



PORTRAIT OF HARMONIOUS FAMILY IN BOBO MAGAZINE SHORT STORY COLLECTION

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Abstract. This study explores the depiction of harmonious family dynamics in Bobo magazine's collection of short stories. The research focuses on analyzing how the stories in the magazine present ideal family values, relationships, and roles, which encourage unity, understanding, and mutual respect among family members. By examining several short stories, this research highlights how Bobo magazine uses narrative techniques to reflect society's expectations of a harmonious family. The research findings reveal that these stories entertain young readers, serve as tools for character education, and foster positive attitudes toward family ties. Some aspects of harmonious families that emerge in this study are affection between family members, mutual understanding among family members, effective dialog or communication within the family, cooperation within the family, spiritual well-being, and lack of conflict. The short stories reinforce the importance of family as the primary foundation in children's character education and illustrate the beauty of harmony and love between family members. This research is expected to contribute to a deeper understanding of the role of children's literature in teaching noble family values.

Keywords: Bobo Magazine, short stories, family portrait, harmonious families, children's education

A. Introduction

According to Wiratri (1), the Family is a primary group with a network of interpersonal interactions, blood relations, marital relations, and adoption. As the smallest social unit in society, the family has an important role in each member's education, guidance, and character-building. A good family will give birth to quality individuals. This can be realized if family functions such as mutual support, understanding, and respect between family members run properly.

Having a harmonious family is everyone's dream. To realize this requires cooperation from all elements of the family, such as father, mother, and children. Family harmony will influence children's emotional development. Children who are born into a harmonious family will have a positive impact on their environment. Conversely, children born into disharmonious families have the potential to hurt their social relationships. This is in line with Ali and Asrori's opinion in Adolescent Psychology, Learner Development (2), which states that whether or not the interaction between family members is harmonious and intensive will affect the social development of adolescents in the family. Unharmonious interaction between family members is a potential correlate that inhibits the social development of adolescents.

As one of the children's literature that has become a reading reference from time to time, Bobo magazine comes with the main theme of family and the depiction of a harmonious family



conveyed through its fictional stories. Since its emergence in the 1970s, Bobo magazine has been known as a magazine that provides entertainment for its readers and as an educational magazine that inserts important moral values, including the portrait of a harmonious family. Therefore, this study aims to look at the portrait of a harmonious family in the 50-year limited collection edition of Bobo magazine.

B. Methods

The method used in this research is descriptive qualitative. According to Endraswara (3), descriptive qualitative research prioritizes describing data through words. The data sources are short stories in the 50-year limited collection edition of Bobo magazine (4). The data is selected according to the research needs. After that, the data is classified and analyzed using the sociology of literature approach. This research looks at how the portrait of a harmonious family is depicted in a collection of short stories in the 50-year limited collection edition of Bobo magazine. After being analyzed, the data is presented to make it easier for readers to examine the research results.

C. Results And Discussion

Harmony in the family is an ideal portrait that everyone wants to have. Realizing this requires efforts from all elements of the family. According to Gunarsa, there are several aspects of family harmony, namely affection between family members, mutual understanding between family members, dialogue or effective communication that exists in the family, cooperation in the family, spiritual well-being, and the lack of conflict in the family.

1. Affection and Understanding Among Family Members

Affection is an instinct that arises between family members. The affection shown by family members proves that there is care between them. There is a desire to make each other happy and provide comfort. This usually comes in praise, touch, help, etc. Family members express appreciation and affection honestly. Appreciation is necessary because then each member feels deeply loved and recognized. The form of affection in the short story of Bobo magazine can be seen in the following excerpt from the story of *Misteri PR Matematika*.

“Terima kasih Kak!” ucapku terharu. Kucium pipi Kak Ana. Ah, ternyata Kak Ana tidak pelit, kok! (Bobo:31).

The quote shows the affection between a sister and her brother, Ana, expressed through their physical interaction. Ana, who helped her sister with her homework, was rewarded with a loving peck from her sister. In addition to the physical touch by her sister, Anan also received a thank you as an appreciation for her kindness in helping with math homework.

A mother gives a similar complement to her child in the following story titled *Bermain Tamu-Tamuan* by Vanda Parengkuan.

“Aduh pintarnya anak Mama!” Puji Mama (Bobo:33).

In addition to expressions of affection, mutual understanding between family members is also necessary. Parents willing to listen to a child's reasons for making decisions will be preferred over parents who like to judge their children's decisions. Mutual understanding in the family is not only done by parents towards their children. It can also happen to children and their parents. The following quote shows that openness, patience, and trust are the main assets of mutual understanding between family members.

Dahulu juga aku sering tidak mau makan kalau makanannya tidak enak. Tapi kata papaku, iar tidak enak anggap saja enak! Nanti jadinya enak betulan!” nasihat Iko berbisik-bisik (Bobo:37).



The father figure in the *Nasehat Iko* story is portrayed as an understanding and patient parent in dealing with his son. Iko initially did not want to eat but became willing because of his father's patience and persuasion. Iko's father provides understanding and guides Iko to think positively about finishing the food he initially thought was terrible.

The same thing happened to the grandmother, and Arina in *Arina Gets Grandmother* by Widya Suwarna. Arina and grandmother, who often argue about something, still understand each other and make up because of the great love and understanding between the two. This can be seen through the following quote.

Memang, kadang-kadang Arina juga suka kesal kepada Nenek. Biasanya hal itu terjadi kalau Arina sedang asik membaca buku cerita. Sebelum Ibu pulang, biasanya Arina disuruh mandi. Sesudah menyuruh berkali-kali dan Arina membandel, biasanya Nenek mengomel. Namun kemudian Arina selalu berbaikan kembali dengan nenek (Bobo: 38).

2. Effective Communication Within The Family.

Gunarsa (5) states that communication is another factor affecting family harmony. Communication is a transaction, a symbolic process that requires people to manage their environment by building relationships with each other through the exchange of information to strengthen the attitudes and behavior of others and try to change those attitudes and behaviors. Gunarsa adds that several rules for good communication must be applied to form a harmonious family. These rules include providing enough time, listening, maintaining honesty, and having quality time with family.

In the short story entitled *Waktu Sangat Berharga Bagi Aprilia* by Widya Suwarna, the author says that communication is important for establishing relationships between family members. An example of good communication is between Aprilia's mother and Aprilia. Aprilia's mother is well aware of Aprilia's daily schedule. Aprilia's busy schedule does not hinder their communication. Aprilia also tries to always convey her daily schedule to her mother through a list she writes on the whiteboard on the wall of her room. This can be seen from the following quote.

“Maafkan dia pergi berenang Bersama Iin, saudara sepupunya. Aprilia selalu membuat jadwal harian. Ia sangat aktif, jadi harus bisa membagi waktu. Tapi tak apa. Hesti dan Dian bisa mencoba membuat pastel buatannya, lalu melihat-lihat buku di perpustakaan. Kalau mau pinjam boleh, nanti tante catat. Sudah datang jauh-jauh, jangan datang dengan sia-sia,” ibu Aprilia menjelaskan (Bobo:55).

The quote describes the situation when Aprilia's friends came to her house, but she had already left. Finally, Aprilia's mother met Aprilia's friends and welcomed them. Aprilia's friends came late from their agreed meeting time and did not know that Aprilia had busy and organized activities. With understanding, Aprilia's mother explained that Aprilia always wrote down her activities on the blackboard hanging on the wall of her room. Aprilia does this to make her life more organized, and her family fully supports her busy activities. The schedule she writes on the wall of her room also makes it easier for other family members to understand Aprilia's condition—an example of successful indirect communication between Aprilia's family members.

3. Cooperation within the family

A harmonious family is filled with tranquility, serenity, affection, offspring, and the continuation of society's generations, love, and sacrifice, covering each other's shortcomings, perfecting and helping each other, and working together(6). As a family, most of its members spend time together because they live in the same house. The togetherness between them is



strong but not restrictive. In addition, good cooperation between family members is also needed in daily life. Although sometimes there are disagreements, as a family, each member will try to be present when other members are in need. Mutual help and cooperation will encourage children to be tolerant when socializing.

A good form of cooperation is illustrated by Bobo magazine in the following story of *Misteri PR Matematika* and *Menjaga Adik*.

“Huuu! Ayo coba dulu kerjakan sendiri. Kalau benar-benar tidak bisa, baru kakak bantu,” ujar kakakku (Bobo:31).

“Terima kasih Mita, telah membantu Mama menjaga Adik. Mita juga mesti tidur siang sekarang. Tapi sebelum bobok, mita mau susu coklat?” (Bobo:49).

4. Spiritual Well-being

A harmonious family is characterized by creating a religious life in the home. This is important because religion contains moral and ethical values. Based on some studies, it was found that non-religious families that cultivate low or no religious commitment are low or without religious values at tend to cause conflicts and quarrels in the family; with this atmosphere, the child will feel uncomfortable at home, and the child will most likely look for other environments that are more comfortable for them.

Religious values can be applied through small things in daily activities, such as expressing gratitude when you get happiness, being patient when you get disaster, and continuing to feel watched over by God, the ruler of the universe. The expression of gratitude is also seen in the following excerpt from a short story entitled *Terima Kasih Tuhan* by Vanda Parengkuan.

“Terima kasih Tuhan, karena aku dapat memegang Bintang-bintang laut, mendengar dongeng-dongeng Pak Ulus, menikmati es di tanah lapang, berlari-lari sepulang sekolah ... dan ... dan masih banyak lagi. Amin” (Bobo:29).

This short story entitled *Terima Kasih Tuhan* tells the story of Rubi, who initially felt inferior because of the economic conditions of her family and who lived simply. However, she turns around to be very grateful because it turns out that she is still lucky compared to Icha, who has everything but no freedom. Rubi finally realizes that the simplicity and freedom she has had so far are luxuries everyone cannot own.

5. Lack of Conflict Within The Family

According to Gerungan (7), family harmony will be formed through wholeness in family interactions, in which harmonious social interactions occur, and aggressive actions accompany no hostile attitude. Gunadarsa stated (8) that family harmony is created if all family members feel happy. This is marked by reduced tension and disappointment, and family members feel satisfied with all their circumstances and familiarity (self-actualization existence), which includes physical, mental, emotional, and social aspects. Realizing a harmonious family and minimal conflict is certainly not easy, but it is an important thing to strive for. The way each family minimizes conflict is very diverse. In the story entitled *Sesudah Bersut-sungut* by Widya Suwarna, the efforts of family members to minimize conflict can be seen in the character Om Kus. Although not part of the core family members, Om Kus still carries out his role as an adult who nurtures his nephews, who are disappointed. This can be seen in the following quote.

“Nah, sekarang kalian sudah gembira. Begitulah seharusnya. Pergi atau tidak pergi, yang penting tetap gembira. Tapi, sekarang Om Kus mau mengajak kalian pergi berenang ke Pantai. Kita pergi naik taksi saja. Ayo, kalian berkemas kalau mau ikut!” Kata Om Kus (Bobo:47).



Om Kus took the place of the children's mom and dad, who couldn't spend the weekend with the family. Mom and Dad had to attend an important wedding party for Dad's friend. Om Kus is an emissary of the three children's father and mother who was specifically asked to take the children on a beach vacation without their knowledge. Mom and Dad, who can't accompany them, try their best not to disappoint their children's expectations. Because they know that disappointment in the family can trigger family conflict.

Happiness radiated from the faces of the children who had been grumbling because of their disappointment. But the disappointment disappeared instantly when the good news brought by Om Kus reached their ears. This is clearly shown in the following quote.

“Kalau tahu dari tadi, kita tidak perlu bersungut-sungut!” Kata tika menyesal(Bobo:47).

Another short story that shows an attempt to suppress conflict in the family is Friendship Can Be Troublesome. The mother character patiently tries to understand her daughter's changing requests, even though she has to give in by granting Vivi's request to buy hairpins in the shape of hats. While explaining with a smile, Vivi's mother confirmed that the ribbon and butterfly-shaped hairpins were her wish that her mother had granted.

Ibu tersenyum, lalu berkata, “ Kalau jepit rambut topi-topian itu model baru, mengapa dua hari yang lalu Vivi tidak memilih itu? Malah Vivi sendiri memilih jepit rambut berbentuk pita dan kupu-kupu!” (Bobo:42).

The treatment done by the mother character is an effort to prevent conflict from occurring. The mother figure understands that Vivi conflicts with her changing desires, so the mother figure is not angry but still provides understanding and makes Vivi realize that her decision is not right.

D. Conclusion

Harmonious families depicted in short stories in Bobo tend to emphasize the importance of love, cooperation, responsibility, and good communication among family members. These stories indirectly shape children's perceptions of how a good and ideal family should function. Through these stories, children are taught about the importance of harmony in the family, which involves a balance between rights and responsibilities and the ability to understand each other. Growing up, such stories not only build imagination but also strengthen children's understanding of their role in the family. They learn that a harmonious family is a place where love, understanding, and support are the basis for facing life's challenges.

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