

# Emotional Intelligence of Main Children in the *Di Tanah Lada* Novel

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**Abstract**-A person's ability to control emotions and regulate the state of the soul is included in the form of emotional intelligence. The purpose of this study was to describe the emotional intelligence that exists in the child's main character in the novel *Di Tanah Lada*. This research used a descriptive qualitative approach. The theoretical approach used is emotional intelligence with the object of novel study *Di Tanah Lada*. The results showed (1) the main character of the child in this novel has the five aspects of emotional intelligence. (2) The main character of the child in this novel has a low level of emotional management, but has the ability to recognize the emotions of others or empathy is high. (3) The emotional aspect of the child's main character in this novel is largely influenced by the harsh treatment received from her father and the good advice of her mother and grandfather.

**Keywords**-emotional intelligence; child's main character; novel; literary psychology.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Literature is used by many to represent the things that happen in the real world. An author usually takes realistic events in people's lives as well as individuals, cultivates them according to his purpose, then writes them in the form of fictitious stories. Literature can also be used as the most powerful method to touch human conscience. If the lecture and advice method will usually get a direct fight, literature does not patronize its readers.

Like other authors, Ziggy Zesyazeoviennazabriezkie (hereafter abbreviated Ziggy Z) also represents the things that are happening around in the form of literary works. The second winner of the Jakarta Arts Council Contest 2014 wrote a story of violence against a child named Salva in a novel titled *Di Tanah Lada*. The reason the author chose this novel to be studied because the story is told from the perspective of the first person, from the understanding of 6-year-old child. If the story is narrated from a third person's point of view, then this novel will be the same as other novels. This uniqueness is what causes the writer to choose the novel.

There have been studies of violence experienced by child characters in fictional works. As research conducted by Adeline Grace M. Litaay and Linusia Marsih (2016) discussed child abuse in novels *A Child Called It* and *The Lost Boy*. The study showed that the child's character in the novel *A Child Called It* and *The Lost Boy*, experienced a form of physical, psychological abuse and neglect by his biological mother. Giu Dkk. (2009), made a study with about the semiotics of violence against children in the film *Ekskul*. In the research they say that the form of violence in this film is expressed in words verbal, symbolic, too sexual. In general, violence will affect the physical and psychological of children. However, it is not known how the emotional intelligence aspect of the child as the rough treatment received.

Research on the emotional intelligence of children's character has also been done. Kurniawan (2015) examines the emotional intelligence of the main character in the novel *Ranggamorfosa: Sang Penakluk Istana*. The results of this study concluded that the main character has more than one ability, emotional intelligence and emotional intelligence is largely influenced by the character and personality of the character concerned. Jiwandono's research (2014) on the representation of emotional intelligence and multiple intelligences of the child's main character in the novel *Totto-chan Little Girl in the Window* by Tetsuko concluded that the main character of the children showed a positive development on the aspects of emotional intelligence, children's characters in the novel shows and unique and distinctive compound intelligence composition.

Research on Methods of developing children's emotional intelligence (Elena Liliana Danciu, 2010) concludes that emotional intelligence is a product of two main factors, namely personal and social competence. Research *The Role of the Emotional Intelligence in Kindergarden Children's Development* (Adriana Mihaela Stoica, 2013) says that emotional intelligence is important in human relationships; individual development related to the environment he grew up; the same individual can tailor it to his own questions and needs. Research *The relation between the emotional intelligence of parents and Children* (Alina Turcule, Cristina Tulbureb, 2014) concludes that there is a direct correlation between the level of emotional development of children and parents. Primary School's Research *Children's Emotional Intelligence* (Elena

Rafaila, 2015) says that the development of emotional intelligence becomes an educational goal from the early childhood of children.

One's success cannot be measured from intellectual intelligence alone because emotional intelligence and spiritual intelligence also play an important role. A person's ability to manage emotions is seen as an aspect of personality that has a major impact on the success of life. Emotional intelligence is one's ability to motivate him and the ability to deal with frustration; controlling impulse and not exaggerating pleasure; regulate mood and keep stress loads from the crippling thinking ability; empathize and pray (Goleman, 1996). Emotional intelligence is not the same thing as giving freedom to feelings to control the soul and mind. Emotional intelligence is a person's way of managing feelings as best as possible in order to be expressed appropriately and effectively without hurting oneself or others.

The element in emotional intelligence (Goleman, 1996) includes five key aspects. First, the ability to recognize the emotions of the self, with indicators (a) recognize and feel their own emotions and (b) be able to understand the cause of feelings that arise. Second, the ability to manage emotions, with indicators (a) higher tolerance for frustration and anger management; (b) able to express anger appropriately; and (c) positive feelings about oneself. The third aspect is self-motivating ability, with indicators (a) responsible; (b) focus on the given task; and (c) self-control. Fourth, the ability to empathize or be able to recognize the emotions of others has indicators (a) can understand other people's point of view; (b) sensitivity to the feelings of others; and (c) the ability to listen to the opinions of others. Finally, the ability to foster relationships, with indicators (a) able to analyze and understand relationships; (c) communicating, sharing, feeling, cooperating, and helpful; and (d) thinks more about social interests.

From the description above, it is known no one has examined the emotional intelligence of the main character of children who experienced physical violence. Based on the reason that this research is done is to describe the emotional intelligence of the main character of children who experience physical violence in the novel *Di Tanah Lada* by Ziggy Z in terms of recognizing emotions themselves, manage their own emotions, motivate yourself, recognize the emotions of others, and foster social relationships.

## II. METHODS

The methods in this study used a descriptive qualitative method, which described the research data presented in the form of sentence quotations in the unit of the appropriate story of research purposes. Sources of research data are a novel *Di Tanah Lada* by Ziggy Z. The data of this study are sentence quotations in units of stories that contain elements of emotional intelligence. The steps of data analysis include: (1) critical reading of novel *Di Tanah Lada*, (2) collecting data, (3) presenting data, (4) reducing data, (5) interpreting data, and last (6) make a conclusion.

## III. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

In this section will be discussed the results of research "Aspects of Emotional Intelligence of Children's Main People in Novel *Di Tanah Lada* by Ziggy Z". Exposure includes: (1) the ability to recognize emotions, (2) the ability to manage emotions, (3) the ability to motivate oneself, (4) the ability to recognize the emotions of others, and (5) the ability to build relationships.

### **The Ability to Recognize Yourself Emotions**

The ability to recognize self-emotion has two key indicators, namely (a) being able to recognize and feel their own emotions, and (b) being able to understand the cause or reason for the emergence of feelings.

In this novel the character of Salva is depicted a 6-year-old girl who is still innocent and plain but clever. However, Salva often receives harsh treatment from her father, such as physical and verbal abuse. For this reason Salva was very afraid and hated her father. The ability to recognize the emotions of yourself against the figure is illustrated in the following quotation:

- (1) *So I turned off the lights. Once again, being in the dark. I'm not afraid of the darkness. But I'm afraid of ghosts and Papa. I hope they do not show up in my room tonight.* (DTL/pp 9).

In part (1) Salva described the feeling when sleeping alone. She knew that she was afraid, but not because of darkness, but the figure of Papa. She recognizes the emotion of fear in himself, and the cause of the fearful emotion itself. The ability to recognize this self-emotion is also illustrated in the following quotation:

- (2) *I stopped trying to eat because shame was not able to eat alone. During this time I'm usually fed by Mama.* (DTL/Hlm 21).

In part (2) it is described that Salva can not eat alone. Since no Mama can help, she tries to eat herself but fails. There was a boy who watched her eat making her embarrassed. This is in line with the opinion of Prawitasari (1995) that emotions are motivators that can interfere with the intentional behavior of humans. The character of Salva understands why she chooses to stop eating, which is assumed to be stared at by others for not being able to eat. She was aware of the emotion so that the action he did was stop eating.

- (3) *I leave my bed, walk around, watch television. At home, I was always careful if I wanted to watch television. You see, Papa can come in and get angry if I 'make expensive electricity'. So, I'm a little scared every time I watch television. (DTL/pp 93).*

In part (3) it is described that Salva is terrified of watching because she is often scolded by her father if caught watching television. According to Shapiro (1988) emotional intelligence involves the ability to judge others, sorting through everything that happens, and using that information to guide thoughts and actions. This opinion is strongly reflected in Salva's behavior to be careful when doing something for fear of angry Papa.

### **Ability to Manage Emotions**

This ability has indicators: (a) higher tolerance for frustration and management of anger, (b) expressing anger correctly, (c) positive feelings about oneself.

- (4) *When I get my food, I start to feel sad. I do not really understand what's going on and why, but I think we'll stay in the tower. And though I do not mind, it seems like Mama is not happy. Because Mama screamed. (DTL/19).*
- (5) *Again, I knocked on the door. "Mama?"  
Still no answer. I'm so sad. Maybe Mama left and forgot about me. Maybe Papa took Mama away. Maybe both go back to our original house and not take me along. And I have to stay here, alone. And there is no lock. I'm going to live in a corridor full of cockroaches. (DTL/28).*

In part (4) the character of Salva is saddened by not being able to understand what happened. She tried to guess, but his thoughts were shrouded in bad things or possibilities. This is also seen in section (5) when Salva feels himself abandoned by her parents and left to live alone in the towers. She has no positive feelings about himself, has no good presumptions. She felt she was a nobody to her parents, and put himself at the worst possible.

A person who knows what is felt and uses it to guide self-making, will have a realistic benchmark of strong self-esteem and self-confidence. The higher the self-awareness, the more intelligent in dealing with negative self-behavior (Goleman in Mar'at, 2009). Salva's character can not manage the emotions he feels so that it impacts decisions and negative thoughts about himself.

- (6) *I pushed the 'Singer Boy' because I was angry. He's silent now. But he did not repay me. Since I'm still angry, I hit him again. He held my hand and kept walking with me. I beat her with one hand, till I got tired and forgot why I hit her. (DTL/38).*
- (7) *He looks anxious, at the same time relieved. Mama smiled a little. He reached out to hug me, but I stepped back and immediately cried again.  
"I wet my bed, Ma," I sobbed slowly. "Sorry. Tell Dad not to be angry with me. "(DTL/50).*

According to Goleman (1996) emotions that increase and cannot be managed properly will disrupt the stability of human beings, so humans become irritable and cause feelings of distress to make people act out of control. This is what happened to the character of Salva.

In section (6) it appears that Salva has no high tolerance for the opinions of others. Salva was angry at the comment given 'The Singing Boy' then resisted by hitting as a form of angry outlet. He is also unable to express anger in the right way. The same is also seen in part (7) that Salva has no positive energy in her so that she cries only because she wet the bed. That's because she was afraid of being scolded and beaten if caught by her father.

### **Self Motivating Ability**

Components of self-motivation is encouragement to be better; readiness to take advantage of opportunities; enthusiasm, passion, and confidence; as well as persistence in fighting for failure and obstacles to achievement. Indicators of self-motivating ability are (a) responsible, (b) focus on the tasks assigned, and (c) self-control.

- (8) *She looks really sad. So, I said that I'm not upset about having to sleep in the bathroom. I have fallen asleep before the fight between Mom and Dad was over. And I did lock the bathroom from the inside. So, I can not blame Mama. (DTL/P 51).*
- (9) *"Hello," I say, over the phone.  
"Hello," she replied. "Where are you?"  
"Do not know," I say quietly. I wiped my eyes. "On the bed. Hey, you're right. I got a new mattress today. "  
"You're not in the flat, are you?"  
"Looks like..." I paused. I remember if I promised to learn to say 'no'. "I do not think so."  
"Can not play dong, today."  
It makes me unhappy. I started looking for Mama. She must be in this room too. But Mama is not there. Maybe he was in the bathroom. "I'll ask Mom, we can play or not today. I'll tell you later. "(DTL/p 76).*

Salovey in Uno (2006) says that self-motivation is the ability to organize emotions as a means to attain the purpose of giving attention, to self-motivation and self-control, and to be creative. In part (8) the character of Salva appears to be responsible for her actions and does not blame her mother. Because she locked the door, her mama could not go in to help her so she had to sleep in the bathroom until morning. Salva also kept his promise (9) to say 'no' and eliminate the word 'no' which he has been using.

- (10) *Actually, I know I'm wrong. I should stay in my room and not go anywhere without speaking directly to Mama. But, I really want play to Flat Nero. Not that I like that place, but Pepper will go there, and I love playing with Pepper. Because he's the only one I can play with. (DTL/pp. 99).*
- (11) *Then, I thought about my mama. I took my cell phone, but nothing. Mama no longer contact me. Perhaps, Mama is angry because I fled haphazardly. I was terrified that Mama was angry. If Mama is angry, Mama might hate me. I do not want to be hated Mama. (DTL/pp 204).*

In part (10) Salva is unable to control herself. She chose to escape from his mama just to be able to play with her friend. In part (11) Salva also cannot control herself when knowing her mama did not call her, and instead cry instead of asking or finding out first. This is in line with the opinion of Dirman and Juarsih (2014) which states that emotion is a dominant factor that affects behavior. Salva's actions are based on unhappy emotions at the hotel and want to play with a character P so she chooses to escape. She also cried when her mama did not call because her negative emotions affected her.

### **The Ability to Recognize the Emotions of Others**

Empathy is the most basic social skill. If one is open to one's own emotions, it is certain that he will be skilled at reading other people's feelings. The ability to recognize the emotions of others includes (a) being able to accept another's viewpoint and (b) being sensitive to the feelings of others.

- (12) *Mama can not be a monster because she is not strong. He also does not like to be angry. Mama likes to smile, but her smile always looks sad. Unless he's gardening. But he'll look sad again because Papa will call him from the inside and tell him to stop 'doing stupid'. (DTL/P3).*
- (13) *"When Grandpa Kia died, she left a lot of money. He entrusted to the man so that if he died, the man gave his money to Papa. That's why Papa gets rich. "  
I nodded because I understood. "Then why is Mama sad? Mama hates money?"  
Mama laughed a little. "Not dear. But Mama is sad that Papa will not use the money properly. "  
"Oh, yes? How to use the money properly?"  
"Hmm." Mom thought for a moment. "First of all, it should always help the parents when they are alive. Isma's grandmother was alive, but Papa never gave money to Isma's grandmother."*

*"So I have to give money to Mama and Papa?"*

*"No, that's not it. But if you're so old, and you cannot work anymore, you better help Mama. Because, if without your help, Mama will not be able to eat. But if you still have money, you do not have to bother. "(DTL/p. 7).*

In part (12) the character of Salva is sensitive to the feelings of his happy mom when gardening and sadness when her father starts to curse with a fool. This is because Salva has often seen, compare and digest what kind of mama's condition if sad, and what if happy. The same is true of (13) that Salva accepts the others' point of view and hears it well. Salva who is 6 years old always wants to know many things. Therefore, she tends to listen to other people talk and examine himself, even participate input empathy.

This is in line with the opinion of Nowicki (in Goleman, 1996) that someone who is able to read the emotions of others will have high self-stability. The more able to be open to the emotions of the self, the more able to recognize and acknowledge their own emotions, the more able to read the feelings of others.

(14) *"Why cannot you come into the room when you have your Dad?"*

*"You see, she'll get angry."*

*"Why? Are you nosy? "*

*The Son of "Pengamen" shook his head. "No. Papa is pissed off just looking at me. "*

*I nod, because I understand. Papa is also annoyed when he sees me. In fact, sometimes I do not do anything. (DTL/Hlm 39)*

(15) *Pepper is silent. He watched the penguins in my arms. Then he sat down beside me. "His name is Penguin wrote," he said. "Period", not given a name. He pauses for a while, then adds this: "I'm also not given a name. Called him so hard, right? You call different, Suri call different. Papa calling different.. "*

*I rubbed his hands sadly. I never realized that the name made Pepper sad too. (DTL/pp 109).*

The character of Salva is very sensitive to the feelings of others. She knows what it feels like to be hurt and happy. If you see other people experiencing it, she also felt it. This is seen in section (14) when Pepper is sad, she feels sad to know it feels hated. At (15) Salva empathized when Pepper was sad for not having a name so Salva rubbed her friend's shoulders, giving strength and awareness that the person was not alone.

### **Ability to Build Social Relations**

Social ability allows a person to connect, motivate and inspire, convince and influence the mindset of others, and make people feel comfortable and calm. The ability to foster relationships has indicators (a) communicating, sharing, feeling, cooperating, and helpful; and (b) are more concerned about common interests.

(16) *So I took my backpack and Pepper guitar, and I jumped out of the cardboard room. I ran into Pepper and the Gorilla Hand while shouting 'AAAAA!!!', so that, if people hear, they'll know I'm in trouble.*

*The Gorilla Hand was holding Pepper's arm. He turned as I shouted ('AAAA!!!). I waved Pepper guitar. The guitar crashed into his forehead. Or maybe his eyes. I do not care. But he screamed and let Pepper go. I pulled Pepper's hand and ran out of the room, with the Gorilla Hand's voice howling angrily behind us. (DTL/pp 132).*

(17) *"We have to go to the hospital," said Suri. "Brother calls a cab now. Brother wants to change clothes first.*

*Later, we go to the hospital together, huh? Ava, you take Prince to the bathroom. To wash his arms with water. In the bathroom there is a hose. You used the hose, huh? Put it on the tap, can you? "*

*I nodded and took Pepper to the bathroom. He was silent, holding his arm carefully while I watered him. The wound looked very ill. (DTL/Hlm 135).*

According to Goleman (1996) addressing important emotions when dealing with others. This socializing skill is important for influencing people's views of leading a group, discussing and solving problems, and is useful for teamwork. This is seen in section (16) Salva helps Pepper to be free from torture. Salva ventured out of hiding and hit the man with the guitar. Salva also took her friend away to safety. Salva helps a good person and loves her. In section (17) Salva also still helps treat Pepper's wound. She communicates well with Suri and wants to cooperate. This is seen when Suri orders her to do something.



- (18) *Finally, Pepper nodded. "But, then, we have to find the bike with the back seat. I know the place. But not tomorrow morning. Tonight, I'm looking for a place to sell HP first. Tomorrow, we go to the bike sale place..."*  
*"I want to sell HP, too," I said. I put my cell phone on the table. "You see, you cannot use your money. I went to."*  
*Pepper nodded. "But we need your Mom's phone. You still want to meet your Mama. So, you sell this HP, just buy a cheap HP, huh? "*  
*"Okay."*  
*"After that, we go to the bike selling place. Then we go to the bus station." I nodded. (DTL/P150).*
- (19) *"Leave it in two hours," Pepper said. "If you want to take a bath, I'm looking for the place."*  
*"Want to," I said. "But there's no change of clothes."*  
*"It is okay. Put on that one. "*  
*"Underwear, how? Mama says you have to change every day. "*  
*"Do not know," Want to find a place to sell? "*  
*I did not say anything. Looks like I'm very troublesome to Pepper. He's rowed his bike up here, sold his cell phone, guarded me from police threats, and took me away from Papa. While I'm not helping anything. The job asked for this and it went on. (DTL/177-178).*

According to Mar'at (2009) that to build a harmonious social relationship, must be considered identity and communication skills. So, social skills are the art of influencing others. In part (18) Salva is not selfish. She was unselfish, thinking about Pepper's interests, so she also suggested selling her cell phone. Salva is able to share difficulties with others. In part (19) Salva also does not want to trouble Pepper, more concerned with others than her will. She did not want to be a burden so her relationship and communication with Pepper went well, and did not quarrel.

#### IV. SUMMARY

From the findings, it can be seen that the five aspects of emotional intelligence are owned by the main character of the children in a novel *Di Tanah Lada* by Ziggy Z. However, after the discussion, it is seen that of the five aspects, the character of Salva has a low level of emotional management, recognize other people's emotions or high empathy. Meanwhile, other aspects such as recognizing self-emotion, self-motivation and fostering social relations are at a moderate level.

The character of Salva is able to recognize her own emotions, but is unable to manage them properly. This is because Salva often harbored her own feelings for imitating her mama who had such traits, but like her rough dad, she was not able to manage those emotions well. The character of Salva is very capable of recognizing other people's emotions or empathizing. This is because Salva is often treated physically and verbally by her father, so she knows how it hurts. Thanks to the goodness of her mother and the advice of her grandfather that she always remembered, Salva always tried to be a good person and help others. This made Salva often feel sorry and pity when she saw others suffer the same fate as her. Salva tends to often entertain troubled people in her own way, such as entertaining with positive words, hugging and rubbing the person's shoulders. The character of Salva is occasionally able to motivate him, but sometimes not. The character of Salva only fosters social relationships with the people she loves, or the good people.

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