresponding codes are summarized in Table 2, highlighting how thematic development supports the moral and psychological dimensions of the story.

Discussion

The findings of this study demonstrate that the novel *Unfamiliar Twins* by Kadek Pingetania contains various moral values that are closely connected to the social and psychological experiences of the characters. The moral values identified in the novel, namely honesty, empathy, love and affection, courage, sincerity, self-acceptance, and social responsibility, are represented through the characters' interactions, conflicts, and personal development throughout the story. These findings indicate that literary works can function not only as entertainment but also as a medium for moral education and character building. According to Oktaviani & Chan (2023), literature plays an important role in developing moral understanding because stories provide concrete examples of ethical behavior and human values that readers can relate to in real-life situations.

The value of honesty, for instance, is reflected through the characters' willingness to express their true feelings and admit their mistakes despite the consequences they may face. This finding supports the idea proposed by Asharuddin (2024) that moral development emerges through individuals' ability to make ethical decisions in difficult situations. In the novel, honesty becomes an essential aspect of the characters' personal growth and reconciliation process. Likewise, empathy appears strongly in the narrative, particularly in scenes involving bullying and emotional suffering. The characters gradually learn to understand the feelings and struggles of others, which contributes to the development of harmonious social relationships. This is in line with the argument of Nussbaum (2018), who states that literature encourages readers to cultivate compassion and emotional sensitivity through imaginative engagement with fictional characters.

Furthermore, the themes of love, affection, and sincerity reinforce the emotional depth of the story. Family relationships and friendship become important elements that shape the characters' emotional resilience. The presence of affection in the narrative demonstrates that emotional support is crucial in overcoming identity struggles and social pressure. These findings are consistent with the perspective of Barchiya et al. (2024), who argues that literary characters and their emotional experiences often reflect universal human values that enable readers to gain moral insight and self-reflection.

The analysis also reveals that courage and self-acceptance are central moral values in the novel. The main characters are portrayed as individuals who struggle to accept themselves amid discrimination, misunderstanding, and internal conflict. Their courage to confront societal judgment and embrace their identities reflects the importance of psychological resilience and self-confidence. This finding supports the theory proposed by Peppers and Rogers (2016), who emphasizes that self-acceptance is a fundamental condition for personal growth and emotional well-being. In addition, the value of social responsibility is demonstrated through the characters' awareness of the impact of their actions on others. This suggests that the novel promotes not only individual morality but also collective awareness and social harmony.

Regarding the intrinsic elements, the study found that theme, characterization, plot, setting, and style are closely interconnected in delivering the moral messages of the story. Characterization appears to be the most dominant element because the moral values are mainly expressed through the characters' attitudes, decisions, and emotional transformations. The conflicts experienced by the protagonists, particularly those related to bullying and identity crisis, strengthen the thematic focus on acceptance, empathy, and personal growth. According to Nurgiyantoro (2019), intrinsic elements in literary works are structurally related and function

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collectively to construct meaning and aesthetic unity within the narrative.

The plot development in *Unfamiliar Twins* also contributes significantly to the delivery of moral lessons. The progression from conflict to resolution allows readers to observe the psychological development of the characters and understand the consequences of both positive and negative behavior. Meanwhile, the setting reflects realistic social conditions that are relevant to contemporary adolescent life, making the story more relatable to readers, especially students. The use of simple yet expressive language style further strengthens readers' emotional engagement with the narrative. This finding aligns with the view of Kirmayer (2023), who explains that literary elements such as plot, setting, and characterization are essential devices for communicating themes and values effectively.

Overall, the findings imply that *Unfamiliar Twins* has significant potential to be used as a teaching medium in English Language Teaching, particularly in literature-based learning. Through literary texts, students can improve language skills while simultaneously developing moral awareness, empathy, and critical thinking. The integration of contemporary Indonesian novels into English learning may therefore create a more contextual, meaningful, and culturally relevant learning environment for students.

4. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this study reveals that the novel *Unfamiliar Twins* by Kadek Pingetania contains significant moral values, including honesty, empathy, courage, self-acceptance, affection, sincerity, and social responsibility, which are effectively conveyed through its intrinsic elements such as theme, characterization, plot, setting, and style. The interconnectedness of these literary elements strengthens the moral and psychological dimensions of the narrative, making the novel highly relevant as a medium for character education and moral learning. The findings imply that contemporary Indonesian literary works can

be meaningfully integrated into English Language Teaching to promote not only language proficiency but also students' critical thinking, emotional awareness, and cultural understanding in a contextual learning environment. Furthermore, this study contributes to literature-based pedagogy by emphasizing the educational potential of local novels in fostering holistic student development. However, since this research focuses only on one novel and employs a qualitative content analysis approach, future research is recommended to examine students' responses toward the use of literary texts in classroom practice, compare moral values across different contemporary novels, or investigate the effectiveness of literature-based instruction in improving students' language competence and character development through mixed-method or experimental studies.

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