



The Values of Islamic Education Contained in the Biographical Novel Buya Hamka by Ahmad Fuadi

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Abstract

This research aims to identify and analyze the values of Islamic education contained in the novel Buya Hamka by Ahmad Fuadi, including the values of aqidah, worship and morals. This research uses a descriptive qualitative method with a content analysis approach to the content of the novel, supported by references to Islamic and educational literature. The research results show that this novel contains strong aqidah values, such as firmness of faith, trust, and belief in Allah SWT as the foundation of life. In the aspect of worship, this novel emphasizes the importance of prayer, fasting, almsgiving, and consistency in worship as a form of obedience to Allah. Meanwhile, in moral values, we find teachings about honesty, patience, compassion and social responsibility, which Buya Hamka applies in everyday life. These findings show that the novel Buya Hamka not only conveys a moral message, but also provides a practical example in the application of Islamic educational values. The implication of this research is that literary works such as the novel Buya Hamka can be used as effective learning media to instill Islamic educational values, both in the family, school and community environments. This novel is relevant to support the formation of a holistic and contextual Islamic character in the modern era.

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INTRODUCTION

Islamic education has an important role in forming human character who has faith, noble character and responsibility (Choli, 2019; Setiawan et al., 2023). The values of Islamic education can not only be found in formal institutions, but also in literary works that contain moral and spiritual messages (Nikmah, 2022). One of the literary works that is rich in these values is the biographical novel *Buya Hamka* by Ahmad Fuadi. This novel describes the life journey of Buya Hamka, a scholar, writer and educational figure, who is known for his dedication to the spread of Islamic teachings and the development of human morals.

Buya Hamka is not only known as a Muslim intellectual, but also as a figure who makes Islamic education the basis for building character and benefiting society (Zul, 2020). Through this biographical novel, Ahmad Fuadi not only presents an inspiring story, but also reveals various values of Islamic education that are relevant to modern life.

In the current era of globalization and digitalization, society, especially the younger generation, faces great challenges in maintaining and implementing spiritual and moral values (Rahma et al., 2024). The influence of popular culture, materialism, and technological advances which are not always accompanied by an adequate understanding of religion have caused a shift in Islamic values in everyday life. This phenomenon can be seen from the increasing cases of moral decadence, individualism, and weak awareness of social responsibility.

Apart from that, Islamic education in various formal institutions often still focuses on cognitive aspects without paying enough attention to the formation of character and noble morals (Prasetiya & Cholily, 2021). In fact, the essence of Islamic education is to form people who are not only intellectually intelligent, but also have faith, piety and noble character. In this context, a holistic approach is needed to instill the values of Islamic education in a way that is relevant, interesting and easy to understand by modern society.

One potential medium is literary works (Sofian et al., 2023), such as the novel *Buya Hamka* by Ahmad Fuadi. This novel not only presents the life story of a great scholar, but also describes Islamic values that can be an example, including strong *aqidah*, consistent practice of worship, and noble morals in personal and social life. With an inspiring narrative approach, this novel has great potential to become a medium for learning Islamic values, which are very much needed in facing the moral and spiritual challenges of today's society.

Therefore, a study of the values of Islamic education in the novel *Buya Hamka* is relevant and urgent to do. This study not only helps strengthen understanding of Islamic education, but also provides alternative learning media that are contextual and applicable in building an Islamic young generation amidst the challenges of modernity.

The urgency of this research lies in the potential of the *Buya Hamka* novel as an effective learning medium for instilling Islamic educational values, especially among the younger generation. With a narrative and inspirational approach, this novel is able to bridge the understanding of the values of *aqidah*, worship and morals in an applicable way. Apart from that, this study can strengthen Islamic education theories which are rooted in holistic principles - which integrate faith, science and charity, as stated by Al-Attas (2016) and Qardhawi (2010).

This article aims to examine the values of Islamic education reflected in the novel, such as faith, noble morals, enthusiasm for learning, and social responsibility. This study will also explore the relevance of these values in the context of education and current life, so that it can provide valuable insight for readers in applying Islamic values in everyday life.

METHODS

This research uses a descriptive qualitative method with a content analysis approach (Ahmad, 2018). This approach was chosen to explore and describe the values of Islamic education contained in the novel *Buya Hamka* by Ahmad Fuadi. The steps taken in this research are that the research object is the novel *Buya Hamka* by Ahmad Fuadi. This novel was chosen because it describes Buya Hamka's life journey which is rich in Islamic educational values and is relevant to the research topic. Data was collected through in-depth reading of the novel text. Every quote, dialogue, or event in the

novel that contains Islamic educational values is identified and recorded. This research is also supported by secondary literature, such as books, journal articles, and references about Islamic education, the concept of Islamic values, as well as Buya Hamka's biography to strengthen the analysis results.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

General description of the novel Buya Hamka by Ahmad Fuadi

The novel Buya Hamka by Ahmad Fuadi tells the life journey of a cleric, writer and Islamic education figure, Buya Hamka. This novel describes Buya Hamka's childhood, education and preaching journey which was full of challenges, from a young age to becoming a figure recognized by Indonesian society. Through his life story, Buya Hamka is known as a figure who fights for moral and religious values in every aspect of life, both in the world of education, literature and da'wah.

Apart from describing his life journey, this novel also highlights how Buya Hamka lives his life with great perseverance, patience and enthusiasm to always learn. Through this work, Ahmad Fuadi wants to inspire readers to take lessons from Buya Hamka's life, which does not only focus on religious knowledge, but also on the application of moral values in everyday life.

Buya Hamka was born into a family of prominent scholars. His father, Dr. Abdul Karim Amrullah (Haji Rasul), was an Islamic reformer in Minangkabau who was known as the main figure in the Islamic renewal movement in Indonesia. Since childhood, Hamka received a strict religious education, including studying the Koran, hadith and fiqh.

Since childhood, Hamka grew up in a religious family environment. His father had a big influence in forming his character and religious education. However, Hamka's relationship with his father is quite complex; On the one hand, his father was very strict in educating Hamka, while on the other hand, Hamka often felt he was under the shadow of his father's greatness. This was one of the challenges that shaped Hamka's spirit of independence from an early age.

At the age of 4, Hamka began learning to read the Koran under the guidance of his teacher in the village. When he was 7 years old, he entered the Maninjau Village School and then continued his religious education at Sumatra Thawalib, an Islamic school founded by his father. At this school, Hamka began to learn the basics of religious knowledge such as fiqh, tafsir, hadith and Arabic.

His formal education began at the Village School, but he studied more informally from various ulama figures in West Sumatra. At a young age, Hamka also studied with famous Islamic figures such as Ahmad Khatib Al-Minangkabawi in Mecca, where he deepened his religious knowledge for several months. Apart from religious education, Hamka is an autodidact who likes to read works of literature, history, philosophy and modern Islamic thought from various corners of the world, such as the works of Muhammad Abduh, Rasyid Ridha and Ibnu Taimiyah.

Biography of Ahmad Fuadi

Ahmad Fuadi is a writer, journalist and motivator from Minangkabau who is widely known for his phenomenal novel, "Negeri 5 Menara". Born on 30 December 1972 in Bayur, Maninjau, West Sumatra, Ahmad Fuadi has a strong religious educational background and a high enthusiasm for studying. Ahmad Fuadi is an alumnus of the Darussalam Gontor Islamic Boarding School.

Ahmad Fuadi is known as a writer who raises themes of struggle, education and moral values in his work. He has a unique ability to put words together, present inspiring stories that are full of meaning, and touch the hearts of his readers. Through his novels, Ahmad Fuadi always emphasizes the importance of dreams, discipline and Islamic values in facing various life challenges.

Identification of Islamic Education Values in Novels Aqidah Values (Faith in Allah SWT)

Table 1. Excerpts of scenes or dialogue Theme Thing

Theme	Matter	Scene/dialogue
Aqidah Values	3	<i>he left his fate to Allah. Meanwhile he heard his interrogators whispering as if planning another attack</i>
	67	<i>we need to maintain three pillars as true Muslims. What's that? As high as knowledge, as pure as monotheism, and as clever as strategy</i>
	107	<i>Avoid actions and words that contain <i>keburafat</i> that will distance us from Allah</i>
	109	<i>Even though it is not clear where else he will seek help, he believes God will open a way</i>

147	<i>But Hamka is not worried because he believes that as long as he puts in his efforts and prayers, Allah will guarantee his sustenance</i>
202	<i>If Allah does not allow it, no one will have power over anything, La haula wala quwwata illa billah</i>
272	<i>La haula wala quwwata illa billah,' he whispered, closing his eyes</i>
345	<i>Waman yattaqillahu makbraja. Whoever fears Allah, Allah will surely give him a way out</i>

The value of aqidah or belief in Allah SWT is the main foundation depicted in the novel *Buya Hamka* by Ahmad Fuadi. Through *Buya Hamka's* life journey, readers are invited to understand the importance of aqidah as the foundation of a Muslim's life. The following are several important points of the aqidah values contained in this novel:

Solid Belief in Allah SWT

In this novel, *Buya Hamka* is described as someone who has a strong belief in Allah SWT. This belief is a source of strength that helps him face various trials, ranging from challenges in personal life to struggles in preaching. A strong faith teaches that Allah is the true source of help and only on Him does a Muslim depend (QS. Ali Imran: 173).

Tawakal and Patience in Facing Trials

Buya Hamka believes that everything that happens in life is part of Allah SWT's destiny. Tawakal, or surrendering to Allah after making efforts, is a life principle that is reflected in his patient attitude when facing slander, political pressure and other life trials. This is in line with the word of Allah in QS. At-Taubah: 51:

"Say, nothing will happen to us except what Allah has ordained for us. He is our protector."

The Importance of Zikr and Prayer

This novel also shows how *Buya Hamka* strengthens his relationship with Allah through prayer and dhikr. This routine not only maintains inner calm but is also a way to continue strengthening his faith. Prayer mediates communication with Allah, while dhikr reminds humans of His presence in every aspect of life.

Da'wah to Strengthen the Faith of the People

As a cleric, *Buya Hamka* not only maintains his own faith but also preaches to strengthen the Islamic faith. In this novel, it is told how he continues to struggle to spread a pure understanding of Islam, reminding him of the importance of returning to the teachings of the Koran and Sunnah, and avoiding an attitude of blind faith that can weaken faith.

Aqidah Education as the Basis of Life

This novel emphasizes that aqidah education must be a priority in forming a true Muslim character. Correct aqidah is the foundation for all aspects of life, including worship, muamalah, and morals. This is in accordance with Al-Ghazali's view which states that aqidah is the core of education that gives birth to human beings.

This novel describes how *Buya Hamka's* faith became the main foundation in his life. His faith in Allah SWT is clearly visible in his attitude of trust, persistence in worship, and belief that every challenge he faces is a test from Allah. In various events, *Buya Hamka* always uses faith as a guide for living life, including when facing slander or life's difficulties.

The value of aqidah is the core of Islamic education, as emphasized in the Qur'an Surah Al-Baqarah (2:2-3) which states that one of the characteristics of a believer is believing in supernatural things and always drawing closer to Allah. Aqidah in Islamic education aims to form people who are devout and have a strong relationship with Allah.

According to Al-Attas (2016) in his book *Islamic Education: Its Aims and Objectives*, aqidah is not just a belief, but is also the basis for forming individuals who have good ethics and morals. In this novel, *Buya Hamka's* steadfast faith inspires readers to strengthen their relationship with Allah SWT in all situations.

Worship Values (Practice of Islamic Teachings)

Tabel 2. Excerpts of scenes or dialogue Theme Thing

Theme	Informan	Scene/dialogue
Worship Values	46	<i>Haji Rasul never stopped praying so that his dreams would be achieved. So that Malik becomes a great scholar</i>

93	<i>When you finish Asar and Maghrib prayers. Malik sat quietly on a prayer mat on the ship's deck. Then he began to recite holy verses in a melodious and heart-touching song</i>
289	<i>Approaching dawn, he was visited by his children, now seven. 'Come on children, wake up, let's pray'. After dawn in congregation with all the family, he took his children and wife to tadarus</i>
324	<i>When night falls, it is time to be close to Allah. He read the Koran, prayed at night and prayed endlessly.</i>

The novel Buya Hamka by Ahmad Fuadi also displays the values of worship which are an integral part of a Muslim's life. Through Buya Hamka's life story, readers are invited to understand the importance of worship as a form of devotion to Allah SWT which is not only ritual, but also reflects the human relationship with the Creator. The following are some of the values of worship reflected in this novel:

Diligence in Prayer

Prayer as a pillar of religion receives special attention in this novel. Buya Hamka is described as a person who really cares about prayer, both individually and in congregation. Prayer is not only an obligation, but also a source of inner calm and spiritual strength. This is in line with the word of Allah in QS. Al-Baqarah: 45:

"And ask for help (from Allah) with patience and prayer."

Fasting as a Means of Self-Forging

This novel presents fasting not only as an obligation, but also as a way to practice patience, control desires, and increase piety. Buya Hamka observes fasting with full awareness that this worship is a form of closeness to Allah which has a positive effect on daily life.

Charity and Social Concern

Buya Hamka is described as a figure who is generous and cares about others. He practices alms sincerely, not only in material form, but also through his knowledge and time to help others. This principle is in accordance with the hadith of the Prophet Muhammad:

"The upper hand is better than the lower hand." (HR. Bukhari and Muslim).

Almsgiving in this novel is not only a form of worship to Allah, but also a real manifestation of social concern.

Consistency in Reading the Qur'an

The practice of reading and understanding the Koran is one of the habits emphasized in this novel. Buya Hamka always draws closer to Allah by regularly reading, contemplating and practicing the contents of the Koran. This shows that the Al-Qur'an is a guide to life which is a source of value in every aspect of life.

Hajj as the Peak of Obedience

This novel also tells the story of Buya Hamka's experience of performing the Hajj pilgrimage, which is not only a form of completing obligatory worship, but also a deep spiritual reflection. This pilgrimage teaches the values of simplicity, equality and complete devotion to Allah SWT.

Istiqamah in Daily Worship

Istiqamah or consistency in daily worship, such as sunnah prayers, dhikr and prayers, is also an important part of the value of worship highlighted in this novel. Buya Hamka shows that worship that is carried out continuously, even though it is small, is more loved by Allah as per the hadith of Rasulullah SAW:

"The practice that Allah loves most is continuous practice, even if it is a little." (HR. Bukhari and Muslim).

Buya Hamka is described as a figure who is diligent in carrying out worship, both obligatory worship such as prayer and fasting, as well as sunnah worship such as almsgiving and dhikr. This novel also highlights how worship is not just a ritual, but is an integral part of Buya Hamka's daily life, which supports his patience and perseverance in preaching.

Worship in Islam includes relationships with Allah (hablum minallah) and relationships with fellow humans (hablum minannas). According to Qardhawi (2010) in his book *Fiqh Al-Ibadah*, worship is not only a ritual obligation, but also a means of getting closer to Allah and forming a pious individual character. In this novel, Buya Hamka's worship reflects the attitude of istiqamah and shows the importance of worship as a way to overcome various life trials.

Apart from that, the practice of worship can internalize spiritual and moral values which are the basis of social life. This novel provides an example of how consistent worship can provide spiritual and mental strength.

Moral Values (Morals and Ethics in Life)**Tabel 1. First Theme Interview Excerpt**

Theme	Informan	Interview Excerpts
Self- Desire	3	He took a deep breath. Even though they were so rude they had stabbed a knife into his heart, he would bite his lip to remain patient.
	8	Seeing Siti Raham smile softly, Hamka also smiled. He hugged and kissed his wife and children one by one
	37	Angku instead of being busy going back and forth to the shop, let me buy the coffee," said Malik to Angku Bagindo Sinoro
	49	It is true that Minang people are merciful to young people who are studying religion, or better known as Siak people
	57	The way to grow that he knows is to hone his intelligence and read. So he again immersed himself in reading, reading anything.
	67	Malik's enthusiasm exploded when he heard this, while his hands were busy writing in his notebook which was almost full. If the teachers in Sumatra laid the foundations of his life then Mr Cokro opened his eyes
	74	Before it was too long, he finished his speech by not forgetting to apologize for the mistake and thank his father, as well as the audience who listened to him.
	164	I don't know how. He didn't know for sure at that time. He was just determined and had a good opinion of God. Husnuzan
	235	He will be an ordinary person, but in return he has the opportunity to comfort and care for his sick father

The novel *Buya Hamka* by Ahmad Fuadi provides many lessons about moral values which are very relevant for building the character of a Muslim. These values are illustrated through *Buya Hamka's* life journey, both in his relationship with Allah (*hablum minallah*) and with fellow humans (*hablum minannas*). The following are several moral values that can be identified from the novel:

Morals towards Allah SWT

Buya Hamka shows an attitude of love, fear and hope towards Allah SWT as a form of his morals towards the Creator. He is always grateful for the blessings given, forgives mistakes, and puts his trust in facing life's various trials. This attitude reflects the morals of a true Muslim as recommended in the QS. Al-Baqarah: 2-3, namely a person who is devout and always remembers Allah.

Morals to Yourself

In this novel, *Buya Hamka* is described as a figure who is disciplined, honest, and tries to continuously improve his quality. He has strong life principles, such as distancing himself from arrogance, envy and envy. *Hamka* also maintains a balance between physical and spiritual, showing that a Muslim must be able to manage himself well.

Morals towards the Family

As a child, *Buya Hamka* was described as someone who respected and glorified his parents, especially his father, *Haji Rasul*. This respectful attitude is an important lesson for readers about the importance of being filial to parents, as mentioned in Q.S. Luqman: 14:

"And We commanded humans to do good to their parents."

As a husband and father, *Hamka* shows great responsibility, affection and concern for his family. He is an example of how to build a harmonious family based on Islamic values.

Morals towards Others

Buya Hamka is a person who is friendly, tolerant and full of compassion for fellow humans. In this novel, he is described as someone who does not look at differences in religion, ethnicity and social status in interacting with other people. This attitude shows that Islam places great emphasis on the importance of *ukhuwah* and respecting the rights of fellow human beings.

Morals in Society

As a cleric and community figure, Buya Hamka actively helps and provides solutions to people's problems. He always tried to maintain peace, uphold justice, and spread knowledge. This is in accordance with Islamic teachings to be a blessing for all nature (rahmatan lil 'alamin).

Morals in Facing Life's Tests

In this novel, Hamka shows patience, steadfastness, and sincerity when facing various tests, such as political slander, social pressure, and personal trials. He never repays evil for evil, but always chooses the path of kindness and forgiveness. This attitude is in line with QS. Fussilat: 34:

"Repay evil in a better way, then the person with whom there is enmity between you and him will be like a loyal friend."

Morals in Science

Hamka is also described as a humble person even though he has extensive knowledge. He is not arrogant about his knowledge and always tries to teach his knowledge to others with full sincerity. This attitude reflects that a Muslim must have noble morals in practicing knowledge as a form of responsibility to Allah and society.

Buya Hamka in this novel is described as a figure who has noble morals, such as being honest, patient, humble and full of compassion towards other people. His morals can be seen in his interactions with family, students and the wider community. Buya Hamka is also a role model in dealing with conflict calmly and with wisdom.

Morals are the core of Islamic education, as stated by the Prophet Muhammad SAW: "I was sent to perfect noble morals" (HR. Ahmad). In Al-Ghazali's perspective, as quoted in Hasan (2017), morals are the foundation for forming a harmonious society. Moral education aims to create individuals who not only obey Allah, but also benefit fellow humans.

Buya Hamka as the main character in this novel provides a real example of how noble morals can be applied in various aspects of life. His patient attitude in facing slander and conflict reflects the importance of morals as a solution in resolving social problems.

According to Nashir (2017), moral education also plays an important role in building the character of the younger generation so that they are able to face the challenges of globalization without losing their Islamic identity. The moral values shown in this novel are relevant to apply in modern life.

The Relevance of Islamic Education Values to Modern Life

Application in the World of Education The values of Islamic education contained in this novel are very relevant to be applied in the world of modern education. The concept of strong faith, noble morals, and a high enthusiasm for learning are principles that must be instilled in the younger generation so that they are not only intellectually intelligent, but also have good character. In today's Islamic education, it is important to integrate these values so that students not only become experts in science, but also have high morals.

Influence on the Character Formation of the Young Generation The values taught by Buya Hamka through this novel can play an important role in the formation of the character of the young generation. Passion for learning, having noble character, and being responsible for yourself and society are qualities that are much needed in this day and age. Taking inspiration from Buya Hamka, the young generation is expected to become individuals who are not only successful academically, but also provide benefits to other people and the Muslim community as a whole.

Response to Modern Challenges The challenges facing the world of education and modern society, such as moral decline, identity crisis, and social inequality, require Islamic educational values as a solution. This novel teaches that Islamic education does not only focus on religious teaching, but also on character building and social responsibility. In facing the challenges of globalization and changing times, the values taught by Buya Hamka can provide clear direction for the younger generation in facing various life problems.

Critical Analysis of the Novel

The Strength of the Novel The novel Buya Hamka by Ahmad Fuadi has the power to convey moral messages and Islamic educational values in a narrative and inspiring way. This work not only tells the story of Buya Hamka's life, but also inserts the principles of Islamic education which are very relevant to the challenges of the modern era. Through the character Buya Hamka, readers are invited to reflect on the importance of education, morals and social responsibility.

Limitations of the Novel Although this novel succeeds in depicting the values of Islamic education, some aspects of Buya Hamka's life may not be explored in depth. For example, the internal conflict that Buya Hamka faced in his spiritual and intellectual journey could be shown in more detail to provide a more complete picture of his life journey.

CONCLUSION

The novel *Buya Hamka* by Ahmad Fuadi teaches very relevant Islamic education values, such as faith in Allah, noble morals, enthusiasm for learning, and social responsibility. Through *Buya Hamka's* life story, this novel shows how Islamic education does not only prioritize knowledge, but also forms good character and care for society. These values are very important to apply in the world of modern education, in order to create a generation that is knowledgeable, has noble character and is socially responsible. This novel is a strong source of inspiration for readers to apply the principles of Islamic education in everyday life

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