

THE PROTAGONIST'S IMPROPER BEHAVIOR IN TETSUKO KUROYANAGI'S *TOTTO-CHAN: THE GIRL AT THE WINDOW*

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Abstract

This research aims at uncovering the kinds of improper behavior performed by the protagonist character in the novel “The Girls at the Window” written by Tetsuko Kuroyanagi. This study explores the types and causes of improper behaviors exhibited by the protagonist in Tetsuko Kuroyanagi’s novel, *Totto-Chan: The Girl at the Window*. Using a qualitative descriptive method, the study identifies behaviors such as classroom disruption, damage to school property, and dishonesty toward parents. He is making a mess in the classroom, damaging school facilities and lying to parents. This research uses qualitative descriptive method. Under qualitative descriptive, this research completes its analysis process and findings by describing and illustrating the data that has been collected. It is by explaining the improper behavior and examples of bad behavior of the protagonist from the data collected from the novel in the forms of quotation. The results of this research are to find out what bad behavior the protagonist does, and the reasons why the protagonist does it.

Keywords: *Behavior; disturbed class; protagonist; improper*

1. Introduction

Literary works are very artistic works, which can make us feel touched. The existence of a literary work is to be enjoyed by oneself or to be enjoyed by anyone who reads it. Literature is also an expression of the human person in the form of experiences, thoughts, feelings, ideas, enthusiasm, and beliefs in the form of concrete images that evoke enchantment with language instruments (Sarinofta, 2018). This statement is also justified by Panuti explaining that “literature” is a spoken or written work that has various superior characteristics such as originality, artistry, beauty in content, and expression. Therefore, many people now like and are interested in literary works, because a good literary work will convey messages from the author through various unique ways and beautiful language. In the above sense, it is interpreted that life involves humans and between events that occur in a person's mind.

Every literary work always contains a moral message that we can learn after reading, hearing and seeing the contents of the literary work. That is the reason why researchers make literary works as objects to convey various feelings such as emotions, sadness, happiness and the nature or attitude of a person. Currently, many literary works

have been published, one of which is a novel. Therefore, the novel that I want to propose as material for analysis

From the number of novels, the researchers take *Totto-Chan: The Girl at the Window* Tetsuko Kuroyanagi's have to be analyzed at concerns the protagonist's behavior. A child's social interactions are heavily influenced by emotions, whether it is in her good fun or not. How the child adapts to the environment, cooperates, is willing to share with friends and people around her, depends on how we educate and develop children's social emotions from an early age. The process of interaction between children with the social environment will mutual relationship influence and be influenced by each other. The social environment includes people: parents, school, peers and adults. Based on the explanation above, the researchers feel it necessary to do an analysis of the behavior of one of the protagonist characters, a girl named Totto-Chan who often does something wrong to her friends in her social environment.

Totto-Chan: The Girl at the Window by Tetsuko Kuroyanagi is a novel translated from English language which was originally published in Japanese language in 1981. Events by events are experienced by Totto-Chan along with other characters. With Totto-Chan and other characters who have different behavior, such as Totto-Chan, who has an improper and unruly behavior like the behavior of a child in general. For example, almost every child who is difficult to advise or difficult to manage is always called a "naughty child" by the people around him or even by their own parents. Therefore, when children's children hear the words "bad boy", they will lose their enthusiasm and confidence. It is because there are many separate factors that can make children improper, whether it is from themselves or from something close to them.

Based on the statement above, the reason why the researchers chose the novel is that it contains an interesting storyline that makes the researchers interested in choosing this novel to analyze. This novel also has some interesting characters, like Totto-Chan, who always does cute things, but it is not good in every story, and she can also be an example or learn her attitude. Therefore, the researchers would like to uncover the improper behavior of the protagonist and its factors in the novel.

This study aims to analyze the types of improper behaviors demonstrated by Totto-Chan and to explore the social and psychological factors that contribute to her actions. The research contributes to understanding child behavioral development as reflected in literary characters.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Behavior

Behavior is formed due to learning from the surrounding environment through direct experience or observing the behavior of others around them, as well as aggressive behavior is a behavior formed because of these factors, so that there is a need for a program or intervention to reduce aggressive behavior. In Utami (2018, p.41), Tulus said that behavior is a visible reflection in attitudes, actions and words as a person's reaction that arose because of this experience and learning process stimulation of the environment. This issue shows that behavior can be seen immediately as a reaction from stimuli one receives from the surroundings. Children need the ability to adapt to the environment. Sears (2012, p.5) behavior is usually actions that are studied because of reinforcement or reinforcement. Behavior can be formed because of learning through rewards. If the effect of the behavior is negative, then it can reduce the behavior. Aggressive behavior can have a negative effect, so the training provided is expected to

reduce aggressive behavior in children by applying the reward or reward method, either verbal and non-verbal, as reinforcement to reduce behavioral aggression.

The role of the family and community environment is very important for the development of children's behavior. Therefore, it is very important to have positive learning from the environment so that even children will be able to learn and behave positively. Empowerment of the local environment (family, community leaders and local residents) in educating children about aggression becomes very important, so that people are expected to have the ability to be a positive figure/model for positive learning. The results that are expected through this research are that parents and society's surroundings can know and be aware of the situation and conditions of the child's environment and be able to follow up by being a good model for the growth and development of children and being able to handle children effectively to reduce children's aggressive behavior.

Shamsu in Utami (2018, p.41) argues that social behavior describes the child's ability to adapt to the environment socially. The forms of social behavior are: quarrel, competition, cooperation, behavior of power, and sympathy. In interaction with the outside world, children spend a lot of time with peers on various activities. They show symptoms of sharing tasks, the presence of rivalry, quarrels, sympathy, helping each other in dealing with difficulty. This picture shows what shows signs of behavior. It is good behavior and bad behavior.

2.2 Good Behavior

Good behavior can be interpreted as an attitude of accepting and implementing a system that is built on the basis of the common good at interacting (Hasanah in Wijaya, 2021, p.31). Good behavior is carried out so that someone avoids permanent loss. To form a child's positive social behavior, the initial experience of a child greatly determines the child's social development. The beginning of a child's socializing gives more pleasure and satisfaction. Good behavior is an act of helping benefit others without having to ask for any reward and doing it voluntarily. Good behavior is voluntary behavior that has the goal of benefiting others. Good behavior makes a person able to live together productively. Besides that, good behavior can have an impact positive for physical, cognitive and psychological health.

2.3 Bad Behavior

Bad behavior is behavior that is intended to hurt others, both physically and psychologically. If you hurt others because of an element of an accident, then the behavior is not categorized as bad behavior. Pain, due to medical action, for example, even though it is done intentionally, does not include aggression. On the other hand, the intention of hurting others but not succeeding. This can be described as aggressive behavior. Dollard states that aggressive behavior is an emotional response uncontrollable behavior that results in destructive, offensive and injuring behavior. This action can be directed at other people, the environment and oneself, caused by the deep frustration and disappointment that occurs in the individual.

In addition, children tend to find it difficult to control themselves. The child's dominance is controlled by high emotions and is less stable, so that results in behavior that tends to be aggressive as well, mature of early sexual intercourse and also a lack of manners (honesty, respect, mutual respect, etc.). Bringham in Tentama (2012, p.4),

there are three factors that affect aggressive behavior: (1) the learning process, (2) reinforcement (reinforcement) and (3) imitation of the model.

Bad behavior leads to human rights violations by others by means of acts of violence, beatings, rape, and we do not feel guilty when others suffer. Bad behavior, as stated by some experts, has a basic equation is destructive behavior both physically, psychologically, and objects that are around it. Bad behavior always shows rude, offensive and hurtful behavior. Socially, bad behavior is behavior that attacks other people and is good verbal or physical assault. Verbal attacks such as berating, mocking or ridiculing, while physical attacks such as pushing, hitting and fighting.

2.3.1 Making a Mess in the Classroom

Basically, every child has stages of development in which children are required to act or carry out the things that become the task of development properly. The deviant behavior that is carried out is as follows: disobedience and interfering with teaching and learning activities at school. This behavior occurs because of adjustments that must meet children to new environmental demands and conditions. This behavior can occur because of adjustments that must be made by the child.

In the learning process, the teacher often faces whimsy student behavior that is inexplicable and difficult to overcome because the behavior has been reinforced to meet specific needs. Children who always talk in class often disturb the peace of class, perhaps trying to fulfill the need to get attention (Jiwaningsih. 2019, p.6-7).

2.3.2 Damaging School Facilities

Damaging school facilities has often been done by children in their schools. This happens because of a sense of responsibility and a sense of belonging. School facilities for students are relatively low. Even so, there are behaviors that tend to damage school facilities. In fact, there are still students who do this. Teachers who witness this must immediately reprimand and advise students by saying that if they damage school facilities, they must repair or replace them. The causes of this behavior include failure in the socialization process so that the family has a role to be responsible for instilling values and norms in children. The effort made to deal with deviant behavior in students is by giving advice and penal sanctions (Anzalena. 2019, p.129).

2.3.3 Lying to Parents

Lying is a behavior that is often done by individuals to avoid certain situations. Even in a study, it is said that lying behavior is carried out from an early age (Talwar in Indriati, Manuela, 2022). Lying is carried out by individuals in many of their daily activities. The impact of lying behavior is detrimental to others, and to the perpetrator himself. Lying to other people, especially to parents, is a behavior that should not be done. One of the disadvantages that can result from lying to people who are lied to is always feeling suspicious of other people. Individuals who are often lied to will lose their trust in others and will not easily trust again. Then the disadvantages of lying behavior towards individuals who commit lies are always feeling anxious and afraid that their lies will be found out. Individuals who often lie will also slowly lose the trust of others.

3. Research Method

Study design is a method and procedure used to collect and analyze data on a particular research problem. According to Williams, descriptive research is a research

method that can determine the situation in current phenomena. Nassaji in Maria (2017), also states that the goal of descriptive research is drawing and classifying the phenomenon.

Furthermore, this study employed a qualitative descriptive approach to examine behavioral patterns in textual evidence from the novel. Data were collected through close reading, identification of behavioral instances, and classification based on social behavior theories. Hancock (2009, p.17), qualitative research design that concerns the development and the understanding of social phenomena. The data that have been collected descriptively are used to inform the study of the research problem as a whole. Thus, research can be carried out to uncover the problems that will be discussed in this research.

4. Discussion

This behavior exemplifies Totto-Chan's high curiosity, which, while disruptive, reflects a child's exploratory stage as defined by psychological theory.

4.1 Making A Mess in the Classroom

Totto Chan is the main character who is the object of this research. Totto-chan is a first-grade elementary school student who is well known by her school teachers as an overly active child. Because she was too active, Totto-Chan often disrupted teaching and learning activities in class. Quotations below are a quote that describes Totto-chan's character before he was expelled from his old school.

“For example, during alphabet class, your daughter opened the desk, took out a notebook, then closed the table by slamming it. Then he opened the table again, put his head in, took out pencil, quickly slammed the lid down, then wrote 'A'. If bad or wrong handwriting, she will open the table again, take out eraser, closes the table, erases the letter and then opens and closed the table again to save the eraser, it was all done very quickly (Totto Chan, 2015, p.13).”

Totto-chan is known as an overly active student in her class, like what is shown in quotation above that Totto-chan repeatedly opened and closed her desk violently to get things out and put things back in. Totto-chan will do it again if bad writing, take the eraser and put it back. That matter, of course, makes the class atmosphere noisy and disrupted by their activities until finally making Totto-chan known as an active student in a negative context because it interferes with teaching and learning activities. The active character impressed Totto-chan as a mischievous child, so the school was forced to expel Totto-chan from the school. Totto-chan was considered a naughty child seen at the time when Totto-chan did things. She should be or was even forbidden to do so by making a mess in class. The quote below is a quotation showing Totto-chan what she shouldn't have done.

“After an hour of opening and closing her desk, Totto-chan left where he sat and stood in front of the window, looking out. Then, when the teacher started to think as long as Totto-chan wasn't make a fuss just let her stand there, the little girl suddenly calling out to street musicians dressed in shabby clothes. Something that makes Totto-chan happy but annoying for the teacher the fact that their classroom

is located on the ground floor with windows facing the street (Totto chan, 2015, p.15-16).''

The quotation above tells of Totto-chan, who no longer opened the lid of her desk, but calling street musicians and asking them to play a song was something that really, really disturbed class activities at that time. Because their class was located on the first floor, all the students flocked to the window to see the street musician. Definitely Totto-chan's character can't be tolerated again. This irritated the teacher who was teaching at that time, even though at that time Tottochan was happy. By calling street musicians and asking them to play songs made Totto-chan considered a naughty child and very annoying and often made class messy.

One of the characteristics of active children is that they have a high sense of will. This is as stated by Atika (2021). When a child can appreciate herself as 'I', the child begins to realize that she has a will. This is referred to as a child in the active phase. Here is a quote describing Totto Chan as having a high will.

''There is another problem in the drawing lesson. I asked the children to draw a Japanese flag. All the kids drew correctly, but your daughter drew a Navy flag. You know, the one with the picture of the sun with lines of rays... (Totto chan, 2105, p.16)''

The quotation above tells the situation in the drawing class at that time all students were asked to depict the Japanese flag. The Japanese flag at that time had changed into the Japanese flag known today, a white flag with a red circle in the middle. When other children drew correctly, Totto-chan even drew the Force flag. The Sea of Japan is known as the Rising Sun. Don't just draw Japanese Navy flags, Totto-chan also added tassels and poles to the flag, because the paper was full. Finally, Totto-chan drew it past the edge of the paper so that when the paper is lifted, lots of graffiti are left on the table that can't be removed. The initial command was to draw the Japanese flag, but Totto-chan drew the Army flag Sea of Japan, not according to what the master ordered. High will in Totto-chan's active character, can be seen from Totto-chan's desire to draw the Japanese Navy flag, not the Japanese flag, said the Master. Based on the quotation above, it can be said that Totto-Chan is a child who has a high will. This is because the child in the active phase has a high sense of will. Totto-chan's naughtiness made her mother call to school. At school, Mama was told by Totto-chan's homeroom teacher about things that Totto-chan had been doing while studying at school. As an example of Totto-chan's character, which seems mischievous, this is also reinforced by the quotation as the following:

''After saying that, the teacher stood up and said the closing words coldly, ''I'm not the only teacher who is annoyed. The teacher in the class next door is also having a hard time (Totto-Chan, 2015, p.18).''

The above quotation explains that Totto-chan is not only annoying to the teachers in his class, he also often annoys the other teachers with her behavior. At first, this made other teachers passing by feel confused because she was punished too many times to stand there. In the end, it actually makes trouble for her teachers.

The quotation below shows that Totto Chan has an active character with a high sense of will, which ultimately has an effect on the desire to find out things he had never done before.

“I became curious and tried to hear the answer, but there was none answer. Despite this, your daughter constantly exclaims, ‘You what are you doing?’ so often that I couldn't teach. Finally, I went to the window to see who he was talking to. When sticking my head out the window and looking up, I saw a pair swallow are making nests under the eaves. Tottochan talking to a pair of swallows! (Totto-Chan, 2015, p.16)’”

The quotation above describes Totto-Chan's character in the form of a desire to know what's high. The incident at that time was when the class was in the middle teaching and learning activities while Totto-chan instead stood in front of the window, finding out what a swallow was doing and asked him in a loud voice. Totto-chan did it over and over again, so that in the end, the sound increasingly disturbed the class. The teacher, who was curious about whom Totto-Chan was talking to, finally found out his student was talking to a bird. Totto Chan's actions are certainly an action that should not be done in the middle of the hour lesson.

4.2. Damaging School Facilities

Children's behavior can vary from very naughty to very obedient. Characters also apply in all places, such as playgrounds, homes and schools. Children who have this behavior when making activities or mistakes are divided into two, as if they really have a clear reason and are just doing it for fun to make themselves happy. As seen in a quotation below. It is an example of Totto-Chan's behavior disrupting her school facilities because her beloved purse fell into a hole in the ground.

“Totto-chan screamed as her wallet vanished into the darkness below. But Totto-chan was determined not to cry or let her purse disappear. She went to the gardener's tool shed and took out the long-stemmed wooden dipper that is used for watering plants. The handle of the dipper was almost twice her height, but that didn't dampen Totto-chan's resolve in the least. She walked backwards school while dragging the dipper and trying to find a hole to empty the tank dirt. She guessed it must be on the outside of the outhouse wall. After much searching, she finally saw it round hole cover about one meter from there. With great difficulty, she opened the cover and finally found the hole she was looking for. Totto-Chan poked her head in (Totto-Chan, 2015, p.57).”

In the quotation above, it is explained that Totto-Chan dug a dirt pit to retrieve her favorite purse that fell into the dirt pit. She took out the contents of her manure hole while looking for her wallet. Totto-chan's behavior disturbed those around her with smells and sights that were not worth looking at. While Totto-Chan is digging the dirt pit, the headmaster sees and asks what is going on. Then Totto-chan explains the reason why she does that. The principal asks if Totto-Chan would put the dirt back where it belongs and Totto-Chan nods her head. The quotation shows a description of Totto-Chan's behavior, which is called the behavior of a naughty child who is still responsible and someone who has reasons for what they do.

“The headmaster came over and said kindly, "You'll put everything back when you're done, won't you?" Then the man left again, as before. "Yes," Totto-chan answered cheerfully, continuing to work. Suddenly a thought crossed her mind. She looked at the pile. When I'm done, I can put all that shit back in the tub, but what about the water? into dirty water absorbed quickly into the ground. Totto-chan stopped working and tried to think of a way to put the dirty water back in, because she had promised the headmaster, she would put it all back. Finally, he decided to enter the wet soil. By now the mound was truly mountainous and the reservoir was almost empty, but Totto-chan's wallet had not been found (Totto-Chan, 2015, p.59).”

As shown in the quotation above, it is explained that Totto-chan damages and disrupts school facilities just because of her great desire to retrieve her beloved wallet, which had fallen into a dirt pit. What Totto-chan was doing is still tolerated because she is responsible for cleaning up the mess she had made even though her wallet could not be found. This is defined as naughty and good behavior at the same time. Tottochan can be considered good and has responsibility at a young age where not all children of Totto-chan's age have it. Especially with Totto-chan's absence, being angry or scolded by the headmaster who already knows what Totto-chan is doing. This can be applied to adults, so they do not easily discourage small children, which can make them feel disappointed or sad.

4.3. Lying to Parents

Honesty is the most important basic life value that must be taught to children since they were children. Teaching children to say, to act and to behave honestly will be a useful lesson for their future life. Honesty will also create good communication between parents and children and a sense of trust will be created. Children are individuals who are still clean and sensitive to stimuli that come from the outside environment. Thus, during childhood, it is ideal for parents to instill the value of honesty in their children.

In the following quotation, Totto-chan's behavior is described as lying to her mother because Totto-chan tears her clothes. Totto-chan lies and makes excuses because she is afraid that her mother would find out and scold her.

“Once she was crawling under a fence wearing clothes made of old, shabby calico. Clothes torn from top to bottom. Though they were old, Totto-chan knew Mother liked them very much, so she immediately racked her brains to come up with a good excuse. She dared not told Mama that her clothes were torn by the wires thorny. She thought she was better off lying to make it sound as if she accidentally tore her clothes off. Finally she decided to make up a story like this. "I was walking down the street" she lied to Mom just got home. "Suddenly a swarm bad boy threw a knife at my back, So my clothes are torn like this.”

As soon as she finished speaking, Totto-chan thought about how she would answer questions that might be asked” Mama (Totto-Chan, 2015, p.112).”

In the quotation above, it is illustrated that Totto-chan deliberately lies to her mother because she is afraid of being scolded and punished for tearing her clothes. After listening to Totto-chan's reasoning, her mother, as a parent, did not scold or even punish Totto-chan instead. Her mother listens to Totto-chan's story, which explains why her clothes could be torn.

In the following quotation, the mother is not angry with Totto-chan. Her mother did was listen to stories and reasons why Totto-Chan could ruin her clothes.

“Good thing Mama just said, "Wow, that must be terrible very!" Totto-chan breathed a sigh of relief. Mother would know, in situations like that Totto-chan would accidentally tear her favorite clothes. Of course Mama didn't believe her story about the knife. A knife thrown at her back would have cut her back and torn her clothes, and Totto-chan didn't look the least bit scared after what happened. Mama immediately knew the story was just a fabrication. Whatever happened, Totto-chan didn't usually bother to make up excuses like that. Mama also realized that Totto-chan must feel bad for tearing her clothes. And that was enough to make Mama feel relieved (Totto-Chan, 2015, p.87).”

Parents must understand the child and their character before punishing them. We need to motivate children and try to correct their mistakes and the mistakes are forgiven after being corrected. Parents must also be able to educate their children well. Because the character and nature of children grow based on the pattern of upbringing their parents. Punishment should not be given when angry, do not hurt the feelings and self-esteem of the child. In the quotation, it is explained that Mama is not angry and does not punish Totto-chan for accidentally tearing her clothes. What the mother did was just give some expressions as a listener to Totto-chan's reasons and stories.

5. Conclusion

From the analysis of the protagonist's improper behavior in Tetsuko Kuroyanagi's *Totto-chan: The Girl at the Window*, Totto-Chan's improper behaviors—classroom disruption, property damage, and dishonesty—stem from an intrinsic curiosity and active personality. The novel highlights the importance of empathetic parental and educational responses in nurturing such children. This provides more critical depth and interpretive maturity. Improper behavior by the protagonist is caused by an active character and a desire to know something new. The improper behavior carried out by the protagonist has an influence that can interfere with the activities and comfort of other people around her. The negative behavior that has been caused by the protagonist always has a personal reason behind it, and she dares to take responsibility for what she did. Someone who has bad behavior is not necessarily completely bad, but she can also have good behavior. Parents must know and learn how to understand and respond to the behavior of naughty children and active children.

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