



# The Value of Education in Teenlit for Language Learning

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**Abstract.** Literary works have a strategic role in shaping the character of students through the content of educational values. Teen stories (teenlit) always present a typical story in line with the development of the reader's age. The values of education are closely related to the value of fighting, the value of togetherness, the value of compassion, etc. The values contained in teenlit can be utilized in language learning. The focus of this research is to reveal the content of educational values in teenlit and strategies for using teenlit through language learning. The research design is qualitative by using library research. The data are in the form of scientific articles, books, and similar research related to the value of education, youth research, and their relevance to language learning. The results of the study in the form of educational values in teenlit include romance, friendship, lifestyle, fighting spirit, togetherness, and independence. Strategies for using teenlit through language learning can be done by; 1) creative language teachers, 2) strengthening student literacy, 3) means of expression for students, and creative media for learning literature.

**Keywords:** Educational Value · Youth Stories · Language Learning

## 1 Introduction

Over time, literary works have developed in terms of form, content, and readership segments. Existing developments certainly cannot be separated from the more creative a person is in creating his literary creations. Despite the changes, what is more urgent is how the content of educational values in literary works is not forgotten. The strategic role of literature through learning requires a stimulus or touch so that readers, especially students, can be more interested in presenting works that suit student needs. One of the works of fiction literature that is increasingly popular is the story of teenagers or often referred to as teenlit.

Youth literature or teenlit is often interpreted as a literary work of fiction that contains a lot of adolescent life from the social view of society. The emergence of teenlit gives its own color for readers. The readings are light and easy to understand as is the case in everyday life such as friendship, affection, and other aspects of the development of a teenager [18]. Variations in literary works certainly do not reduce its core substance, namely trying to convey meaning, messages, advice in it to be used as role models

and guidelines for life. The value of education in teenlit is certainly in line with the situations and conditions experienced by today's youth such as affection, fighting spirit, togetherness, independence, etc.

Teenlit has its own space and world, ranging from story fans, readers, to the world of printing and publishing. Teenlit triggers the emergence of creative young writers and varied and energetic creative trends. The targeted segment is teenage readers, whose distinctive character with light and interesting language triggers teenagers to fall in love. The content of the themes in it is also interesting, ranging from friendship, lifestyle, romance, even juvenile delinquency, which are the distinctive colors of teenlit works [3]. Values in literature have benefits for connoisseurs of work. Contents regarding views of life, guidelines and social institutions have use values and guide them in wise behavior [1]. Educational values have functions including: 1) moral values, 2) social values, 3) cultural values.

The role of language and literature learning is closely related to the cultivation of local wisdom for readers, especially students. Character education is an important aspect that needs serious attention. Local wisdom has a positive impact on character building. Strong local values can be used as national identity and identity. Its uniqueness and distinctiveness have a positive value in the global scope. The values of local wisdom are part of the source of inspiration, innovation in enriching the values of life [5].

The inculcation of character education values can be done by analyzing literature. Through character depiction, the character's behavior in the context and situation in the story can be taken from the value of character education [12]. Character education and its values grow in three important mediums including the social environment, family and school [4]. Teenlit as part of the color in literature, needs to be used as a medium to grow the creativity of writers as well as to attract readers. None other than, through learning, teenlit literature can develop and even become a source of inspiration, innovation, creation, and identity reinforcement for students at school. The focus in this article is: 1) the content of educational values in teenlit.

## 2 Method

The research approach used is qualitative through the library study method. Qualitative research is contextual-based research by providing an in-depth understanding of the setting, people, and processes. This is very useful when using an exploratory approach [15]. Literature study was conducted in order to reveal various novelties of information through various research media. Data obtained from scientific articles, books, and similar research related to the value of education, teenlit, and its relevance to language learning. The validity of the data used is theoretical triangulation by comparing various references to check the degree of validity of the findings to find new information.

## 3 Results

### 3.1 Content of Educational Value in Teenlit

Teenlit Esther Priscilla's work entitled *Love Me Marry Me* depicts the pleasures of a teenage girl including; 1) dancing, 2) cooking, 3) shopping, 4) picnic.

Revan unpacked his backpack. He took out a mat and spread it out on the grass. “It must be fun having a picnic here,” he said as he sat down on his mat.

The existing situation illustrates the effort of a man (Revan) in creating a romantic atmosphere and making Livi happy by seeing the existing situation [11]. The existence of good treatment from men to women shows an attitude of responsibility. The value of responsibility is a full awareness of his obligations in being accountable for what has been done to God, oneself, family, and society [10].

Literature is the author’s vehicle in conveying positive values to the reader. The series of ideas, the imaginative nature in literature does not contain the truth values in life. The values that exist give a message to the reader to be able to take lessons in a story [14]. Some values that are closely related to teenlit include: 1) Creative value is a way of thinking and there are innovative activities in producing, creating something to make benefits [10], 2) The value of religious education has the aim of directing humans towards something better. Well in accordance with their religion. Likewise, the aspect of morality in literary works which is a person’s ability to sort out good and bad [17].

Literature has a role in conveying educational values. The existing values are studied, explored, and interpreted by literary connoisseurs who can eventually mature them. Past ideas and ideas can be used as life lessons in achieving a better future life [14]. Educational values in literary works can also contain environmental education that makes humans more sensitive in dealing with various problems of nature conservation [7].

### **3.2 Strategies for Using Teenlit Through Language Learning**

The use of teenlit in language learning requires support in achieving its main goal. Here are some strategies and utilization of teenlit through language learning.

#### **3.2.1 Creative Language Teacher**

Education is an absolute human need that must be met so that it can help humans achieve prosperity in line with their views and ideals of life [17]. Educators have an urgent role in dealing with changing times and the current millennial generation, innovation and rapid adaptation are needed [13]. Likewise, language teachers, require creativity so that students do not get bored in learning the language. Learning a language must be fun, there is no pressure or coercion because it can have a bad impact on the psychology of students.

The existence of the teenlit phenomenon makes it possible for anyone to enjoy writing, including beginners. This type of prose fiction is dominated by young women, none other than beginners [18]. Teenlit provides an opportunity for novice writers to be creative without limits through the guidance and guidance of the teacher. Provide opportunities for students by providing a stimulus in the form of things they like so they can be creative in writing according to their experience and meaning. Teachers can do this with various writing strategies; literary workshop, collaborative writing, and quantum learning.

### 3.2.2 Strengthening Student Literacy

The literacy movement in various lines must be socialized. School, campus, regional, and even national literacy movements through national libraries, regional libraries, campus libraries, village libraries, schools and innovations from literacy volunteers contribute to helping shape human resources with character and excellence [13]. The current era requires new literacy skills, especially in language learning and integrating it with today's technology. Contextual-based language learning is oriented towards understanding language and its functions [6].

The era of the industrial revolution made the trigger in improving the quality of education in various countries. The current generation must be more competent, superior, and competitive and agile in solving various increasingly complex problems [9]. Language and literature learning can contribute to strengthening student literacy, one of which is through teenlit. Its unique nature can provide pleasure to students in carrying out reading activities with full meaning. The content is in accordance with the needs of teenagers, making teenlit attractive for students at the junior-high school level, both in terms of reading and writing.

### 3.2.3 Means of Expression for Students

The positive impacts of teenlit include shifting the paradigm that writing is something complicated. In fact, some teenlit starts from diaries. The author can motivate anyone to follow and start following their success [18]. Paradigm of writing as something that is difficult little by little unraveled by the existence of a teenage story model. The variety of stories that many students make is no longer limited to certain themes that are sometimes not liked. Themes such as affection (first love), adventure, togetherness with friends make students' expressions more open. The "theme" space or partition that is often determined at the beginning makes students not interested in writing.

Language and literature are cultural aspects that contain social values, diversity that deserves to be explored as cultural strengthening [5] Teenlit provides space for students to express linguistic aspects according to their understanding and mastery of vocabulary. The resulting language variation may not only be in one language, it can be two, three, or certain language variants are included in teenlit's work. This freedom of expression can certainly bring a breath of fresh air to novice writers who want to start their writings through small notes of impressive life experiences. The values in the story will emerge naturally according to what they observe from various social experiences.

### 3.2.4 Literary Learning Creative Media

Teenlit can be used as a medium for learning literature. Contextual approaches are assessed in harmony with the characteristics of students [18]. Ideal learning is defined as an effort to grow spirituality and intellectuality in students to always learn. Learning efforts are made to reconstruct knowledge, train thinking skills, and solve problems [8]. Independent values are obtained from various means and efforts as well as their responsibilities in completing tasks [10]. Through writing activities, students can explore their abilities through ideas obtained from the surrounding environment. The ability

to think systematically can be trained through a fun writing process and consistent mentoring from the teacher.

Special attention is needed for teachers so that literature can be made a priority for educational media. Modernization can have a negative impact on behavior and reduce social sensitivity. Literature has a strategic role in warding off the moral decline of the academic community, especially students [16]. Literature is not enough to just be read but interpreted and summarized to get positive values in achieving life goals. Through literary media and positive literacy, students are also expected to grow a sense of empathy and sympathy for others so that they can live usefully in society.

## 4 Conclusion

Literary works, especially teenlit, have their own peculiarities in terms of language and variety of stories. Creative values, values of religious education, values of togetherness, values of compassion, values of struggle dominate the teenlit themes. The strategy of using teenlit through language learning can be done by 1) becoming a creative language teacher, 2) strengthening student literacy, 3) means of expression for students, 4) creative media for learning literature.

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