

VIRTUES CHARACTER IN EVA EVERGREEN SEMI-MAGICAL WITCH**Dwi Nitisari^a, Indah Lestari^b, Muhamad Bahtiar Reza^c**^a Faculty of Letters and Cultures, [dnitisari@gmail.com](mailto:dritisari@gmail.com), Gunadarma University^b Faculty of Letters and Cultures, Indahlestari004@gmail.com, Gunadarma University^c Faculty of Letters and Cultures, bahtiar.reza223@gmail.com, Gunadarma University**ABSTRACT**

The aim of this research is to find out and classify Eva's virtues which are found in *Eva Evergreen's* character in the novel *Eva Evergreen Semi-Magical Witch*. The researchers applied Peterson and Seligman's theory of virtue ethic in this research. The method used is the descriptive qualitative method. The analysis indicates six Eva Evergreen's virtues namely Virtue Wisdom and Knowledge (16%), Virtue Courage (21%), Virtue Humanity (25%), Virtue Justice (9%), Virtue Temperance (13%), and Virtue Transcendence (16%). Based on that, it can be concluded that Eva Evergreen's biggest virtue is the virtue Humanity, while Eva's smallest virtue is Justice. The result also concludes that Eva Evergreen is a virtuous agent as Eva possesses virtue.

Keywords: Virtue, Character, Moral**ABSTRAK**

Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui dan mengklasifikasikan *virtue* dari Eva yang terdapat pada karakter *Eva Evergreen* dalam novel *Eva Evergreen Semi-Magical Witch*. Para peneliti menerapkan teori Peterson dan Seligman tentang *virtue ethic* dalam penelitian ini. Metode yang digunakan adalah metode deskriptif kualitatif. Hasil analisa menunjukkan enam *virtue* dari Eva Evergreen yaitu virtue kebijaksanaan dan kebajikan (wisdom and knowledge), virtue keberanian (courage), virtue kemanusiaan (humanity), virtue keadilan (justice), virtue kebajikan (temperance), dan virtue transendensi (transcendence). Berdasarkan hasil penelitian ini, dapat disimpulkan bahwa kebajikan (virtue) yang paling banyak ditemukan pada karakter Eva adalah virtue kemanusiaan (humanity) sedangkan virtue yang paling sedikit ditemukan adalah virtue keadilan (justice). Hasil penelitian ini juga menjelaskan bahwa Eva Evergreen adalah agen yang berbudi luhur karena karakter Eva memiliki kebajikan (virtue)

Kata kunci: Kebajikan (virtue), Karakter, Moral**1. INTRODUCTION**

Many thinkers argue that literature is fiction. It is not always the case because if one read an anthology of fiction, the reader will find a good amount of non-fictional material inside it. If literature is going to be listed one by one, it will be discovered that verse, drama, and prose are dominant forms of modern literature. Fiction is a novel, novelette, and novella. The novel as fiction is thoughtfully considered as the closest one to the raw material of life. The reason is no other than the fact that the novel offers an image of society.

The novel relies on its story or plot to make the interest and mystery. A memorable character (a character with high likeliness) also significantly contributes to the reader's interest in the novel. So far, there are two perceptions of the definition of the novel. The first one is the novel as light entertainment. If drama and movies are compared to novels, it can be argued that the novels serve as more lightweight entertainment. The second one is for those who value novels highly. They think that a novel is a superior form of literature. The origin of the novel as a dominant genre of fiction comes from the feature of the novel that reflects the basic socio-historical tendencies of society (Klarer, 1998).

The similarity between novel and life is what makes it a perfect object to study morals. Let's see the story of the rabbit and the turtle. This story follows a turtle who challenged a rabbit in a running competition. The fast-runner rabbit thought that there was no challenge in it. So, the rabbit took a rest midway. The rabbit believed that the turtle wouldn't be able to pass the rabbit. Eventually, when the rabbit woke up and continued the race, the rabbit lost to the turtle.

One can say that the moral of the story is not to get big-headed about yourself because they are familiar with the story already but how to identify the moral value in the story is another question. The reader understood that the character turtle is strong-willed. The rabbit is full of ego. These relatively fixed traits or qualities that the character possesses are virtues (Timmons, 2013). Virtue is central in the positive evaluation of a person's moral worth, also called goodness. Besides the term virtue, there is also vice that can also be called badness. The rabbit's big-headed behavior is known as vice. In this story, the turtle is called the virtuous agent. The difference between rabbit's trait and turtle's trait, which is morally right and wrong (sometimes called good and evil), can be understood with the concept of virtue ethics. From here on, the strong-willed trait of a turtle is valued good. Besides virtue, a moral philosopher also introduces a character strength, psychological ingredient, mechanism, or process that defines virtue. Someone is of good character if they display but 1 or 2 strengths within a virtue group. For example, the virtue of wisdom and knowledge can be achieved through such strengths as creativity, curiosity, love of learning, open-mindedness, and what is called Perspective—having a "big picture" in life. These are examples of character strength.

Such identification of virtue and strength in a character of a short story is considerably simple because a short story is didactic or is designed to give a lesson. Different from an open-ended novel. The novel is more complex than others because of its descriptive and detailed plot presentation. This research will apply the theory to analyze the novel, exclusively a novel titled *Eva Evergreen Semi-Magical Witch*.

Eva Evergreen Semi-Magical Witch is a novel written by Julie Abe published by Hachette Book in 2020. The novel follows a story of a young witch apprentice named Eva. Witch is a general term used to refer to a person with a magical ability (fly with a broom, cast a spell, and so on). Even though she is a witch, she can't use magic. At least, not in the same way as her peers and any other witches. Every time she got to use magic; her magic went awry. Eva also fell to sleep every time she used her magic because of her low magical capacity. The researcher considered the virtue of the character Eva is worth to be analyzed.

Windriani took her undergraduate thesis titled "An Analysis of Moral Values in the movie UP" In Muhammadiyah University of North Sumatera. Her research's objective is to identify the moral value that occurs in the movie "UP" and determine the type of those moral values. She used Lickona and Thomas's theory of moral value in her research. The data source is taken from the whole movie and the transcript of the movie that signifies the moral value and the type of moral value. The data consisted of 100 pages. As a result of the research, Windriani found several moral values that occur in the movie. The type of those moral values namely never gives up, altruism, love and loyalty, respect, help each other, courage, and self-discipline. The first previous research used the descriptive qualitative method, which is also used in this research and most of the previous research above. Both this research and Windriani's research have the same objective that is to find moral value. The differences are that this research is meant to analyze the novel *Eva Evergreen* by Julie Abe, while the previous research by Windriani analyzed the movie "UP". The objective of this research is not only to identify the moral values but also the virtue and strength of the character Eva as a virtuous agent. The theory used in this research is the theory of virtue ethic by Peterson, while Windriani used Lickona and Thomas's theory of moral value.

2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Moral value

Moral value has something to do with the judgment of somebody's behaviour according to whether it corresponds to specific moral rules (Rosenstand, 2018). If the said rules are called morality, moral value is the one that is used as the material to make the morality in society. Relativist, in moral relativism belief, there is no such thing as a universally accepted moral value, and all moral value is relative from culture to culture and religion to religion. This concept is called ethical relativism. On the other hand, another opinion about moral value is that what one thinks about moral right and wrong is entirely an individual choice called subjectivism. Consequentialism believes two things about moral value, and a moral agent may honor or respect the value, and they may instead promote it. And to appreciate the said value is to never act in such a way as to undermine it. (Reader, 2007). For example, to respect someone else health, a person will refuse to make the said person ill. In short moral values provide a reason for someone to act. When the act has moral value, it is said that the person has moral worth. According to the theory of value, something is said to possess moral worth when it's intrinsically good. Moral worth and the concept of value are identical. The difference between the concept of moral worth and the concept of value is that moral worth evaluates persons and their

character. A person would perform or manifest good character traits that have moral value. For example, being an honest person, it can be concluded that the said person is morally good and possess moral worth. The vice versa, when a person performs and manifests bad character traits which have negative moral value, the said person does not possess moral worth.

Virtue Ethics

Virtue ethic is a concept of moral theory that emerges from the question "what should I be?" rather than "what should I do?". The term virtue ethic emerges in the 1960s as one of the contemporary moral theories that differ from Utilitarianism and Kant's moral theory (Gottlieb, 2009). Virtue Ethics focuses on the question of character rather than the question of conduct. Virtue ethics is interested in the goodness of character. In contrast, utilitarianism is interested in the goodness of states of affairs or the consequences of a particular action, and Kant's theory is interested in duties and the goodness of motives.

Virtue ethics believe that a person's moral worth comes from the virtue that the virtuous agent possesses. Virtue is a good-making character of an agent and what makes a character and their action good, while vice is what makes them bad (Reader, 2007). Virtue is habits, stable, or relatively consistent dispositions to act in specific ways under certain conditions. Virtue can also be called a character's quality that enables the character to achieve their fulfilment, which according to Aristotle is *eudaimonia* or fulfilled life or enjoyable life (Hughes, 2001). The condition of *eudaimonia* explained by Aristotle is not about money, pleasure, or being well thought of, but they do so because they see the point of doing them.

Aristotle views virtues as habitual dispositions or *hexis*. Something generally acquired due to confronting a specific situation that calls a person to perform virtue. For example, persons who have been exposed to a dangerous situation since they were kids will give a raise to virtue bravery. While Aristotle claims that some virtue is gained naturally, persons can acquire virtue which they don't acquire automatically through habitual disposition, which Aristotle called virtue training.

Aristotle mentioned that virtues are related to the decision or a judgment that a character will perform in a particular situation. Aristotle briefly explains the relation between virtue and decision as below.

- Virtues are patterns of emotional response that facilitate decisions.
- Virtues are patterns of emotional response that issue in the decision.
- Virtues are habitual patterns of deciding or acting.

From the relation between virtue and decision, one can point out that a virtuous agent has balanced emotion and will react to certain situations. She will feel angry when the situation demands it or feel afraid when threatened. By doing so, she makes it easy for her to choose rightly which she thought to be morally necessary. Virtues are not morally neutral since it requires the agent to effectively grasp what is morally important in any situation and the ability to estimate the importance of something.

Another remark from Aristotle is that a virtuous agent who possesses virtues will avoid the opposite of virtues, namely vices, as much as possible. For example, a courageous person will avoid reacting with too much fear, which is the character of the vice cowardliness (Timmons, 2013).

Kind of Virtues

Aristotle lists ten dispositions as virtues: bravery, temperance, generosity, magnificence, magnanimity, honor, mildness, truthfulness, wit, and friendliness (Gottlieb, 2009). It is said that Aristotle's list of virtue is merely based on the dispositions that contribute to a happy life both for the agent and for others. Aristotle's list of virtues is considered ancient. It lacks many dispositions considered virtues, which led many virtue theorists to make their own or extend Aristotle's list of virtues. One of them is the Christopher Peterson and Martin Seligman list of virtues.

Peterson and Seligman's objective is to inquiries about the idea that certain conditions enable specific virtues and strengths of character. Thus, it can help characterize the properties of settings that enable strengths and virtues (Peterson & Seligman, 2004).

They listed six broad categories of virtue: wisdom, courage, humanity, justice, temperance, and transcendence. And 24-character strengths as a means to distinguish one virtue from another. For example, virtue wisdom and knowledge can be achieved through character strengths creativity, curiosity, open-mindedness, love of learning, and Perspective. Although they acclaimed character strengths as *ubiquitously recognized and valued*, individuals will rarely, if ever, display all of them.

All character virtue and strength, according to Peterson and Seligman, can be presented as below:

Table 1: Peterson & Seligman's Virtues and Character Strengths

| No | Virtues | Character Strengths |
|----|----------------------|--|
| 1. | Wisdom and Knowledge | 1. Creativity 2. Curiosity 3. Open-mindedness 4. Love of Learning 5. Perspective |
| 2. | Courage | 6. Bravery 7. Persistence 8. Integrity 9. Vitality |
| 3. | Humanity | 10. Love 11. Kindness 12. Social Intelligence |
| 4. | Justice | 13. Citizenship 14. Fairness 15. Leadership |
| 5. | Temperance | 16. Forgiveness and Mercy 17. Humility and Modesty 18. Prudence 19. Self-Regulation |
| 6. | Transcendence | 20. Appreciation of Beauty and Excellence 21. Gratitude 22. Hope 23. Humour 24. Spirituality |

Wisdom and Knowledge

According to Peterson and Seligman, Wisdom and Knowledge are a virtue that entails acquiring and using knowledge. The virtue Wisdom and Knowledge includes five-character strengths which are creativity, curiosity, open-mindedness, love of learning, and perspective.

Courage

According to Peterson and Seligman, Courage is a virtue that involves the exercise of will accomplish goals in the face of opposition, external or internal. The virtue Courage includes four-character strengths namely bravery, persistence, integrity, and vitality.

Humanity

According to Peterson and Seligman, Humanity is a virtue that involves tending and befriending others, whether it is a human, animal, or plant. The virtue Humanity includes three-character strengths namely love, kindness, and social intelligence

Justice

According to Peterson and Seligman, Justice is a virtue that involves one's ability to contribute and actualize a good community life. The virtue Justice includes three-character strengths namely citizenship, fairness, and leadership

Temperance

According to Peterson and Seligman, Temperance is a virtue that protects one against excess, in which they listed excessive hatred, excessive arrogance, excessive short-term pleasure, and excessive emotion. The virtue Temperance includes four-character strengths namely forgiveness and mercy, humility and modesty, prudence, and self-regulation

Transcendence

According to Peterson and Seligman, Transcendence is a virtue that allows individuals to forge a connection to the larger universe and provide meaning and reason to their lives. This virtue includes five-character strengths namely appreciation of beauty and excellence, gratitude, hope, humor, and spirituality.

2. METHODOLOGY

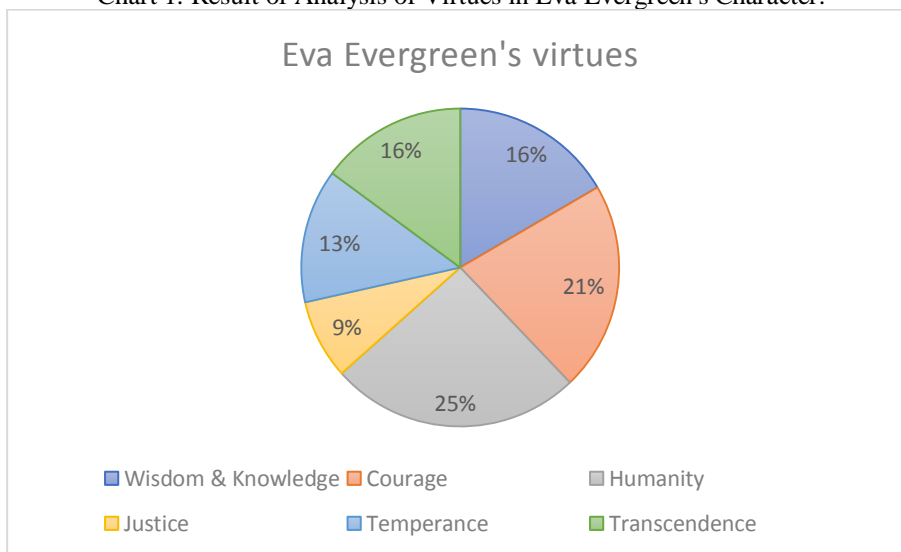
The researchers use the descriptive qualitative method. Qualitative research is generally used to explore and understand individuals or groups ascribe to a social or human problem (Creswell, 2009). Qualitative research usually deals with words and meaning and focuses on reporting data that cannot be expressed numerically. Thus, qualitative research usually presents the research finding or result in the form of sentences and narrations. The data used in this research are collected from the novel *Eva Evergreen, Semi-magical Witch* written by Julie Abe and published by Little, Brown, and Company in 2020 with a total of 297 pages. The data are dialogue, monologue, and narration that implies the presence of moral value or moral goodness, which is referred to by the term *virtues* in this research. The data collection procedure is the step in which the researcher took to collect necessary data for the success of the research. The data collection is mainly conducted using a content-Analysis method that analyzes documentary material such as books, magazines, newspapers, etc. In this research, the researcher is limiting the data only to the one that signifies the presence of moral value or virtue of Eva Evergreen's character in the novel *Eva Evergreen: Semi-magical Witch*. The researcher uses tables and charts to display the data in this research.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

From the research that has been conducted, the researchers found 239 data that signify the virtue based on Peterson and Seligman's theory of virtue ethic and character strength. Based on the data found, it can be concluded that Eva Evergreen's character possessed all the six virtues mentioned by Peterson and Seligman. The virtues found in Eva Evergreen's character are virtue Wisdom & Knowledge, virtue Courage, virtue Humanity, virtue Justice, virtue Temperance, and virtue Transcendence.

According to the findings of this research, the researcher discovered that Eva Evergreen's character possessed all the six virtues, with a total of 239 data found. The classification of the data into the six virtues can be summarized as below:

Chart 1: Result of Analysis of Virtues in Eva Evergreen's Character.



According to the chart above, it can be inferred that Eva Evergreen's character possesses all the virtues mentioned by Peterson and Seligman. The researcher found virtue Wisdom and Knowledge with 39 data and

percentage of 16%, virtue Courage with 50 data and percentage of 21%, virtue Humanity with 60 data and percentage of 25%, virtue Justice with 19 data and percentage of 9%, virtue Temperance with 32 data and percentage of 13%, and virtue Transcendence with 39 data and percentage of 16%. Based on that, it can be concluded that Eva Evergreen's biggest virtue is the virtue Humanity, while Eva's smallest virtue is justice.

1) **Wisdom & Knowledge**

Example 1:

The ticket was just a guide to help me find a town. As long as I fulfilled the requirements of the quest, I could stay as the town witch.

(Eva Evergreen Semi-Magical Witch, 2020, p. 44)

Analysis:

Eva had to go through her first test to become a full pledge witch to help a town in need. She was given a golden ticket as a way to decide which town she would live in. The said ticket would crumble to dust when she arrived. At that time, she wasn't sure if her destination got skipped or not. But she decided to stay in that town. This example is considered as creativity in wisdom and knowledge virtue.

Virtue Wisdom & Knowledge is virtue that entails the acquisition and use of information or knowledge to achieve various things, from short-term goals and even long-term goals. Eva Evergreen possessed the virtue Wisdom & Knowledge because Eva Evergreen consistently manifested all the character strengths in the virtue Wisdom & Knowledge, which are Creativity, Curiosity, Open-mindedness, Love of Learning, and Perspective.

2) **Courage**

Example 2:

Mayor Taira shook her head. "You're just a child."

My heart beat wildly as I stepped in front of Mayor Taira. "Please, let me go. I may be young, but I'm still a witch. Let me help, for the sake of the people of Auteri."

(Eva Evergreen Semi-Magical Witch, 2020, pp. 68-69)

Analysis:

Eva voluntarily offered her help to rescue the trapped crews of the ship that crashed near the cliff, even though she knew the risk and danger she would get from it. This example is considered as Bravery.

Virtue Courage is a virtue related to one's effort to strengthen the will to accomplish goals in the face of opposition, temptation, limitation, etc. Eva Evergreen possessed the virtue Courage because Eva Evergreen consistently manifested all the character strengths in the virtue Courage, which are Bravery, Persistence, Integrity, and Vitality.

3) **Humanity**

Example 3:

As I hurried to the line, the shadow of the boat loomed over me. My stomach roiled like I was about to get swept out into the waves like that little girl. After I boarded, I wouldn't have Mother's spells to save the day.

(Eva Evergreen Semi-Magical Witch, 2020, p. 32)

Analysis:

This time, Eva admitted her love towards her mother when she thought she wouldn't have her mother magic to save the day. Eva acknowledged her mother as her protector, someone who made her feel safe and cared for. This example is considered as Love in humanity virtue.

Virtue Humanity is a virtue that entails positive traits in caring and perpetuating relationships with others, most of the time in one-to-one relationships.

Eva Evergreen possessed the virtue Humanity because Eva Evergreen consistently manifested all the character strengths in virtue Humanity. The character strengths in virtue Humanity are Love, Kindness, and Social Intelligence. Eva Evergreen also manifested all the character strengths more than once.

4) *Justice*

Example 4:

"If you need help," I said firmly, "I will help. I won't charge if someone's in danger. I'm here for you, for the whole town."

(Eva Evergreen Semi-Magical Witch, 2020, p. 100)

Analysis:

Soma told Eva that a witch would only help when they were paid. But Eva rejected his idea. She dedicated herself to help the town and its people, even when there was nothing to be gained from it because it was her responsibility as a witch. This example is considered as Citizenship in justice virtue.

Virtue Justice is a virtue that entails the positive traits that are relevant to optimal interaction between an individual and the group or the community and most likely bring benefits to the said group or the community.

Eva Evergreen possessed the virtue Justice because Eva Evergreen almost consistently manifested all the character strengths in virtue Justice. The character strengths in virtue Justice are Citizenship, Fairness, and Leadership.

1) *Temperance*

Example 5 :

"Hello, fellow Apprentice Conroy," I said, addressing him properly.

(Eva Evergreen Semi-Magical Witch, 2020, p. 7)

Analysis:

Eva and Conroy didn't like each other, but no matter how much he pissed her, Eva didn't get mad at him. She even treated and addressed Conroy appropriately. This example is considered as Forgiveness and Mercy in temperance virtue.

Virtue Temperance is a virtue that entails positive traits that protect from or prevent the negative effect of excessive emotion, pleasure, etc. Virtue temperance tempers one's activities or behavior before it results in something negative.

Eva Evergreen possessed the virtue Temperance because Eva Evergreen consistently manifested all the character strengths in virtue Temperance. The character strengths in virtue Temperance are Forgiveness and Mercy, Humility and Modesty, Prudence, and Self-regulation.

2) *Transcendence*

Example 6:

*I ran my fingers through the cold water, and goosebumps prickled all over my arm.
"It's beautiful here."*

(Eva Evergreen Semi-Magical Witch, 2020, p. 44)

Analysis:

Eva, who previously lived in a big city far from the sea, was amazed when she arrived at Auteri, a little remote coastal town. The beauty of Auteri wasn't all the cause of Eva's amazement, as the atmosphere it emanated also contributed to causing it. And Eva's appreciation toward Auteri could be seen when she described Auteri as a beautiful town. This example is considered as Appreciation of Beauty and Excellence in transcendence virtue.

Virtue Transcendence entails the positive traits that allow one to forge connections to the larger universe and provide meaning to their life—most of the time, resulting in positive emotions between individuals to others or something far greater like nature. Eva Evergreen possesses the virtue Transcendence because Eva manages to show most of the character strengths in virtue Transcendence except Spirituality. The character strengths in virtue transcendence are Appreciation of Beauty and Excellence, Gratitude, Hope, Humor, and Spirituality.

4. CONCLUSION

According to the result of the research, it can be concluded that Eva Evergreen's character from the novel entitled *Eva Evergreen Semi-Magical Witch* possesses virtues based on Peterson and Seligman's theory of virtue ethic and character strength.

According to the data found in this research, Eva Evergreen possesses six virtues. Eva Evergreen's character virtues are Virtue Wisdom and Knowledge with 39 data found and 16% percentage, Virtue Courage with 50 data found and 21% percentage, Virtue Humanity with 60 data found and 25% percentage, Virtue Justice with 19 data found and 9% percentage, Virtue Temperance with 32 data found and 13% percentage, and Virtue Transcendence with 39 data found and 16% percentage. Based on that, it can be concluded that Eva Evergreen's biggest virtue is the virtue Humanity, while Eva's smallest virtue is Justice. The result also concludes that Eva Evergreen is a virtuous agent as Eva possesses virtue.

The research finding indicates that moral study can be involved in literary work to identify moral values, which in this research are virtues and character strengths in fictional characters. However, in this research, the researcher tried to find virtue from a generally good-in-nature character. But the theory itself is applicable to analyzing broader character categories in literary work. Following that point, the researcher may suggest another researcher prove that characters with a more complex role can possess virtue and character strength as much as good characters do. Another suggestion is for other researchers to determine how practical virtue ethics and character strengths are as moral education. Should it educate the reader, inspire the reader, and result in the reader adopting the virtue and character strength they found from characters in the literary work they read.

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