

An Analysis of Mood and Moral Values in the Novel “The Call of the Wild”

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ABSTRACT

In literature, novels serve as a popular medium for storytelling, often embedding moral messages and diverse linguistic elements. One significant aspect of literary analysis in novels is the study of mood types, which reveals the interpersonal dynamics and underlying themes conveyed by the author. This study focuses on *The Call of the Wild*, a novel by Jack London, aiming to identify the types of mood employed—declarative, imperative, and interrogative—and to explore the moral values illustrated through these interactions. This research employs a qualitative approach, utilizing document analysis and content analysis techniques to gather and interpret data. The theoretical framework is grounded in Halliday’s Systemic Functional Linguistics (1994) for mood analysis and Lickona’s (2004) moral values classification, which includes trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship. Findings indicate that declarative mood is the most frequently used, highlighting the informational and descriptive nature of the novel. The moral values conveyed through the protagonist Buck’s experiences emphasize resilience, loyalty, and compassion, offering readers timeless ethical lessons.

Keywords: Mood Types, Moral Values, Jack London, *The Call of the Wild*

I. INTRODUCTION

Language plays an important role in a person's social and emotional growth. (As Hussain & Sajid 2017, p. 45) points out, effective communication capacity allows people to form strong interpersonal relationships and encourage collaboration in various social environments. (Siregar 2021, p. 112) further noted that language contributes to the development of self-identity and understanding of 2 social roles. In addition, in the field of education, proficient language teaching can improve students' ability to think critically and creatively (Zakiyah & Zakrimal, 2020, p. 95).

Language is also a very dynamic instrument that undergoes continuous evolution over time. This phenomenon can be seen from the creation of new words, shifts in word meaning, and language adaptation to the ever-changing technological and cultural landscape. According to (Irawan et al. 2020, p. 77), language reflects social and technological transformation, as shown by the entry of foreign language terms and the emergence of new terminology in the realm of information technology. (Stringer 2019, p. 102) argues that language adaptability allows humans to articulate new concepts and quickly respond to changes in the environment.

An Analysis of Mood and Moral Values in the Novel “The Call of the Wild”

These qualities make language a living and evolving entity, always relevant and adaptable to ongoing events. Therefore, the examination of the evolution of language and its adaptation to the contemporary context has become very important in the field of linguistics.

In literary works, language plays a role not only as a medium to convey a story, but also to build emotions, atmospheres, and relationships between characters. Through language, the author is able to form interpersonal relationships that function to enrich the narrative and influence the reader. As according to (Sugihastuti, 2007, p. 81) "Literary works are a medium used by authors to convey their ideas and experiences. As a media, the role of literary works as a medium to connect the author's thoughts to be conveyed to readers". So, literary works can be a forum for authors to voice their thoughts, beliefs and physical experiences, as well as the author's imagination while literary works for readers are used as a means of entertainment. By reading literary works, readers also get their own satisfaction.

Theoretically, SFL differs from traditional and formal grammar. Traditional grammar concentrates on the rules to produce the correct sentence. Formal grammar is related to describing the structure of individual sentences (Gerot and Wignell, 1996, p. 5). Meanwhile, SFL is focused on the meaning of language rather than structure. That way, people can analyze the function of language through structure analysis based on the level of clauses. SFL is an innovation of the traditional and formal grammar known as modern grammar. It focuses on language as a source to generate meaning. SFL is a grammar that indicates that everything in it can be explained as a reference to the Language used. It is focused not only on the structure of language but also on the properties of discourse and function in certain social and cultural situations. As said (Halliday and Malinowski, 1994, p. 6), Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) is a linguistic approach that sees language as a social symbol, and its functional syntactic system includes important concepts such as functionality, systems, hierarchy, and context. SFL also emphasizes the importance of registers and context in language analysis.

The theory of Systemic Functional Linguistics explains that humans use language to fulfill three functions of language known as metafunctions, namely: representing, exchanging and organizing experiences. Within the scope of SFL, there is a basic component of meaning called metafunctions. According to (Halliday, 2013, p. 1) Basically, metafunctions are divided into three, namely ideological, interpersonal, and textual functions.

The main focus in this study is on interpersonal meaning, which is the meaning formed from the interaction between speakers or characters in the text. Xiang (2022) clarified that interpersonal meaning refers to language as a tool to interact with others. Interpersonal meaning includes how attitudes, emotions, and social relationships are built through the use of language. As according to (Halliday, 1994, p. 68) the interpersonal metafunction is that people construct, negotiate and take their positions in social relationships, and it relates to clauses as exchanges. This approach is important in literary works because it can reveal how characters interact with each other as well as how the dynamics of those relationships develop in the story. Interpersonal meaning is not only related to the dynamics of social and emotional relationships between characters, but also how language is used to convey moral values. Through word choice and sentence structure, the author can convey the moral message underlying the story, shaping the

An Analysis of Mood and Moral Values in the Novel “The Call of the Wild”

reader's perception of right and wrong. As according to (Halliday and Matthiessen, 2014 p. 137), every time a language is used, something different happens. In addition to interpreting, language also builds our personal and social relationships with the people around us. Therefore, when we use language, both spoken and written, for specific purposes, such as providing information, giving offers, or giving orders, language also shapes our personal and social relationships with others.

One of the key aspects of interpersonal meaning in SFL is MOOD analysis, which includes three main types: declarative (statements), interrogative (questions), and imperatives (commands). In line with (Halliday, 2013, p. 1) Basically, metafunctions are divided into three, namely ideological, interpersonal, and textual functions. Each mood type has a role in shaping interpersonal relationships and conveying messages, both directly and implicitly. As according to Halliday and Matthiessen (2004, p. 115), MOOD consists of two main types: indicative and imperative. The indicative grammatical structure consists of Subject (S) and Finite (F). The two types of indications are declarative and interrogative. Compared to indicative-declarative, indicative-interrogative grammatical structures should place 6 finite before the subject, while imperatives only have predicates (Wiratno, 2018, p. 76). Each mood has a specific function in communication, whether to provide information, request, or give instructions.

In literary texts, mood analysis not only helps in understanding the social dynamics between characters, but can also reveal moral values reflected in the characters' actions and dialogues. As according to Sadighi, quoted in Amalia, speakers or writers not only exchange information, goods, and services, but also try to show feelings, movements, and so on (2018, p. 23). Writers or speakers don't just do things for themselves; They also need something from the listener or reader who can respond. In addition, through interpersonal meaning, people can know what others feel and want to share, judgment, and personality. This means that the interpersonal meaning is related to the activities of the speaker or writer who uses the language determined by MOOD.

Linguistic research of novels can help uncover the hidden meanings contained in the interactions between characters and to convey moral and ethical messages. As one of the genres in literature, the novel presents a complex narrative, often built through character development and conflicts that hold moral values. (Thamimi, 2016, p. 152) said that studying literature is something interesting and does not stop as long as literary works are still being made. This is because literature has a close relationship with the community environment, both for the author and its readers. Analyzing novels is not only intrinsic and extrinsic, but things related to linguistics are also interesting to research. Xiang (2022) explained that interpersonal meaning refers to language as a tool to interact with others. Interpersonal is an interesting phenomenon to study because understanding the 8 meaning of interpersonal can help people to succeed in exchanging information, goods, and services with listeners or readers (Dalton-Puffer, 2005). Therefore, research on novels from a linguistic point of view provides an opportunity to explore how these values are conveyed through language choice.

In a sense, moral is the study of what thought to be right and what is generally done by a group, society, or culture. In general, moral corresponds to what actually is done in a society. However, right or wrong is relative to be done. It means that moral is studied as psychology, sociology, or anthropology, so each society has different moral codes. According to Nurgiantoro (2010, p. 321) states that the people view moral, values, beliefs, generally influenced by the way of life of their society. Morals in literary works usually reflect truth values according to the author’s view, and that is what it is delivered to the reader.

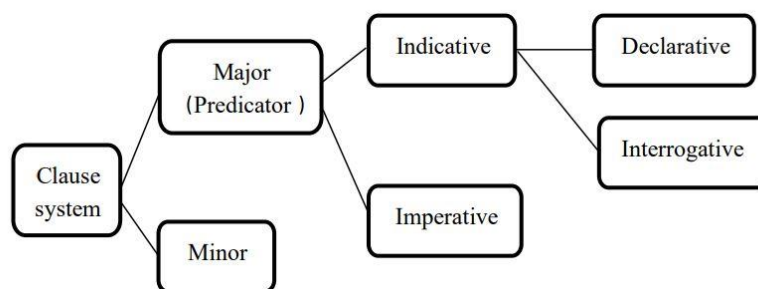
According to Jhonson 2002 (cited in Asmila et al, 2022, p. 15) states that moral values is expressed in attitudes that become visible in opinion and concrete behavior. From explanation above, writer can explain that moral value is the values that express ideas about good life. There is constant debate about which values constitute the good life. Therefore, moral values can be used as doctrines of right and wrong for a person's behavior in everyday life as an individual or a social creation. From the above statements it is clear that the definition of moral values is about people's beliefs about right and wrong. Moral values serve as models of good behavior and culture inspired by the behavior of society.

In literary works, moral values concern the author's message to the reader about good manners and bad manners. Therefore, the author hopes that the reader will be able to understand the message. Moral values actually exist in people's daily lives. This is because all human behavior is based in practice on lessons that can be learned from people's experiences in everyday life.

II. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Mood Types (Mood System)

Mood System is the system of clauses as interpersonal resources. Mood system views a clause as an exchange. Mood system is built from the relation of mood structure between Subject and Finite, whereas Residue is the rest. The Mood system can be seen in this Mood system network below:



Figures 1. Mood types adapted from “(Halliday and Matthiessen, 2004, p. 23)”

Moral Values

Moral values are logical concepts related to principles or human actions that can be judged as right or wrong, good or bad (Nurjani & Efendi, 2018, p. 25). According to (Ismail 2016, p. 32), morality is the knowledge of civilized character and good behavior based on certain religious views of life. Morality can be viewed from two aspects, namely the internal aspect

and the action aspect. This aspect reflects how a person's internal attitude can influence his behavior in the real world. According to Wantah in Sitepu et al. (2022, p. 12), morality is a tool that connects a person's ability to determine right and wrong or good and bad behavior. From this definition, it can be concluded that morality plays a very important role in human life because it functions as a regulator of behavior so that people can know which actions are good to do and which are not. With morality, the quality of individuals can be improved by controlling behavior and applying applicable standards.

Moral values according to Lickona include several types, including, trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship. These values are essential for shaping one's character and promoting ethical behavior. These values include:

1. Trustworthiness

According to Lickona (2004) trustworthiness is when others trust us, they give us greater leeway because they feel we don't need monitoring to assure that we'll meet our obligations. They believe in us and hold us in higher esteem. That's satisfying. At the same time, we must constantly live up to the expectations of others and refrain from even small lies or self-serving behavior that can quickly destroy our relationships. Simply refraining from deception is not enough. Trustworthiness is the most complicated of the six core ethical values and concerns a variety of qualities like honesty, integrity, reliability and loyalty.

2. Respect

We have a responsibility to be the best we can be in all situations, even when dealing with unpleasant people. According to Lickona (2004) respect is do unto others as you would have them do unto you. Respect prohibits violence, humiliation, manipulation and exploitation. It reflects notions such as civility, courtesy, decency, dignity, autonomy, tolerance and acceptance.

3. Responsibility

According to Lickona (2004) responsibility is being responsible means being in charge of our choices and, thus, our lives. It means being accountable for what we do and who we are. It also means recognizing that our actions matter and we are morally on the hook for the consequences. Our capacity to reason and our freedom to choose make us morally autonomous and, therefore, answerable for whether we honor or degrade the ethical principles that give life meaning and purpose. Ethical people show responsibility by being accountable, pursuing excellence and exercising self-restraint. They exhibit the ability to respond to expectations.

4. Fairness

According to Lickona (2004) fairness is another tricky concept, probably more subject to legitimate debate and interpretation than any other ethical value. Disagreeing parties tend to maintain that there is only one fair position (their own, naturally). But essentially fairness implies adherence to a balanced standard of justice without relevance to one's own feelings or inclinations. This moral value involves treating others impartially, without favoritism or bias.

5. Caring

According to Lickona (2004) caring is the heart of ethics, and ethical decision-making. It is scarcely possible to be truly ethical and yet unconcerned with the welfare of others. That is because ethics is ultimately about good relations with other people. It is easier to love "humanity" than to love people. People who consider themselves ethical and yet lack a caring attitude toward individuals tend to treat others as instruments of their will. They rarely feel an obligation to be honest, loyal, fair or respectful except insofar as it is prudent for them to do so, a disposition which itself hints at duplicity and a lack of integrity. A person who really cares feels an emotional response to both the pain and pleasure of others.

6. Citizenship

According to Lickona (2004) states that citizenship emphasizes active participation in the community, adherence to laws, respect for authority, environmental stewardship, and a commitment to the common good through service and cooperation. Citizenship includes civic virtues and duties that prescribe how we ought to behave as part of a community. The good citizen knows the laws and obeys them.

III. RESEARCH METHOD

This research uses a qualitative descriptive method to collect data, classify, analyze, and draw conclusions. According to Sugiyono (2020, p. 15), the descriptive method is used to describe or analyze research results but is not used to make broader conclusions. In other words, descriptive research is conducted to understand the value of independent variables, whether one or more (independent), without making comparisons or connecting them with other variables.

According to (Punch, 2005, p. 29), qualitative research does not use numerical data. It also stated that the questions and research methods are more general at the beginning and become more focused as the research progresses. Descriptive qualitative research does not use numerical data in analyzing data, and its results are descriptive in nature. The data presented comes from various sources, such as reading books and analyzing the mood in “The Call of the Wild.” The results are presented in the form of sentences rather than in numerical form.

IV. FINDINGS

The results of the data analysis were obtained from the process of analyzing the mood types and moral values found in the dialogues of The Call of the Wild, analyzed according to the theories presented. The data was analyzed and categorized based on the classified mood types and the moral values expressed. Three basic types of mood were analyzed: Declarative, Imperative, and Interrogative.

Based on the data obtained from the dialogue analysis, it is observed that the Declarative mood type has the highest count, with a total of 92 occurrences, compared to Imperative with 20 occurrences and Interrogative with 17 occurrences. The overall total for these three types of

An Analysis of Mood and Moral Values in the Novel “The Call of the Wild”

mood in the dialogues is 129. To provide a clearer picture, the researcher has also included a percentage chart in the form of a pie chart. The Declarative mood refers to statements that convey information or describe a situation in the dialogue. The Imperative mood involves commands or requests, reflecting actions the speaker wants to enforce. Meanwhile, the Interrogative mood focuses on questions, indicating inquiry or requests for information within the conversation. This analysis highlights that declarative mood plays a significant role in the overall mood of dialogue meaning.

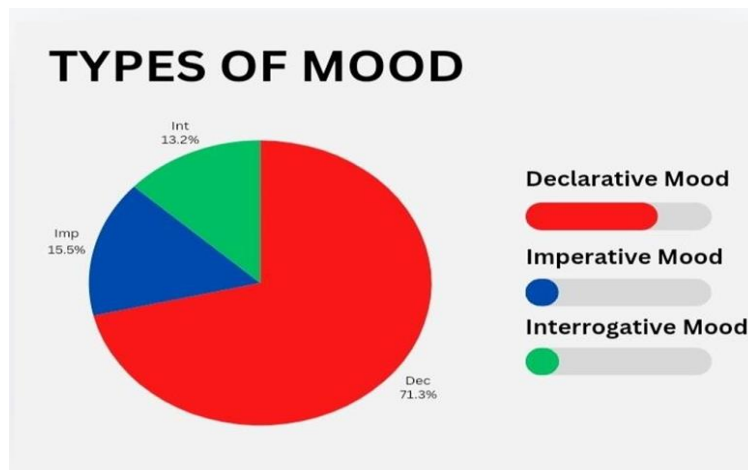


Figure 2. Pie Chart of Mood Types

This study aims to answer the third research question, “What are the moral values contained in the ‘The Call of the Wild’ dialogue” By focusing on the dialogues, the researcher collected data to analyze how these moral values are represented based on Lickona’s (2004) theory.

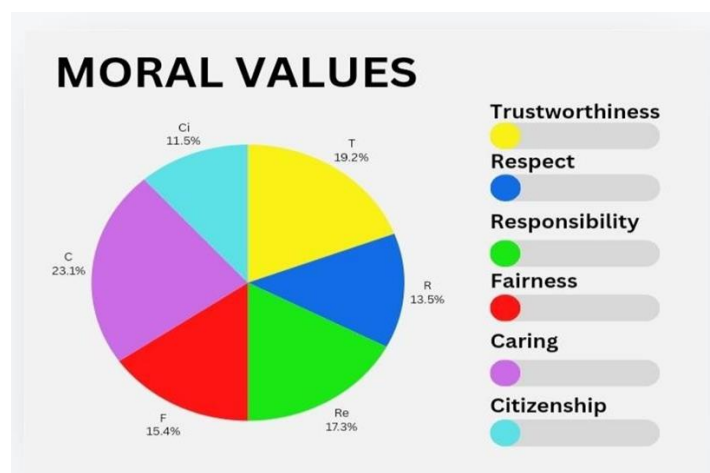


Figure 3. Pie Chart of Moral Values

V. DISCUSSION

The findings above show that many mood types are found in selected dialogues of Jack London's novel *The Call of the Wild*, and it can be seen that the novel uses types of mood proposed by Halliday (1994) to make the narrative more engaging and dynamic. From findings provided in the previous subsection, the researcher has found 129 instances of mood types used in *The Call of the Wild*, with declarative mood having a total of 92 statements, imperative mood with a total of 20 commands, and interrogative mood with a total of 17 questions. The writer has found that the most dominant mood type is declarative mood with a total of 92 statements. Meanwhile, the least type of mood used is interrogative mood.

After that, the writer has found the keywords to identify mood types in the dialogues of *The Call of the Wild*. Declarative mood can be identified by observing statements or information conveyed. If the clause presents facts or descriptions, it tends to be declarative. Imperative mood can be identified by instructions, requests, or demands directed at other characters. If the phrase commands or directs actions, it often represents the imperative. Interrogative mood can be identified by the presence of questions, aiming to seek information or clarify a situation. If the sentence is structured as a question, it represents the interrogative mood.

From findings provided in the previous subsection, it can be proven that moral values can also be found in a novel. A good novel has good moral values that can be taken and applied in everyday life. We can take the good moral values that are in *The Call of the Wild* or other books that we have read before. Besides that, it is necessary to understand the meaning of the dialogue itself, as the use of different moods helps us become more aware of the message conveyed by the author. In his work, Jack London uses mood types to describe the relationships between humans and animals, and emphasizes the need for resilience, fairness, and empathy in harsh environments. London combines vivid descriptions, strong emotional undertones, and complex character interactions. The variety of moods is used to convey values like trust, responsibility, and courage. In London's view, resilience is an essential trait that all beings must develop to thrive in challenging situations, as seen in the determined struggles of Buck, the protagonist.

In addition, London depicts survival and companionship in the wilderness, using mood types to express complex themes of loyalty, sacrifice, and community. This variety of moods in *The Call of the Wild* not only makes the dialogue engaging but also helps in expressing moral lessons and reflections on survival, responsibility, and loyalty. Thus, mood types in London's writing not only make it dynamic and impactful, but also help in conveying profound moral values that resonate with readers.

VI. CONCLUSION

This study was conducted with the purpose of determining the types of mood contained in *The Call of the Wild* by Jack London using the theory of mood types proposed by Halliday (1994) and the moral values present in the novel analyzed using Lickona's theory (2004). Based on the findings, declarative mood appears as the most frequently used mood type in the text, while interrogative mood is the least used. This study also analyzed the meaning conveyed through the

An Analysis of Mood and Moral Values in the Novel “The Call of the Wild”

use of mood types, allowing the researcher to gain a deeper understanding of the interactions and relationships between characters, as well as the author’s intended messages. By identifying these moods, the researcher concluded that the novel holds rich and inspiring moral messages. *The Call of the Wild* serves as a compelling narrative that offers readers lessons on resilience, trust, and courage. From the moral values previously described, it is evident that this novel provides insights into how to navigate challenging environments with integrity, compassion, and resilience. The story emphasizes the importance of loyalty and courage as foundational values and encourages individuals to recognize the strength found in unity and interdependence. This perspective promotes an understanding of survival not only as a physical endeavor but as a deeply moral journey. The narrative also advocates for inner strength, self-awareness, and the courage to face adversity. Understanding one’s role and purpose within a community fosters both moral growth and a sense of belonging. Acts of loyalty, courage, and compassion are central to creating a fulfilling life.

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An Analysis of Mood and Moral Values in the Novel
"The Call of the Wild"

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