
DEVELOPMENT OF CHARACTER-EDUCATION LITERATURE ALTERNATIVES TO COMMUNITY DEVOTION

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ABSTRACT

The meaning of developing reading books with educational content, apart from being an alternative to community service, is to provide child-friendly literary books and transferring character values through reading. The developed reading books can be used by the teacher as teaching material, both during distance learning and learning as usual. In its development, it goes through six stages, namely (1) topic selection, (2) exploration of sources and references, (3) compiling a product draft, (4) product development, (5) product revision, and (6) product publication. The results of this development are two reading books for elementary school students. First, namely Sepuluh Bungkus Pisang Goreng, for grades 1, 2, and 3 elementary school students. Second, namely Kisah dan Sajak Teladan Untukmu, for grade 4, 5, and 6 elementary school students; 5; and 6. In both, each contains an anthology or collection of literary works, in the form of short stories, poems, and rhymes that have been adapted to children's language, presented in full colors and pictures, along with post-reading activities so that reading activities are more meaningful.

INTRODUCTION

Community Service Program (*Kuliah Kerja Nyata - KKN*) Covid-19 edition is an innovation of activities held by the Universitas Negeri Malang. This innovation is to

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respond to the current condition of the Covid-19 pandemic that has raged for more than half a year. Through the PSWKKN LP2M UM (a public devotion society that was on the State University of Malang), the State University of Malang designed the *KKN* that could be carried out from home. A step taken by the university are well responded to by the others, one is an Indonesian Literature Major.

Indonesian Literature Major, Faculty of Literature, State University of Malang, redesigning *KKN* activities that have been designed since early 2020. The activity was originally offline, changed to online. On *KKN Covid-19 Edition*, is dominated by reading material for a society that is customized to program studies for making each educational program its distinctive feature, such as the Language, Indonesian Literature, and Vernacular education program, has four dedication options, including the development of themed reading material.

In this study, the development of themed reading materials was chosen to respond to the community's need for fun educational activities, especially during the pandemic. In Patiung (2016:363), in reading activities there is a regeneration of information which is important, either now or in the future. Besides, reading activities are useful for relieving stress levels, if the reader is comfortable with reading.

In its development, the reading material developed is focused on character-themed literary reading for elementary school students. Character-themed literary reading is chosen because of the nature of literature which is not only entertaining but also educational. This opinion was corroborated by Panglipur & Listiyaning (2017: 689), both of them stated that apart from being entertainment, literature can also be a media in educating.

As stated earlier, the literary reading developed in this product is children's literature. This is considered to respond to the need for educators to read child-friendly literature, given that child-friendly literature is rare. This opinion is supported by the statement of the Ikhwan (2013:71), in the literary world in Indonesia, there are very few children's literature genres. Therefore, in its development, this product will focus on children's literature.

METHODS

The research and development model was chosen because it aims to develop and validate reading material products with the theme of character education specifically for elementary school students. In research conducted by Maulida (2018:16), the development of reading material includes four main steps, namely introduction, development, evaluation, and the final product. In contrast to what was done by Maulida, in the development process, reading materials were developed through six stages, namely (1) topic selection, (2) exploration of sources and references, (3) drafting products, (4) product development, (5) revisions products, and (6) product publications.

In the first stage, the selected topics related to character education. The selection of topics related to character education should not be arbitrary. In Judiani (2010:282), character education must form a religious, nationalist, productive, and creative person. In the second stage, namely exploration of sources and references, the sources and references carried out by the authors are quite diverse, ranging from

the internet, magazines, journals, and so on. Of course, in the next stage, namely the preparation of product drafts, adjustments are made to the target audience. In the product drafting stage, the activities carried out are quite diverse, starting from determining the content, developing a framework for literary works, and so on.

In the product development stage, writers can develop content or literary frameworks that have been prepared at a previous stage. During its development, the product development stage is sometimes interspersed with personal revisions by the author of things that are deemed inappropriate. Revision activities can also be carried out after a review by an expert, wherein the development of this reading material, the early-stage product is reviewed by the lecturer, then the lecturer provides feedback in the form of suggestions, and revisions are made by each author.

In the product publication stage, online, the KKN-5 group of Indonesian Literature Major uses social media Instagram. As for offline, in the form of product submission to the target, namely Wonokarang villagers, represented by the Secretary of Wonokarang Village and the Principal of Wonokarang Elementary School.

RESULTS & DISCUSSIONS

After going through the various stages of development above, two reading books with the theme of character education were produced, entitled *Sepuluh Bungkus Pisang Goreng*, for grade 1 elementary school students; 2; and 3, and *Kisah dan Sajak Teladan Untukmu*, for grade 4 elementary school students; 5; and 6. The two reading books, each of which contains literary works in the form of anthologies or collections of short stories, poetry, and rhymes specifically for children readers. Not only containing literary works for children, but both books are also equipped with a reflection rubric that contains post-reading activities, both in the form of strengthening reading content, case studies, as well as adding to a growing body of knowledge.

The first reading book entitled *Sepuluh Bungkus Pisang Goreng* is a reading book for grade 1 elementary school students; 2; and 3, contains four character education topics. Systematically, this reading book is compiled starting from a collection of short stories, followed by a collection of poetry, then a collection of rhymes. The topics raised were Loving Yourself (Goods) and Other People and Mutual Assistance & Social Care, the Topic of Being Independent & Honest to Yourself, and the Topic of Patriotism.

In the short story collection section, there are two topics, namely the topic of Loving Yourself (Goods) and Other People and Mutual Assistance & Social Care. The first topic, Loving Yourself (Goods) and Others, consists of 5 short story titles, namely *Bubuk Matahari Elios* short stories which teaches to appreciate work and the importance of honing talents or hobbies, *Peri Buah dan Gaun Tiga Musim* which teaches to be grateful and appreciate what is we have, *Kue Ulang Tahun untuk Febi* which teaches the importance of helping and affection between friends, *Ibu Terbaik* who respects and appreciates parents, and *Doni & Pensil Ulangan* who teaches the importance of caring for one's belongings.

The second topic, Mutual Assistance & Social Care which consists of short stories that teach children to take part in community social activities that must be planted from an early age. There are 6 short stories, namely *Gotong Royong Membangun Rumah Mak Yah* which tells how neighbors work hand in hand to

renovate Mak Yah's house. *Bersama Membersihkan Rumah* tells of cooperation activities in a family, *Koala Tak Malas Lagi* which tells how ignorant Koala is regarding his social environment. *Bapak Tua Penjual Mainan*, who tells the story of Pak Joko, who is a traveling toy seller, is always excited and grateful for his life. *Sepuluh Bungkus Pisang Goreng*, which tells of a student named Andri who is helpful.

In *Sepuluh Bungkus Pisang Goreng*, there is only one collection of poems, the topic raised is Self-Reliance & Honest Character in Self. Not only contains poetry collections, but there are also case studies that are packaged in the form of stories and reflection activities. The Reflection stage in this anthology book is repeated at the end of each poem. Reflection is packaged in the form of coloring activities and there are words to instill character. In understanding this poem, it begins with reading the poetry carefully, then matching the moral values of the poetry text with the descriptions of moral values that have been described by the author, followed by reading a case study in a short story.

Patriotism, a topic raised in a collection of rhymes in the book *Sepuluh Bungkus Pisang Goreng*, raises the values of tolerance, nationalism, and discipline. It is hoped that the seeds of love for the country can be planted from an early age. According to Darmiatun in Anderson & Ulfa (2018: 147), cultivating the value of love for the country is very important so that students have scientific and social skills that show concern and pride in the nation and state. These values are packaged in various types of rhymes, knowing that children like puns.

The second reading book entitled *Kisah dan Sajak Teladan Untukmu* is a reading book for upper-level elementary school students, grades 4, 5, and 6, contains six character education topics with the topics Responsibility, Hard Work & Never Give Up, Love the Environment, and Respect The Success of Others, Independence & Tolerance, and Religious Topics and Religious Tolerance. Systematically, just like the previous book, *Sepuluh Bungkus Pisang Goreng*, this book consists of short stories, poetry collections, and rhymes.

The first collection of short stories with the topic Character of Responsibility, in this collection of short stories, there are 5 short stories, namely the first short story entitled *Menjaga Adik* tells about a brother who looks after his younger siblings well; the second short story entitled *Pentingnya Bertanggung Jawab di Rumah* which tells about the efforts of parents who educate their children to live responsibly with themselves and their home environment; the third short story entitled *Kisah Seorang Penjual Koran* which tells the story of a newspaper deliveryman who is kind enough to return a lost person's belongings; the fourth short story entitled *Tanggung Jawab Ade* which tells the story of a child who does not carry out his responsibilities as a younger brother and child; and the fifth short story entitled *Tanggung Jawab Cahya* which tells the story of a class treasurer who does not carry out his duties properly.

The topic of environmental contains six short stories that familiar issues, especially those that are environmental, such as garbage, biodiversity, and energy. In the short stories' anthology, it presents not only about short stories, after reading the story, we can reflect activity, as a depth of understanding and also as an insight into the problems of the outside world. On the topic of our short story, there is a topic about our environment, there are six stories, *Gara-gara Nyamuk Sejentik, Penuh Asap*

Sedesa; Bisa Berhemat; Kemana Perginya Sampah Kita?; Pantai yang Tidak Biasa; Ibuku yang Kreatif; dan Kelas Pengganti.

The topic of Appreciating, Recognizing, and Respecting others aims to invite students to appreciate reaching others so that they can create a sense of love, respect, and away from despicable behavior that likes to disrespect others. The short story titled *Dua Pemanah Hebat* is a short story that tells the arrogance of one of the characters in the puppet, name Arjuna. Because of his arrogance, he learned what he had done to Suryaputra. The second short story, *Kemeja Baru Untuk Ayah* is a short story about a boy who loves his father very much. He took the initiative to buy something to be used as a gift to his father, who according to him has been a great father figure and has always set a good inspiration for himself.

The topic of Hard Work & Never Giving Up in Problem Solving is divided into three subtopics, solve problems with oneself, problems with family, and problems with fellow friends. For each of the subtopics, two short stories tell the problems of children who work hard and never give up. The first short story titled *Menghilanglah Malas!* tell about problems with oneself, fight with laziness. The second short story titled *Maukah Berkenalan Denganku* tells about problems with oneself, fight with fear, and lack of confidence. The third short story entitled *Aku dan Air Terjun* tells the story of problems with family. The fifth short story entitled *Sebuah Perlawanan* is to tell about problems with fellow friends. The sixth short story entitled *Pensil Biru* tells the story of problems with fellow friends.

A collection of poems on the *Kisah dan Sajak Teladan Untukmu* raised the topic of Independent Character and Tolerance. These topics are two themes. The first theme, independent character, in this theme consists of nine children's poems, by raising several issues raised such as personal hygiene, organizing personal tools, being responsible for personal needs and needs, and hygiene problems in the surrounding community. The second theme, the character of tolerance, consists of eight children's poems. Several problems in the religious sphere range from tolerance of fellow religious friends, maintaining places of worship of other religions, respecting the worship of other religions, not disturbing people of other religions when they worship. Several problems within the scope of the nation and state, ranging from tolerance between ethnic groups, religions, cultures, languages, and races. Starting from the tolerance of fellow friends, between communities, and the life of the nation and state.

Religious Attitude and Tolerance, one of the character education topics in the book *Kisah dan Sajak Teladan Untukmu* is a collection of 30 poems of various types, plus two short stories as an introduction. This topic relates to things students encounter every day, differences with other friends. There are two major themes raised by this collection of rhymes, religious attitudes, and tolerance.

The power of these two books, *Sepuluh Bungkus Pisang Goreng* and *Kisah dan Sajak Teladan Untukmu*, lies in the wide selection of topics for elementary school students. Besides, the rich literary works contained in both of them can be a reference for teachers in developing learning tools that are full of character education. Coupled with a reflection rubric that adds to students' deepening of what they have read. Apart from the content side, another advantage of the two reading books is in the presentation of children's literature accompanied by pictures, because it attracts

children's interest in reading while at the same time providing space for children to imagine more. This is in line with Hurlock in Adipta, & Co (2016:990), apart from being preferred by children, pictorial stories can attract children's imaginations. Another advantage is that there is a reflection rubric that contains post-reading activities, both in the form of exercises and a treasure trove of knowledge about current developing problems.

CONCLUSION

A reading, whatever its form, can change the paradigm of the reader. These changes can be positive and negative depending on the content of the reading. In this activity, literary reading is developed with a positive character content that is adjusted to the age of the reader. This is intended so that readers can enjoy reading. Besides, the positive characters presented are also expected to be understood and applied in daily life by readers. This reading product is presented in print and digital form so that it can be enjoyed in various conditions and situations of the reader.

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