
Exposing Narratives in 21st Century Children's Literature for Holistic Development and Education in Strengthening Character Education for Elementary School Students

Ferril Irham Muzaki*

*Department of Preschool and Elementary Education, Faculty of Education, State University of Malang, Indonesia.

Corresponding Email: *ferril.irham.fip@um.ac.id

Received: 06 October 2023 **Accepted:** 23 December 2023 **Published:** 05 February 2024

Abstract: Children's literature serves as a catalyst for fostering creativity, a point emphasized by Norton, who underscores its vital part in nurturing and expanding youthful imaginations. This kidney plays a pivotal part in promoting the development of internal imaginative capacities in scholars. Beyond its part in individual growth, children's literature holds significant value in fostering personality and social development among youthful compendiums. The integration of children's literature into schoolteacher medication programs is purposeful, aiming to equip preceptors with the readiness to incorporate these textbooks into their classrooms. also, it seeks to empower preceptors to grease meaningful conversations on the motifs presented in these erudite workshops with scholars, academy administration brigades, and parents likewise. Achieving this requires schoolteacher preceptors to give ample openings for scholars to exercise the chops of opting, assaying, and agitating a different range of children's literature. In doing so, schoolteacher medication programs contribute not only to the professional development of preceptors but also to the broader educational geography by promoting the multifaceted benefits of children's literature in nurturing creativity and fostering holistic development in youthful minds.

Keywords: Children Literature, 21st Century, Character Education Program.

1. INTRODUCTION

Children's literature in the 21st century has experienced a remarkable metamorphosis, reflecting societal changes and evolving perspectives on education. In particular, a notable shift has passed in how character education is addressed within children's stories. Juliastuti (2019) This essay delves into the dynamic geography of 21st- century children's literature, exploring



the reframing of character education and its impact on shaping the moral compass of youthful compendiums.

The 21st century has witnessed a paradigm shift in children's literature, with authors and illustrators embracing a broader range of themes and perspectives. Gone are the days of simply traditional fable tales, contemporary children's literature glasses the diversity and complexity of the ultramodern world. Authors now navigate a rich shade of societies, backgrounds, and gestures, fostering inclusivity and broadening the midairs of youthful minds.

As technology becomes an integral part of children's lives, literature has acclimated to incorporate digital rudiments, interactive liars, and multimedia formats. These inventions aim to engage youthful compendiums in ways that reverberate with their digital-native sensibilities. The integration of technology, still, does not overshadow the enduring power of narratives to inseminate values and merits (Muassomah et.al., 2020).

Character education, defined as the deliberate trouble to nurture merits, ethics, and moral logic in individualities, finds a natural home in children's literature. Stories have long been honored as important tools for conveying moral assignments, shaping values, and conducting wisdom. In the 21st century, there's a heightened mindfulness among authors, preceptors, and parents about the part literature plays in character development.

Astra (2018) state that authors' moment are deliberate in their sweats to present characters with depth and complexity, enabling youthful compendiums to connect with their struggles, triumphs, and moral dilemmas. The characters in contemporary children's literature frequently reflect a different array of individualities, backgrounds, and capacities, contributing to a further inclusive representation that resonates with the globalized nature of the moment's society.

2. RELATED WORKS

A significant aspect of reframing character education in children's literature is the emergence of new themes and the reimagining of traditional bones. While dateless merits similar as courage, kindness, and perseverance continue to be central, authors are decreasingly exploring nuanced motifs that reflect the complications of the real world. Juliastuti (2019) contemporary children's literature titleholders' diversity and addition, both in terms of characters and authors. Stories now showcase protagonists from colorful races, societies, and socio- profitable backgrounds, fostering empathy and understanding among youthful compendiums. Authors are addressing global challenges, breeding a sense of social and environmental responsibility in youthful compendiums. Themes like climate change, conservation, and community involvement are woven into narratives, encouraging children to contemplate their part in creating a better world.

The disquisition of characters' feelings and guests enhances the development of empathy and emotional intelligence in youthful compendiums. Authors adroitly navigate complex feelings, allowing children to connect with characters on a deeper position and understand the



significance of compassion and understanding. The 21st-century children's literature geography emphasizes ethical decision-making. Authors present characters facing moral dilemmas, encouraging compendiums to consider the consequences of conduct and develop their own moral logic. Juliastuti (2019) state that the reframing of character education in 21st-century children's literature has a profound impact on the character development of youthful compendiums. Through relatable characters and engaging narratives, children aren't only entertained but also encouraged to reflect on their own values and beliefs.

Olang (2019) states that the diversity of characters allows children to see themselves in stories and understand the uproariousness of the world's shade. Exposure to different perspectives fosters open-mindedness and forbearance, essential rates in a connected global society. also, the objectification of technology and interactive rudiments enhances the immersive nature of liar, making the literacy experience more dynamic and engaging.

3. METHODOLOGY

Researching children's literature in the 21st century plays a vital part in reframing character education. This research elaborated themes, the grasp of diversity, and the objectification of technology contribute to a vibrant erudite geography that shapes the moral compass of youthful compendiums. This research also determines authors consistency to navigate the complications of the ultramodern world, children's literature remains a important tool for breeding merits, fostering empathy, and nurturing the coming generation of responsible global citizens. Through the runners of these stories, children embark on a trip of tone-discovery and moral growth, laying the foundation for a brighter and further compassionate future.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Key Definition of Children Literature:

There's no widely accepted description for children's literature, encompassing a different range of workshop similar as famed classics in world literature, fluently readable picture books, especially drafted stories for children, puck tales, lullabies, fables, folk songs, and orally transmitted accoutrements. Alternately, it can be astronomically classified as fabrication, nonfiction, poetry, or drama intended for and consumed by children and youth. In a study conducted by (Muassomah et.al 2020), it's asserted that despite the prevailing association of children's literature with picture books, oral narratives forego the arrival of printing, and the origins of multitudinous children's stories can be traced back to ancient fibbers. icing that children have access to a different array of literature is pivotal for their overall success. The children literature content that reading literature plays a vital part not only in developing cognitive chops essential for success in education or employment but also for colorful other precious reasons. While there's inarguable merit in exposing children to literature, the absence

of a singular, extensively conceded description underscores the kidney's essential diversity (Muassomah et al., 2020).

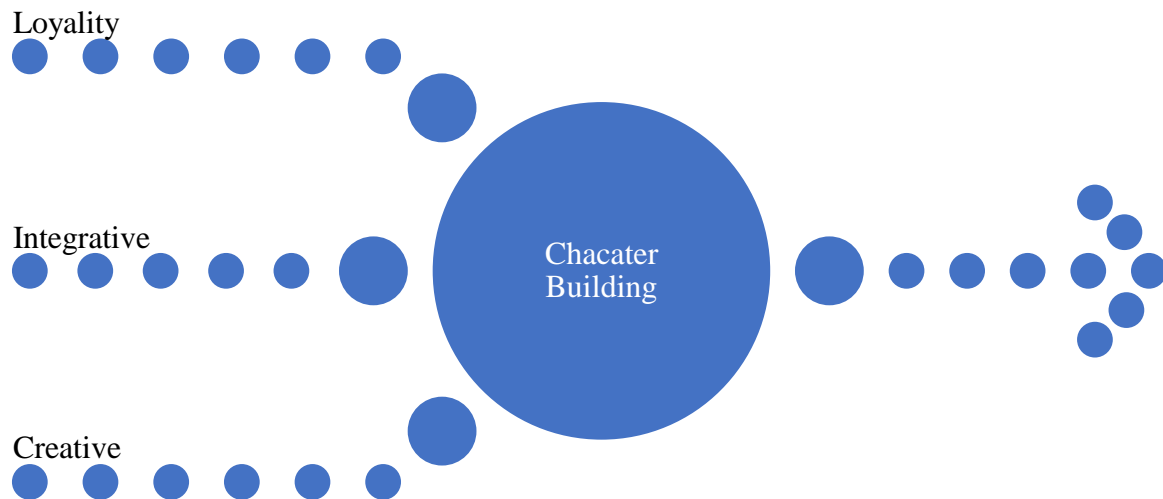


Chart 1:

Preceptors must apply strategies to cultivate the reading habits of aspiring preceptors. The compliances from our own courses support these findings. Throughout the semester, as illustrated by Olang(2019), engaging in exchanges with our scholars revealed that a significant number of them didn't perceive themselves as avaricious compendiums . At the inception of each semester, scholars are assigned with creating a multimedia timeline detailing their reading trip, revealing a intermittent pattern.



Chart 2:

Promoting cognitive development, literature encourages profound contemplation.

Astra (2018) contends that different compendiums may decide distant interpretations from a erudite work grounded on individual perspectives and gests . scholars, according to Astra, can acquire the chops to critically estimate and dissect literature, as well as to epitomize and formulate suppositions on a given content. Norton suggests that, for children, " wordless picture books serve as an excellent catalyst for oral and spoken language development."

Juliastuti (2019) posits that children's literature serves as a conduit for scholars to explore their artistic heritage and gain perceptivity into other societies. Understanding these values is imperative for children, as developing a positive station towards one's own culture and that of others is necessary for both social and particular development, as well as emotional intelligence.



Review of Related Studies Regarding Children's Stories

Children's literature serves as a rich depository of vital moments, frequently characterized by characters navigating moral opinions and reflecting on the beginning reasons for their choices — an essential skill for youthful minds seeking part models. Lickona (1999) state that the capability to grapple with similar complex moral dilemmas necessitates a jacked position of emotional intelligence, particularly as numerous youthful children may struggle to comprehend the conception of death. For case, in" The Big Box," the narrative revolves around children who lose their freedom, confined within a box, unraveling deeper issues associated with the privation of liberty. Engaging with similar literature encourages scholars to claw into their own feelings and studies, fostering a deeper understanding of their passions.

The constructive times of nonage are marked by impressionability, and children's literature emerges as a guiding force in nurturing caring, intelligent, and compassionate individualities. It plays a vital part in social development by promoting acceptance of others and their differences. By breeding considerate and friendly actions, children's literature contributes to the development of rates aligned with creating responsible and righteous citizens. Its enduring tradition is stressed by the part books play as the primary conduit for transmitting erudite heritage from one generation to the coming.

Berkowitz and Hoppe (2009) state that children progress into aged grades, exposure to classic plays, indeed in the form of picture books simplifying complex plays like those of William Shakespeare, becomes a precious educational tool. Feting the brevity of nonage, preceptors and parents are assigned with furnishing access to dateless books that form the foundational erudite heritage. The enduring power of quality children's literature lies in its capability to allure cult



across generations, making it a precious resource both within the educational terrain and at home.

Irwandi (2019) explains that critical perceptiveness between quality and medium literature is imperative for preceptors and parents likewise. This perceptiveness ensures that children have access to the stylish books that not only promote essential erudite values but also align with their experimental disciplines. Children's literature serves as a conduit for responding to literature, conducting artistic knowledge, nurturing emotional intelligence and creativity, fostering social and personality development, and transmitting erudite history across generations. The exposure to quality literature contributes significantly to molding responsible, successful, and compassionate individuals.

Berkowitz and Hoppe (2009) explains that origins of children's literature can be traced back to oral stories, songs, and poetry designed to educate, educate, and entertain children. The conceptualization of nonage as a distinct phase began to crop in the eighteenth century, leading to the development of separate stripes of children's literature with their own divisions, prospects, and canons. This shift was marked by a growing recognition of children as distinct beings, viewed as innocent and in need of protection and guidance from the grown-ups in their lives.

The philosophical underpinning of John Locke's tabula rasa proposition, suggesting that the mind at birth is a "blank slate" shaped by sensitive gests , underlined the evolving perception of nonage. During the nineteenth century, several children's titles gained fashionability as classroom reading textbooks, further solidifying the part of literature in shaping the cognitive and moral development of youthful minds.

Results

Children's literature has been told by colorful sources, including famed numbers similar as Aesop, Jean de la Fontaine, and Charles Perrault, whose 1697 fable collection, "Tales of Mother Goose," gained fashionability. This swell in interest led to the creation of 19th- century fantasy and puck tales featuring magical rudiments and talking creatures. also, the impact of Puritanism, with its focus on individual deliverance, played a part in shaping stations toward literature for children. The Bluenoses, concerned about the spiritual well- being of children, contributed to the growth of publications aimed at furnishing innocently upright content for the youthful followership.

James Janeway's workshops were prominent during this period, with "The Pilgrim's Progress" by John Bunyan arising as a lasting erudite donation, still applicable moment. Although not originally intended for children, youthful compendiums enjoyed this seminal work. Themis-18th century witnessed the emergence of ultramodern children's books in England, known as gift books, laying the root for the popular toy books of the 19th century. Especially, John Newbery played a pivotal part in marketing this new kidney, getting a leading patron of children's books.



Proponents like Jean- Jacques Rousseau, championing the natural development and happiness of children, told children's literature. Johann Bernhard Basedow, the author of the *Philanthropia*, penned " *Elementa Werk*," a text for children featuring illustrations by Daniel Chodowiecki, aligning with the idea of appealing to children's natural interests.

Children's literature, encompassing a different range of workshops, surfaced distinctly in the ultimate half of the 18th century. Berkowitz and Hoppe (2009) argue that barred orders primarily involve non-violent marketable and flash jotting, including ridiculous books, with the focus on sociohistorical significance rather than erudite value. Comprehensive erudite histories frequently overlook children's literature, which, while connected to the erudite mainstream, possesses its own identifiable history shaped by social movements and the recognition of children as a distinct subject matter.

Lickona (1999) emphasizes children's literature as a unique erudite medium that allows for the expression of ideas that might remain unsaid in other surrounds. The field has progressed with expansive narrative, education, review, history, lives, and bibliographies, along with the onsets of aesthetic proposition or gospel of composition. still, the institutionalization of children's literature on a global scale has raised enterprises about its implicit impact on naturalness and the lack of tone- mindfulness essential in the field.

Children's literature, as a tone-conscious kidney, revolves around the recognition of its applicable subject matter the child. It encompasses the entire content of a child's imaginative world, diurnal terrain, and the specific ideas and sentiments that characterize it. Despite the physical visibility and audibility of children. Wadu et.al (2021) note that their eventuality as the raw material of literature was frequently overlooked until the Industrial Revolution. Children's literature, though nurtured with tenderheartedness, was historically regarded as pre-mature stage rather than an reality in its own right.

Shifting in Children's Literature Perception

Indeed as the recognition of the child's distinct perspective has grown, literature continues to occasionally perceive the child simply as a atomic interpretation of an grown-up. still, Alwi & Irwandi (2019) notes that the predominant trend in " realistic" fabrication across colorful countries is to present a partial reflection of the child, frequently set up in the glass. specially, there are smaller cases of comprehensive representations of children in colorful stages of development compared to attempts to depict grown-ups. A positive development in realistic children's fabrication during the ultimate half of the twentieth century is the emergence of a further holistic and organic approach.

Elaboration of Classic Children's Literature

Progress beyond reliance on unresistant oral traditions, myth, and legends has been made in the realm of classic children's literature. For case, Italian literature for youthful compendiums saw a notable morning in 1776 with the homiletic " *Short Stories*" by Reverend Francesco Soave. still, the composition of children's literature has frequently been accepted bynon-professionals, contributing to a kindly limited record. Siregar et.al (2018) highlight that the 20th century witnessed significant strides, especially with the work of professionals like Gianni



Rodari, signaling rapid-fire development in Italian children's literature. The concinnity of words and images in workshop like Beatrix Potter's emphasizes the integral nature of classic children's literature, transcending bare cultural product.

Difference between Western and Eastern Literature

Irwandi (2019) underscores the uneven progress between Western and Eastern literature, with some Eastern traditions remaining embedded in oral practices. Profitable constraints and limited technological advancements further stymie the development and dispersion of native jotting in countries like Burma, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. The challenge of imitating Western children's books composites these issues, despite the Eastern region producing workshop of "classic" status. The unique rates of Eastern literature are occasionally overshadowed by an inclination towards Western influences.

5. CONCLUSION

In Western Europe, there exists a notable variation in the pace of development, particularly between northern and southern regions. Advancements have been observed not only in the United Kingdom but also in Italy and Portugal. Similar rhymes, wide encyclopedically and especially prominent in China, punctuate the universal appeal of children's literature. The claim of the English Mother Goose as a work of art is distinctive, showcasing the different expressions of children's literature across societies. Several factors contribute to the detention in the development of children's literature. Natural traditionalism in perceiving the child's perspective may play a part. Also, the tempo of development varies significantly between countries and regions. While advanced societies like England have produced intricate children's literature, the reasons for the difference between inversely sophisticated societies, similar as France and England, remain lower apparent. Understanding the multifaceted aspects of children's literature development is pivotal for fostering its growth and diversity across the global erudite geography.

6. REFERENCES

1. Alwi, N., & Irwandi, I. (2019). The Values of Character Education in Indonesia Children Literature and Translated Children Literature. Proceedings of the Proceedings of The 1st EAI Bukittinggi International Conference on Education, BICED 2019, 17-18 October, 2019, Bukittinggi, West Sumatra, Indonesia. Proceedings of The 1st EAI Bukittinggi International Conference on Education, BICED 2019, 17-18 October, 2019, Bukittinggi, West Sumatra, Indonesia, Bukittinggi, Indonesia. <https://doi.org/10.4108/eai.17-10-2019.2289747>
2. Astra, IM (2018). Character building in physics learning for Indonesian children. Journal of Physics: Conference Series, 1040, 012043. <https://doi.org/10.1088/1742-6596/1040/1/012043>
3. Berkowitz, MW, & Hoppe, MA (2009). Character education and gifted children. High Ability Studies, 20(2), 131–142. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13598130903358493>



4. Juliastuti, J. (2019). Character Building with Literature: Linguistic Creativity of Helen Keller in Writing Autobiography (The Story of My Life). *ELS Journal on Interdisciplinary Studies in Humanities*, 2(2), 302–312. <https://doi.org/10.34050/els-jish.v2i2.6881>
5. Lickona, T. (1999). Character Education: Seven Crucial Issues. *Action in Teacher Education*, 20(4), 77–84. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01626620.1999.10462937>
6. Muassomah, M., Abdullah, I., Istiadah, I., Mujahidin, A., Masnawi, N., & Sohras, S. (2020). Believe in Literature: Character Education for Indonesia's Youth. *Universal Journal of Educational Research*, 8(6), 2223–2231. <https://doi.org/10.13189/ujer.2020.080605>
7. Olang, Y. (2019). Character Building and The Awareness on The Importance of Caring for The Earth. *Radiant Education*, 7(4). <https://doi.org/10.25037/pancaran.v7i4.205>
8. Siregar, YEY, S, ZM, W, PA, Rachmadtullah, R., & Pohan, N. (2018). Self Regulation, Emotional Intelligence With Character Building In Elementary School. *Proceedings of the Annual Civic Education Conference (ACEC 2018)*. *Proceedings of the Annual Civic Education Conference (ACEC 2018)*, Bandung, Indonesia. <https://doi.org/10.2991/acec-18.2018.72>
9. Wadu, LB, Kasing, RND, Gultom, AF, & Mere, K. (2021). Child Character Building Through the Takaplayer Village Children Forum: 2nd Annual Conference on Social Science and Humanities (ANCOSH 2020), Malang, Indonesia. <https://doi.org/10.2991/assehr.k.210413.008>
10. Zuo, T., Birk, M. V., Van Der Spek, E. D., & Hu, J. (2022). The mediating effect of fantasy on engagement in an AR game for learning. *Entertainment Computing*, 42, 100480. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.entcom.2022.100480>