

# MORALITY AND IMMORALITY STAGES OF RALPH AND JACK IN WILLIAM GOLDING'S *LORD OF THE FLIES*

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## **Abstrak**

Sifat berkecenderungan untuk berkembang pada manusia membawa kita kepada kelahiran dari peradaban. Dipengaruhi oleh tekanan dari perasaan tidak aman pada individu, peradaban menciptakan kerja sama yang kemudian di rumuskan menjadi hukum dan peraturan agar menciptakan keadaan masyarakat yang stabil. dalam perjalanan menuju keadaan masyarakat yang stabil, beberapa kecenderungan individual dalam melakukan sesuatu yang tidak menguntungkan terhadap maksud dari tujuan peraturan menciptakan penilaian moralitas. penilaian moralitas ini didasarkan kepada nilai nilai masyarakat, yang lebih jauh di terapkan kepada beberapa individual, untuk menunjukkan baik dan buruk belandasan atas peraturan yang telah disetujui di dalam masyarakat. Studi ini dilakukan untuk menganalisa perilaku manusia terhadap asuhan konsep moralitas dalam masyarakat yang bermoral pada awalnya. studi ini di proyeksikan terhadap novel William Golding 'The Lord of the Flies' menggunakan anak anak sebagai subjeknya. cerita tentang anak anak Inggris yang terdampar di sebuah pulau tak dikenal adalah proyeksi dari mekanisme dari kelahiran atas sebuah peradaban dan istilah moralitas. studi ini bertujuan untuk mendeskripsikan alasan anak anak merubah pihak dari menjadi beradab positif dengan Ralph menjadi beradab negatif dengan Jack menggunakan penggabungan tiga teori; Moralitas oleh Anscombe, Etika Kebajikan oleh Aristotle, dan Peradaban oleh Freud dan untuk menggambarkan Tahapan Moralitas dan Immoralitas oleh Kohlberg yang dialami oleh Jack sang Pemburu dan Ralph sang Ketua. Stud ini menggunakan metoda deskriptif kualitatif dan riset perpustakaan dalam pengambilan data. Hasil dari studi menunjukkan bahwa kebiadaban dari anak anak adalah efek dari tujuan peraturan yang tidak tercapai dan kemajuan dari dua pemimpin tersebut berefek besar terhadap perilaku masyarakat berdasarkan perkembangan moralitasnya.

Kata Kunci: *Moralitas, Peradaban, Kebiadaban*

## **Abstract**

The developing nature of human being takes us into the birth of civilization. Affected by the suppression of unsecure feeling of individuals, civilization creates cooperation that formulates into law and rules for the need of stable society. In the pursuit of stable society, a certain individual tendencies on doing something unfavorable towards the purpose of the rules creates them the morality judgment. This morality judgment based on the society values, that further applied on a certain individuals, to show them good and bad in the favor of the agreed rules of the society. This study conducted to analyze the human behavior towards the upbringing of *morality* concepts in once a civilized society. The study projected in William Golding's *The Lord of the Flies* novel using the children as the subject. The story of deserted English boys in an unknown island is a projection of the mechanism of the birth of a *civilization* and *morality* terms. This study aims to describe the reason the children turn their side from being morally positive with Ralph to being morally negative with Jack using three theories mixed; Anscombe's Morality, Aristotle's Virtue Ethics, and Freud's Civilizations and to depict Kohlberg's Stages of Morality and Immorality undergone by Jack the Hunter and Ralph the Chief. This study uses a descriptive qualitative method and library research in data collection. Result of the study shows that the *savagery* of the children are the effect of the purpose of the rules that are not reached and the advancement of the two society leaders greatly affects the society behavior based on their morality development.

Keywords: *Morality, Civilization, Savagery*

## **INTRODUCTION**

Many have believed that human did all the bad things by the incitement of the Devils. The will to follow the urge of having the lust, the savagery of filling owns

thirst, and to control over others, we have been told many times about the story of the banishment of Adam from the heaven. Let alone the thought of making the heaven going down to the earth, the sons of Adam have shown the human true *evil* nature, by the raging wars and hatred

that spread. Though questions about the origin of the evil or the evil deeds itself is still remain in mystery, many studies have tried to reach the understanding of the good and evil. Depicted in the William Golding's novel *Lord of The Flies*, human inclination to rely on blaming to the devils for their fears and the tendencies of becoming a savage; the lost inquiry of justice, leaving the idea of being morally good to fulfill their own will.

The idea of morality came first in Plato literary works, and then it became a movement up until today. But then the morality approach losing its popularity since the moral definition itself has begun to shift. Many critics are going against this idea of morality in literary works; take the *anti-realists* moral philosophers such as Nietzsche that don't believe in any value of simply good behavior people. However, morality codes still proceeds among people. The next thing if the society loses the mind of being *morality*, in this case *morally good*, those who are affected by much are the children. "*The child is someone who constructs his own moral world view, who forms ideas about right and wrong, and fair and unfair, that are not the direct product of adult teaching and that are often maintained in the face of adult wishes to the contrary.*" (Piaget, 1948). This explains how children are more active in developing in moral codes than adults. The moral education in children has becoming more and more crucial since the modern society solely focus on the popular culture that ensure human are always young so the people nowadays seek to venture their own satisfaction regardless of the old traditional norms that binds them as adults.

With the concern of human morality issues in *Lord of The Flies*, the study proceeds with the psychological analysis approach. The steps taken in psychological analysis using the social psychology area are within the reach of morality growth and developmental. The concept in use is the theory of Jean Piaget Moral Judgment. Jean Piaget is a psychologist and philosopher known for his *Theory of Cognitive Development* and his big place of importance in educational of the Children. He creates 4 stages of moral development that this becomes the basic theory of Moral Development by Kohlberg. Then, after the analysis using the concept of Piaget, the cause must be taken again deeper using the concept of Kohlberg Stages of Moral Development. Lawrence Kohlberg is an American psychologist that adapts the Piaget concept and makes a new field of psychology called the *Moral Development*. With his concept people are able to understand the level and stage of an individual moral development. Giving the idea of why Ralph and Jack develop another moral code that differs from the one when they set foot in the land.

## REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

### Morality

Morality is the main core of humanity, many have tried to reach its meaning with their own perspectives and understanding towards the principles of what is good and what is bad (Oxford University Press, 2015). If human would cease the morality concept in the society then we all just the same as a community of animals wearing

clothes. Many researchers understand that the basic of morality is placed down upon the virtue of human existence. Then the virtue of human existence classifies into two truthful meaning: *good* and *bad*.

Before doing any action, human have a system of concept going on their mind, and human intention that affects its motive called virtue (Anscombe, 1958). Using Anscombe description, we can say that a human virtue is the mind of any behavior that human does. In understanding people behavior the virtue of a man must be going into account before taking a judgment, this makes the judgment of moral becoming more objective. After a human intention there comes the action, when an action have been done and the result was not satisfying enough, the idea of moral come into mind. The moral idea of any behavior cannot be taken lightly since the morality judgment regards to the community that it elopes.

The Moral Realism point of view is the best matching moral quality to describe the writer's point of view. Then, using this Moral Realism, this study will describe the children behavior immorality that against the Moral Realism idea. Since in the story no further concept of religiosity introduced, in situation like this, Anscombe further describes that outside the legalizations of religiosity ethical principal should be used (1958, p. 15). The *Virtue Ethical* principles introduced is a concept derived from the Aristotle philosophy.

Virtue ethics is one of the three normative ethical principles known. The others are: Deontologist that believes in the accordance of rules and duty, and Consequentialism that assess the ethics of every behavior by its consequences made. Virtue ethicist, in definition is an ideal that assess ethical behavior by the virtue of moral character (Hursthouse, 2012).

In Virtue Ethics theory, there are three concepts that define how people regarded as *good*. The first is the Virtuous Soul of the agent that it all means that the fully virtuous agent certain of the *good* they are doing, what they should without a struggle against contrary desires. The second is the Practical Wisdom as the knowledge to enables the agent to understand the situation and assess the condition in order to live well. The last is *eudaimonia* or the Happy feeling or the Flourishing feeling in a rational way that the agent is certain of themselves that the thing they are doing is by the mind of their own will of happiness.

### Moral Development

There are two theories of Moral Developmental used in the study, they are the Morality of the Child by Jean Piaget and the Stages of Moral Development by Lawrence Kohlberg. Both of them required in order to analyze the morality state of the children that it defines whether the availability of the certain study subjects and the progress of the Morality Developments where the idea of *good* and *bad* turns or straightened.

Piaget describes that in the progress of the moral development, children starts to build a cooperative society where the member would work together and decides what is acceptable and unacceptable. In this

development of children morality, there are two phases available one after another; the *Heteronomous Morality* and the *Autonomous Morality* (Piaget, 1948).

Autonomous Morality is the ability of the child to understand rules as a state of product, and objectively understand the reason behind the rules (Piaget, 1948). This is the developed kind of morality thinking from the lower grade, *Heteronomous Morality*, which brings the logical way of thinking into a child to understand the situational given. Suppose that a child spill a milk on the floor, the parents scolded the child, and explains that spilled milk would make the floor dirty and dirty is bad because it can brings pain (fever, cold, itch). The next time the child with the developed morality mental spill a milk on the floor, which it may be incidentally or not, will understand to cover up the spilled milk with whatever logical way the child could think (covering with the shirt, sit on the spill, throw a newspaper on it) to avoid the scold and the cause of the rule, in this case the pain.

Meanwhile, the children with the Heteronomous morality behavior tend to understand rules as rules. Heteronomous morality do not understand the value of the process of a rules, it sees rules a divine concept that it ought to be obeyed (Piaget, 1948). A child would proudly follows the rules that given by the authority especially when the child requires the benefits that it acquire (the parents whom the one and only giving them food and protection). In the situation it may be like this; a child whom spill milk on the floor being scolded and the parents says this act is *labeled* as bad. The next time the child is going to spill milk on the floor; two actions may come from this, the child will spill milk on the floor and cries because the child think that something bad has been done and the child cries to hinder the parents' scold. The other situation would be that the child spill the milk and doing nothing and prepares for the scold whether the child feels sorry or not.

Kohlberg's Stages of Moral Development released in 1971. His theory is a developed study of Mr. Piaget works. Stages of moral development see the subject from his behavior to understand the level of their moral consciousness. This study is categorized as *post-quo* which means that this analysis can only be applied in the after event. These stages, are not meant to be looped in process, the developmental progress should enhance one by one, if a person's stage is not yet getting through then that person cannot advance to the farther stage. In the implication of the scale, the study conducted by Mr. Edwards (1980) shows that mostly urban people in US are reached the 4<sup>th</sup> stage. There are 3 levels and 6 stages that everyone undergoes in the process of learning about the nature of morality. They are:

- I. Pre-Conventional Level
  1. Punishment and Obedience Orientation
  2. Instrumental Relativist Orientation
- II. Conventional Level
  3. Interpersonal Concordance
  4. Law and Order Orientation
- III. Principled Level
  5. Social Contract Legalistic Orientation

## 6. Universal Ethical Principle Orientation

### Civilization

The value of humanity is none but to be honored by human themselves, but man ceased to understand the will of other man. This is the situation that creates the chaos that elope humanity, the breakdown of human best natural skills of adaptation that people simply refuse to tolerate in their limits. Affected by this notion, humanity finds its way in society by progressing civilization into account. Civilization most basic and common value is coming from the idea of friendship. Freud further explains that if in a friendship the savage instincts are allowed to going rampart, then nothing is going to work and no friendship would be present.

In *Civilization and Its Discontent* Mr. Freud writes a description about the well being of civilization is unavoidable. Take example when he compares between Savage people (Mr. Freud mention this as Primal men) to Civilized People. He identifies that savage people although they are happy in some ways, they are unable to cooperate with other people, and they pursue the will of their instinct while the other, civilized people, are less happy people in some ways, civilized people does able to cooperate (and Mr. Freud tells us in his book that civilized people were able to sublime their primal energy into another kinds of activity). Since the civilized people are better for their cooperating skills than those primal men, the most basic foundation of the growth of a civilization is cooperation.

Civilization creates a product of value that binds the member into an agreements called law that suppress their savage interests to avoid the unstable society order to create a safety purposes . This safety purposes then lead the society way into something better that people are satisfied with it, satisfied in this means that people are equivalent to the extent that they feel equal to the others as individuals like a friendship.

### ANALYSIS

#### The Children's Morality Regarding on Ralph and Jack's State

The concept of Anscombe's Morality applied in the story makes the point element of morality is clear. That there is a sign of moral error (by the understanding that they grow in a morality environment before but becomes something brute as in the further story) shown by some certain characters in the *Lord of the Flies*. The ideas of Anscombe morality in her article involve the religiosity factors and the understanding of ethical principles, then from a sum of idea derived from *MMP* said that if the religious morality idea is nowhere available applied, then virtue ethics is way well-fitting to be applied (1958). Since in the religiosity factors in *Lord of the Flies* mentioned only a few times, the best fitting, then is to work on the normative ethical behavior that Anscombe believe in her article, or the *Virtue Ethical* principles.

The sign of morality on the story began with the identification of the child as British children that proud of their well-grown civilizations. As what in the

introduction of the story mentioned a smaller group of boys were already in an organized state, and they show a sign of their civilized state.

There are two things that they describe themselves as civilized children; the first one is the sign of the identical wardrobe they wear. That it describes that they all are a certain member of a community before, that it explains that they once share a bond of friendship that it acts the basic fundamental of civilized signs. The second is by the signs of the different cap badge that notify their ranks. This describes that the communal bond they have had arranged the group into a classification that separates privileges to the rightful agreement. The sign that nobody stands against the leader means the group is stable and law as a product of civilization is smoothly applied.

In the first chapter of the story, it is told that Ralph gathered the entire survivor using the conch (*Lord of the Flies*, page 10). The positive morality of this event is that Ralph acting as a supreme character that unites all the children by creating cooperation by calling them into an assembly. This positive morality based on Piaget's *Autonomous* concept of leading them into cooperation mixed with Aristotle *Virtue Ethics*; (1) that Ralph has a good purpose in calling them so that they could decide together what to do (*Lord of the Flies*, page 14), (2) a right action considering that surviving would not be enough if done by themselves separately (*Lord of the Flies*, page 14), (3) and he is happy in inviting the others into account (*Lord of the Flies*, page 13). In leading the group it is not without a challenge in the authority contest. There was Jack's party that asks for the chief authority.

Jack challenge to Ralph leadership was not shown in the surface for the earlier scene of the novel. Jack's challenge was only his natural behavior since he is a leader of the choir (*Lord of the Flies*, page 13) that in turn they hold the most of the manpower in the island. Since the rest outside the Hunters and the Chiefly faction are hopeless (*Lord of the Flies*, page 41). But what makes Jack really is the challenge for Ralph is his tremendous leadership towards the powerful Hunters members. In the first part of the novel, where the chief is about to be chosen, Jack declare himself to be the chief. But rather than being the chief straight fully, he is being candidate option because there is Ralph. Jack positive morality peaked when he manages to have a hunt and share the result with the rest of the children (*Lord of the Flies*, page 133). This action is very much fulfilling the three aspects of *Virtue Ethics*; (1) Jack did do this on good purpose as he said that those who join their tribe will have fun (*Lord of the Flies*, page 134), (2) this is a right thing to do, because he gave an even share to everyone including Ralph and Piggy whom in that part of the novel the boys have began to walk separate paths. (3) Jack did not feel any loss from having them at the feast. By applying the reason that the Children view Jack's action as something good, then they believe to put themselves on Jack's Party.

Further, using Freud theory of civilization, the foundation of civilization is the cooperation and the application of law as the civilization product to keep them safe. According to Freud theory, it means that the

children changing side is marked on something positive among them. That Ralph Chiefly faction at that time fails to give them the safety purpose and the cooperation accordance to something that are finished. There is no achievement that Ralph Chiefly faction has done. While the Jack Hunters have something real, the meat, which the children, got taken share for. Moreover, in the story, when the children are frightened of the *beastie*, the Jack Hunters got the appreciation for making sure to them that they are safe as long as they are within the Hunters protection (*Lord of the Flies*, page 134). It means that in this part, the positive morality brought aside from Ralph because he cannot made it to make cooperative society civilization that achieve something better than what Jack does.

In the suppressed community where the civilization did not reach the target, the children start to doubt the existence of it and choose to what is there for them. This is the reason of the children to turn their back against Ralph's vision of being rescued (*Lord of the Flies*, page 132).

#### **Kohlberg Stages of Morality on Ralph and Jack**

The level of moral consciousness of each character is different. The two main character of the story are Jack and Ralph. They both possess the highest authority in the society of the story that enables them to give order the members. These two characters have the biggest impact to the others in the story. The conflict related also involves both of the characters as main idea opposing one to another. Kohlberg Morality Stages applied in the analysis in order to track the development of the children morality, and by using the binary opposition deconstruction strategy, the analysis reverts the development of morality backwards by using the same point aspects for each of the process. The purpose of tracking the de-development of the children is to analyze the moral breakdown of the character to achieve the point where they both meet at the same point but the different reaction leads them into the further moral breakdown or a moral development.

On Ralph stage of Morality, Ralph morality development is the example of a moral development that succeeds in the development. It develops into stage 1, stage 2, stage 3, stage 4 then went backwards (in the meat rebellion scene) into stage 3 again, but it then advance again into stage 4. Ralph's succession in maintaining his morality aspects would be a comparative factor towards Jack's morality challenge later.

On Jack morality development, he undergoes the stage 2 from the start of the story then advancing into stage 3, but falling down into stage 2 (in the event of meat rebellion), then further down again to reach the morality *Stage 1: The Punishment and Obedience Orientation*. This behavior is based on his preference towards avoiding the punishment of the *Beast* that he must give an offering towards an unreasonable purpose. The second factor to the behavior identifying is that Jack in doing this have a narrow understanding of morality that what is right is obeying the benefits his authority, which in the story is himself. It means that the will of Jack is absolute in his

Tribe that obeying the will of Jack is what a definition of morality in it. This is the peak of morality breakdown in the case of Jack that he did not succeed in advancing his morality.

## CONCLUSION

The analysis of *Lord of the Flies* written by William Golding draws a line towards the understanding of human Morality. From the analysis in previous chapter it has been proved that the developmental of it may vary that it can be progressing or regressing. The progressing morality in the analysis is always for the virtuous purpose that the subject advancing the behavioral pattern into a better morality development. While the regressing morality is always by the absence of virtuous means, there are patterns that the regression is undergoing a state of form where the subjects are disapproving of the advancement.

In the communal subjects, the pattern challenge appears as the purposes of the society are not reached. The communal subjects, in this case to turn themselves into the regressing morality have the sense of reasoning at *Heteronymous Morality* that they unable to give an understanding towards the meaning of the purpose. The non understanding of the purpose then created the rejection of the product of civilization. This rejection is the start of the mass morality breakdown because the purpose of the civilization itself is loss. Depicted the story, the morality breakdown of the children makes them to betray Ralph civilization and join Jack the hunters' tribe. The cause of this is the target of Ralph civilization is not reaching that it collapses their trust in Ralph leadership but it was unfortunate for them that the new society they joined has a low morality understanding. Because in Jack's tribe they view the morality understanding as the absolute of the authority in charge, while the authority held by Jack is doing vile means of stealing, killing, and torture.

In the individual level, the regression of morality is caused by the loss of virtuous purpose in the subject. The morality development of two subjects from the story *Lord of the Flies*, depict that morality may breaking if the challenge towards their purpose is not held by a firm standing of morality and virtue means. The morality understanding requires people to believe in the existence of good and bad and that is why that to develop in morality one must concern themselves to walk the path of it and not the otherwise. This statement embraced also by Thomas Lickona stated in his journal, "Good character consists of knowing the good, desiring the good and doing the good—habits of the mind, habits of the heart, and habits of action". It appears that being good in terms of morality development is the key of the stages but in understanding the *good* terms in oneself, here, the Aristotle's *Virtue Ethics* take part that it defines what is the meaning of good. It is that to be good, one must be good (in the purpose, means, aims and to not struggle against contrary desires), doing the right thing (possessing a knowledge that in his action should understand the situation to the welfare of the parties), and

*eudaimonia* (in the English translation means happy, it is happy that the subject undergoing virtuous purpose did not feel weighted by the path, a *flourishing* feeling in rational way that it anticipate the feeling of wrongness). Overall, the factors of morality development place a high notion towards *Virtuous Ethical*, which the existence of it may affect one point of view towards cooperation, reasoning, and purpose.

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