

**National Character Building in “*Pudarnya Pesona Cleopatra*”**

**M. Zainurroziqin**  
[zainulroziqin944@gmail.com](mailto:zainulroziqin944@gmail.com)

**Mutmainnah Mustofa**  
[inamustofa@unisma.ac.id](mailto:inamustofa@unisma.ac.id)

**Miftahur Rohmah**  
[miftahurrohmah10201@gmail.com](mailto:miftahurrohmah10201@gmail.com)

**Erfan Erfendi**  
[erfanefendi@unisma.ac.id](mailto:erfanefendi@unisma.ac.id)

**Universitas Islam Malang**

**ABSTRACT**

The study is aimed to analyse national character building in Novel entitled “Pudarnya Pesona Cleopatra. The researcher referred to the list of character building according to Doni Koesoema 2007. The research applied descriptive qualitative research method. The method of gathering data is the Documentation method. The researcher intended to describe the National Character Building based on the utterances and behaviour of the main characters in the Novel. The data analysis is a significant step in a part of this research, because it aims examining the data collection’s validity and reliability. In analysing the data, the procedures are 1) the researcher selected the Novel. 2) The researcher read the Novel. 3) The researcher tried to find the National Character Building from “Pudarnya Pesona Cleopatra”. 4) The researcher analysed the data. 5) The researcher drew the conclusion based on the data analysis. Based on the finding of this research, the writer found religious, responsible, hard-working, curious, respectful, inclusive and communicative, peace-loving, and compassion in the novel “Pudarnya Pesona Cleopatra”. There are 7 religious, 2 responsible, 3 hard-working, 1 curious, 2 respectful, 2 inclusive and communicative, 7 peace-loving, and 2 compassion in the novel.

**Keywords:** National Character Building; Literature; Novel

**INTRODUCTION**

Literature plays a significant role in human life, providing listeners, readers, and viewers with a great deal of entertainment, inspiration, motivation, and information. Attitude, behavior, and adjustment can all be expressed through literature. Literature produces literary works, for example, plays, novels, short stories,

poetries, etc (Davies, 2007, p. 1). Literature may be one of the sources or media for communicating messages, teaching, and moral value to readers or viewers for many people. As stated by Mutmainnah (2018:01) that Literature is a description of human experience with both personal and social dimensions, as well as human knowledge equal to the shape of life itself.

The terms "personality" and "character" are interchangeable. Both of them are regarded as characteristics of a person based on social formations. As mentioned by Doni Koesoema (2007:80) in Mutmainnah's book that character is defined as a feature, a trait, a style, or a unique personality of a person based on social formations. National character building is established in Indonesia as a special program aims at developing the Indonesian nation's character based on spiritualism, nationalism, humanism, moral ethics, and positive values, as well as universal truth values. Some items that belong to character building are religiousness, honesty, tolerance, discipline, perseverance, creativity, independence, democracy, curiosity, nationalism, patriotism, appreciation, friendliness/communication, love of peace, reading interest, environmental awareness, social awareness, and responsibility (Mutmainnah: 2014, 79-84). Pusat Kurikulum dan Perbukuan(2011:7) has three goals of character education in Indonesia. It aims to help students reach their full potential and cultivate positive attitudes and to cultivate people whose personalities reflect the values enshrined in Indonesia's five principles, also to help people reach their full potential by fostering self-esteem, strong nationalism, and humanity.

Literary works often provide national character development that is related to human characteristics as well as events that occurred in the world. According to Hornby (2003) "literature as the writings that are valued as work of art, especially fiction, drama, and poetry." Literature has many forms; they are poetry, novel, comic, soap opera, electronic literature, graphic novel, film, or movie. Reading a novel expands our mental imagination. When we consider the character in the novel, we have the ability to control the movement. People create literary work to express their thoughts, feelings, or to describe someone or something. People enjoy not only learning about the stories told in literary works, but also taking away the messages they convey, because each literary work also contains a number of character building that correspond to the character of the society at the time including in novel.

Novel is one of literary works. The novel is a depiction of the human condition in opposition to the struggle to achieve one's life's purpose. Because, it talks about human activities and explains what happened in the surrounding area, the novel expresses certain aspects of human love, life, and existence. According to Kenney (1966:31), a novel is usually believed to contain around forty-five thousand words or more. As a result, a novel is a longer story than a short story or novella. To put it another way, the novel tells a story and includes some significant elements. One example of novel that is full of national character building can be found in "Cinta Suci Zahrana". It is one of Habiburrahman El Shirzays' novels aired in 2011. Dewi Zahrana was the main actress in this novel. She was a lecturer. She was a woman

who always love to study all the time, so that she never planned about her future as a woman who has to marry and has children. She got many achievements from many institutions. But all she got did not make her parents happy, especially her father. Her father wanted her to have husband soon and had child. She had to face many problems in her journey, until he got married with her student. This novel become best seller at that time.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

Mutmainnah (2018:01) argues that literature is a depiction of personal and societal human experience, as well as human understanding equivalent to the shape of life itself. A novel is a piece of literature. The novel depicts the human condition in contrast to the effort to fulfill one's life's purpose. The story depicts some aspects of human love, life, and existence since it discusses human activities and describes what happened in the surrounding region (Kenney, 1966:31).

Mutmainnah (2014, 79-84) stated that National character building is established in Indonesia as a special program aims at developing the Indonesian nation's character. Some previous studies concerning character building. First, the research entitled "An Analysis of Characters in The Texts of An English Textbook Entitled Contextual English" was conducted by Fitriana Sulistianingrum (2015). Second, the research entitled "Character Building in Education: A Proposed Theory for STAI'S Economic Syari'ah Program" was conducted by Weni Ratnasari (2018). Third, Rizqi Adnamazida (2013) conducted the research entitled "Character Building Values in Reading Text of English Textbooks for Students of Senior High School. Those previous researches have the same objective where they focused on National Character Building, but those objects of research are different. In the first and third research, they focused on Texts in English textbooks and the second research was focused on education.

However, in this research, the researcher is interested to analyze a Novel entitled "Pudarnya Pesona Cleopatra". Therefore, the researcher is interested in conducting research entitled "National Character Building in Pudarnya Pesona Cleoptra". The objective of this study is to find out the Character Building in this Novel. Some writers have studied about Buried Child in different points of view and different perspectives. In analyzing the Buried Child, the writers also read the studies conducted by the other writers.

Zuhriyah in her paper entitled Conflict and Consensus in America Described in Buried Child Drama stated that the family in Buried Child is destroyed and disturbed by the deviations in the family and the outside of the family, Every individual in the family has her/his role in destroying the family, and on the other hand the social power also takes part in the family destruction (Zuhriyah, 2006, 40).

Purwanto in his paper entitled The Significance of Dodge's Schizophrenia towards the Conflict in Shepard's Buried Child states that the conflict in the family gets

worse caused by Dodge's schizophrenia. The schizophrenia attacks his mind and changes his behaviour. Dodge's schizophrenia has a contribution for the conflict in the family (Purwanto, 2011, 71).

## **METHOD**

### **Design and Samples**

The research design is a conceptual framework for conducting research. It serves as a road map for data collection, measurement, and interpretation (Kothari, 2004: 31). This study uses qualitative research. Latief (2019:77) stated that qualitative research is an inquiry process at the human behavior by building the pictures of holistic and cultural settings in which behavior occurs. It means, this research aims to describe everything in detail based on the perception and feeling, because it does by analyzing words not number.

### **Instrument and Procedure**

The method of gathering data is the Documentation method. It is founding data about the object or variable from the note, transcript, book, newspaper, magazine, and the others. This is an easy process. It means that even though it makes a mistake, the data source stays unchanged. Data was observed from the lifeless object due to the documentation process. Documents refers to a broad variety of written, physical, and visual materials, including objects, as described by other authors (Glesne & Peshkin, 1992: 442). So, to obtain a better understanding of the phenomena under investigation, qualitative researchers can use written records (Documentation). The data in this research is taken from a novel "Pudarnya Pesona Cleopatra". The researcher intended to describe the National Character Building based on the utterances and behavior of the main characters in the Novel.

### **Data Analysis**

The data analysis is a significant step in a part of this research, because it aims examining the data collection's validity and reliability. In analyzing the data, the procedures are 1) the researcher selected the Novel. 2) The researcher read the Novel. 3) The researcher tried to find the National Character Building from "Pudarnya Pesona Cleopatra". 4) The researcher analyzed the data. 5) The researcher drew the conclusion based on the data analysis.

## **RESULT AND DISUSSION**

From the analysis of novel "Pudarnya Pesona Cleopatra", there are 8 national character buildings found, those are religious, hard-working, curious, respectful, inclusive and communicative, peace-loving, compassion, and responsible. The frequency of those characters found in the novel can be seen in the table below.

Data findings of National Character Building in Novel “Pudarnya Pesona Cleopatra”

*Table 1. National Character Building Found*

No	Character Building	Frequency	Percentages
1	Religious	7	26,9%
2	Responsible	2	7,6%
3	Hard Working	3	11,5%
4	Curious	1	3,8%
5	Respectful	2	7,6%
6	Inclusive and Communicative	2	7,6%
7	Peace Loving	7	26,9%
8	Compassion	2	7,6%
Total		26	100 %

Character buildings found in novel “Pudarnya Pesona Cleopatra” are describe in this part by giving the example from the data. Those characters are religious, hard-working, curious, respectful, inclusive and communicative, peace-loving, compassion, and responsible.

### 1. Religious

Mutmainnah (2014: 80) defines that religious is everything we do must be connected to our belief system or religion. Below are the examples of the religiousness in “Pudarnya Pesona Cleopatra”.

*“I look Raihanna sitting on the chair nearby bed while memorizing Al-Qur’an”*  
In the text above, it clearly shows the religiousness to the reader. The character, namely Raihanna, recites and memorizes al-Qur’an to show her love for the words of Allah. Raihanna also shows the religiousness by saying “Insyallah” in some cases.

The religious character building is also shown in the text below.

*“only Allah, with whom he lamented, anchors his sorrow”*  
In the text above, Raihanna shows the religiousness character. She always merited to Allah and never once left her obligations as a Moeslim. It teaches us that all we did must connect to our belief and religion, as definition of Religious.

*“Allah is the almighty, my pretense of glorifying Raihanna as a wife makes Raihanna pregnant, she is ever sweeter”*

In the text above, the writer draws the man character who never love his wife, but he tries to obey his God by serving her. The unnamed character here is Raihanna’s husband. He has religious character in some cases. From his attitude in the text above, we can learn that as husband, we are obligated to obey our God’s order to provide the rights of wife. It is one of the religious characters.

Another example of religious character is found in the text below.

*“honey, open up your heart even just a little to be space of my devotion, so that I can perfect my worship in this world”*

From the text, we can learn that when a woman is married to a man, she must devote herself to carrying out religious orders, namely serving and obeying her husband. The religious character is clearly illustrated in the text, the figure of Raihanna really devotes herself as a pious wife. He displayed a religious image very strongly there. Raihanna as the main character of the novel becomes the best figure. In every single text of the novel, Raihanna is drawn as good woman who always show the religious aspects.

The religious character is also shown in the text *“only by the grace of Allah, I can get a pious wife like her”*. This text shows the religious of the man character. It is classified into religious character because he has belief in God. He believes that all he got is Allah’s willingness.

The last example of religious character is found in the text below.

*“the only hope, I will be given a blessing from Allah for my devotion to my beloved mother”*

The text shows religious character. It is spoken by the man character of the novel. he believes, although he does not love a woman named Raihanna, he will get blessings from Allah because of his devotion to his mother. Believe in God is religious aspect.

## **2. Responsible**

When someone take order from other people and they can do that wisely, we can call that as Responsibility. In other words, they have good character namely Responsible. According to Mutmainnah (2014: 84), Responsible is persons’ behavior in carrying out responsibilities or not option things to himself, others, or objects in his environment.

The texts below are the examples of Responsible character in “Pudarnya Pesona Cleopatra” that we found.

*“Raihanna patiently grazes my back with her soft hand”*.

In the text above, the writer shows Raihanna’s character, even though her husband treats her like someone else, she still does her obligation as wife. She takes responsibility to treat a man who does not love her at all. It is the figure of Responsible. When someone decides to do something, then that person must be prepared for whatever will happen. If it affects other people then that person must be responsible for it. It is like Raihanna’s behavior. She agrees to be married by the man, so everything that happened to her husband is the responsibility of her.

Another example of Responsible aspect of “Pudarnya Pesona Cleopatra” is in the text below.

*“I owe you my apology, I have made you uncomfortable, but you have not prayed isya’ yet”*

The text above is Raihanna's utterance to her husband in "Pudarnya Pesona Cleopatra". We can classify that utterance into responsible character. That is utterance spoken when Raihanna make her husband unhappy because of her action. Finally, she takes responsibility by apologizing to her husband on her fault. It shows the responsible character.

### 3. Hard-Working

According to Mutmainnah (2014: 81), Hard-working is do something genuinely or big effort, or solving hindrance by using more energy than usual in order to reach the duty on time. This character is found in some utterances in "Pudarnya Pesona Cleopatra".

One of the examples of this character is found in the utterance below.

*"I force myself to be affectionate"*

From the sentence above, the man character tries to do things that he does not like at all, but he still has to do that to make happiness for his parents. This act includes in Hard-working character, because the man tries to solve any obstacles in his heart.

Other examples of Hard-working are found in the text below.

*"Raihanna step on the nape of my neck like my mother did."*

The main character of this novel show hard-working side in this scene. She assists her husband by massaging her husband's neck and shoulders. She still tries hard to carry out her duties as wife under any circumstances.

The text below is another example of hard-working in "Pudarnya Pesona Cleopatra".

*"I want to buy her a gift, so she will be happy with my presence."*

Hard-working is not only shown by Raihanna as the main character in the novel. Based on the text above, the man character shows his hard-working. He tries to give happiness that he had never given.

### 4. Curious

Curiosity is someone's behavior and attitude of always want to understand, see, and hear something that is profoundly and commonly understood, observed, and heard (Mutmainnah, 2014: 82). In other words, when people try so hard to find the mean of something, we can call it as curiosity.

The writer found only one character of curiosity. It is found in the text below.

*"does she make a mistake? doesn't she just wake me up to let me pray Isya?"*

It is shown by the man character of story. It includes curious character because he tries to find the truth of something so bad. He is not sure about what he thinks, that is why, he still looks for the answer.

## 5. Respectful

Mutmainnah (2014: 82) stated that respectful is someone's act or attitude in which a person motivates himself/herself to deliver something useful to others while also accepting and respecting his or her own accomplishment or achievement. Several respectful characters are found in *Pudarnya Pesona Cleopatra*. It is shown clearly in the text below.

*"we have promise, if we are gifted children with different sexes, we will marry them to strengthen our bond as family, I beg for your sincerity."*

This character is shown by the parents of Raihanna and her future husband. They had made a promise, if they had children of different sexes, they would marry off their children. It includes respectful character because the man character here tries to accept what his parents want to do. Even though, he does not love her future wife. It is the man character's respect to his parents.

Another example of the Respectful character is also found in the text below.

*"with a heavy heart, I leave everything to my mother."*

The male character in this novel always show respect for his parents. He repeatedly did things he did not even like out of respect for his parents. Like the text above, he did not have to think too much about agreeing to her parents' wishes.

## 6. Inclusive and Communicative

When someone creates good atmosphere in their conversation, we can call it communicative. Because communicative is a character that expresses pleasure. According to Mutmainnah (2014: 83), communicative is condition when someone communicates or collaborates with others, they express happiness.

This character is mostly shown by Raihanna in every conversation. One of examples of this character is shown in the text below.

*"yes," she said. She directly turned around while stopping her tracks. She looks happy because I call her "Honey".*

In this case, the man character tries to communicate nicely to Raihanna by calling her "honey", after previously he called his wife as "sist". It's kind of communicative character, because by make nicely conversation, the man character can create the happiness moment for Raihanna as his wife.

Another example of communicative character is shown in the conversation below.

*"Mother-in-law: "it has been a year, my lovely son got married. But no sign like I will have a grandson."*

*Raihanna: "Insya Allah, Mom will a grandson soon, pray for us mom, right honey?" while elbowing her husband's arm*

*Husband: I nod casually."*

Raihanna tries to show her harmony with her husband in front of their parents. She creates good communication with other people especially their parents to hide the real condition of their marriage. It is done to make their parents happy.



## 7. Peace-loving

All attitude that can make someone happy is Peace Loving character. Mutmainnah (2014: 83) argues that peace-loving is an act, utterance, or attitude that makes other people feel happy and safe in their presence.

- *“Thank you, mother will be happy. Which one do you want to wear honey, let me prepare it for you or I, myself, chose it? Hana is extremely happy.”*
- *“Raihanna is right, we are really missed by our family and welcome with whole love they have.”*
- *“I am like a child that is spoiled by its mother”*
- *“Suddenly, that longing appeared”*
- *“She claims to be proud and happy becoming my wife”*
- *“We live like stranger, but Raihanna serve me so good. She gives and prepare everything for me.”*
- *“Raihanna look at me anxiously.”*

All utterances above include in the peace loving. Both characters in every text above show their peace-loving each other. Starting from feeling happy, proud, longing, and worrying. All of them are attitudes that make happiness.

## 8. Compassion

In this novel, every scene of the story contain compassion. The feeling of affection or compassion is shown mostly during the woman character scenes. Compassion itself has a meaning as concerning for something or others' pain, it is always with a willingness to assist (Mutmainnah, 2014: 84).

One of the examples is when the man character got sick after he is in the rain, she tries to do what she can to make her husband feels better. It is shown in the text *“Raihanna patiently grazes my back with her soft hand.”*. another example is also shown in the text, *“Raihanna step on the nape of my neck like my mother did.”*. it is one of Raihanna's affection to her husband.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the finding of this research, the writer conclude that character is much important to instill in every person because have good character allows them becoming good people and contribute for a better society. Mutmainnah stated that character is a unique personality of a person based on social formation. Character building itself has its own goal, such us overcoming problems due to the lack of good characters of people. Some items that belong to character building, such us religiousness, honesty, tolerance, discipline, perseverance, creativity, independence, democracy, curiosity, nationalism, patriotism, appreciation, friendliness/communication, love of peace, reading interest, environmental awareness, social awareness, and responsibility are found in *“Pudarnya Pesona Cleopatra”*. The writer found religious, responsible, hard-working, curious,

respectful, inclusive and communicative, peace-loving, and compassion in the novel “Pudarnya Pesona Cleopatra”. There are 7 religious, 2 responsible, 3 hard-working, 1 curious, 2 respectful, 2 inclusive and communicative, 7 peace-loving, and 2 compassion in the novel.

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