Journal of Language
Volume 8, Number 2, pp: 549-559
e-ISSN: 2685-8878 | p-ISSN: 2655-9080
DOI: https://doi.org/10.30743/jol.v8i2.14432

The Representation of Human Values in Robert J. Blake's Novel *Togo*: A Literary Psychology Perspective

Syifa Nur'ain[1], M. Manugeren[2], Hidayati[3]
[1,2]Faculty of Literature, Universitas Islam Sumatera Utara, Medan, Indonesia
[3]Fakultas Bahasa dan Komunikasi, Universias Harapan Medan, Indonesia
E-mail: manugeren@gmail.com

Article Info
Article history:
Received: September 30, 2026
Accepted: November 05, 2026
Published: November 10, 2026

Keywords:
Human values;
leadership;
literary psychology;
teamwork;
tenacity;
Togo

ABSTRACT
This study examines the representation of human values in Robert J. Blake's Togo through the perspectives of literary psychology and Human Relations Theory. The novel portrays the journey of Togo, a sled dog, and his team as they attempt to deliver diphtheria serum to Nome, Alaska, under extreme natural conditions. This study focuses on three human values represented in the novel: teamwork, leadership, and tenacity. A qualitative descriptive method was used, with the novel Togo as the primary data source. Data were collected through close reading and analyzed by identifying and interpreting words, phrases, sentences, dialogues, and narrative episodes related to the three values. The findings show that teamwork is represented through cooperation, mutual trust, complementary roles, and shared responsibility among Togo, the other sled dogs, Leonhard Seppala, and the community involved in the mission. Leadership is represented through Togo's courage, initiative, adaptability, and intuitive decision-making, as well as Seppala's strategic guidance and sense of responsibility. Tenacity is represented through the characters' persistence in continuing the journey despite snowstorms, exhaustion, hunger, injuries, and dangerous terrain. The study concludes that teamwork, leadership, and tenacity are interconnected values that enable the characters to overcome adversity and achieve their life-saving mission. Therefore, Togo can be understood as a literary work that represents universal human values relevant to individual character building and social life.

Corresponding Author:
M. Manugeren
Faculty of Literature, Universitas Islam Sumatera Utara (UISU), Medan, Indonesia
E-mail: manugeren@sastra.uisu.ac.id

1. Introduction

Human values constitute fundamental principles that guide individuals in understanding, evaluating, and responding to their surroundings. They are reflected in attitudes, decisions, interpersonal relationships, and social actions. Values such as cooperation, responsibility, courage, perseverance, respect, and solidarity are important foundations for developing individual character and building harmonious social relationships. In this sense, human values are closely related to human dignity, empathy, justice, and mutual concern (Gaur, Asthana, & Bagaria, 2023). Human values are dynamic rather than static; their meaning and application may develop according to cultural, social, religious, philosophical, and historical contexts. Although societies may have different value systems, human values generally guide individuals toward meaningful, ethical, and harmonious ways of living (Schwartz, 2006).

Literary works provide an important medium for representing human life and examining the values that influence human behavior. Literature not only entertains readers but also records emotional experiences, social relationships, moral conflicts, and cultural

concerns. Through literary texts, authors can communicate ideas about human dignity, friendship, sacrifice, courage, and social responsibility (Husain, Rahman, & Khan, 2011). Human values may be expressed directly through dialogue and narration or indirectly through symbols, characterization, conflicts, and plot development (Purboasri, Saddhono, & Suyitno, 2017). Literary works can also raise awareness of social issues such as injustice, discrimination, poverty, and inequality (Ilham & Wardhatul, 2023). Although produced within particular cultural and historical contexts, the values represented in literature may remain relevant across time because themes such as friendship, courage, struggle, cooperation, and hope are universal human experiences (Sulaiman, 2017; Jubaidah, Ilham, & Bahtiar, 2023).

One literary work that offers significant representations of human values is Robert J. Blake's Togo (2002). The novel tells the story of Togo, a sled dog who joins a dangerous journey across Alaska to deliver diphtheria serum to Nome. Although Togo is initially considered unsuitable as a sled dog, his courage, intelligence, and determination enable him to become an essential member and leader of the team. The narrative presents not only an adventure but also a meaningful representation of cooperation, leadership, sacrifice, responsibility, and perseverance. Teamwork is visible through the cooperation between Togo, the other sled dogs, Leonhard Seppala as the musher, and the wider community involved in the rescue mission. The success of the mission does not depend on one individual alone; it results from the contribution of each member, the division of roles, mutual trust, and the ability to work toward a shared objective. This representation is consistent with the understanding of teamwork as a collaborative process in which individuals with different abilities coordinate their efforts to achieve a common goal (Driskell, Salas, & Driskell, 2018; Rahman, 2015).

The novel also presents leadership through the characters of Togo and Leonhard Seppala. Togo shows leadership through courage, initiative, adaptability, and the ability to guide the team in dangerous situations. His leadership is primarily shown through action rather than verbal commands. Meanwhile, Seppala represents a human leader who makes strategic decisions, understands the condition of his team, and remains responsible for the success and safety of the mission. Leadership, therefore, is presented not merely as authority or command, but as the ability to inspire, motivate, protect, and direct others toward a common purpose (Avolio, Walumbwa, & Weber, 2009; Putri, Mirzania, & Hartanto, 2020). In addition, the novel represents tenacity through the persistence of Togo, Seppala, and the entire team. They encounter severe weather, extreme cold, difficult terrain, exhaustion, hunger, and physical danger, yet they continue the journey because they are motivated by the urgent need to deliver life-saving medicine. Tenacity involves determination, commitment, responsibility, and the willingness to continue despite failure, pain, and uncertainty (Chao & Lou, 2024).

The representation of these values can be examined through literary psychology. Literary psychology is an interdisciplinary approach that connects literary studies with psychological analysis. It enables researchers to examine characters' motivations, emotions, conflicts, relationships, and psychological development. Through this approach, literary works can be understood as representations of human experiences and psychological processes (Cakirtas, 2019; Dar, 2022). Literary psychology also helps reveal the ways in which characters respond to challenges, construct relationships, and express values through their actions (Ratna, 2004; Atikah, Manalu, & Anggraeni, 2021). In addition to literary psychology, this study applies Human Relations Theory. This theory emphasizes that individuals are social beings whose behavior is influenced by relationships, group dynamics, communication, recognition, motivation, and leadership. Human Relations Theory views individuals not merely as instruments for achieving organizational goals but as persons with

Journal of Language
Volume 8, Number 2, pp: 549-559
e-ISSN: 2685-8878 | p-ISSN: 2655-9080
DOI: https://doi.org/10.30743/jol.v8i2.14432

emotional, social, and psychological needs (Omolawal, 2023). Elton Mayo's perspective is relevant because the novel emphasizes cooperation, group solidarity, leadership, mutual support, and the importance of each member's contribution. Effective communication, interpersonal relationships, and group cohesion influence the ability of the team to overcome challenges (Bruce & Nyland, 2011).

Previous studies have examined human values in literary works through various approaches. Boleng (2018) analyzed human values and character building in The Blind Side movie, identifying individual, family, professional, moral, and spiritual values and demonstrating their relevance to character formation. Similarly, Karmini, Sudiarthy, and Arsani (2020) examined human values in the novel Teman tapi Menikah through structuralist analysis and found values such as equality, love, tolerance, mutual understanding, justice, respect, and cooperation. Although those studies contribute to the understanding of human values in literary works, the present study focuses specifically on Robert J. Blake's Togo, a children's literary work that represents human values through the relationship between humans, animals, and the natural environment. Unlike previous studies that primarily employ structuralism or character-building perspectives, this study combines literary psychology with Human Relations Theory. This combination makes it possible to examine both the psychological dimension of the characters and the social relationships that support the team's success.

Accordingly, this study aims to identify and analyze the representation of teamwork, leadership, and tenacity in Togo. The study is limited to these three values and does not focus extensively on the historical accuracy of the Alaskan setting, Inuit culture, animal psychology, or adaptations of the novel into other media. The study is expected to contribute theoretically to literary studies by demonstrating how literary psychology and Human Relations Theory can be used to analyze human values in fiction. Practically, the findings may support the use of literary works as educational materials for character development, especially in promoting cooperation, responsible leadership, and perseverance.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Literary Psychology

Literary psychology serves as the primary framework for examining how human values are represented in Robert J. Blake's Togo. As an interdisciplinary approach, literary psychology connects literary studies and psychology to explain the emotional, motivational, and behavioral dimensions of literary works (Cakirtas, 2019). Through this approach, a literary text is understood not merely as a sequence of events, but as a representation of human experience, including emotions, conflicts, desires, relationships, and moral choices (Dar, 2022).

Literary psychology allows researchers to analyze characters beyond their visible actions. In Togo, the actions of Togo, Leonhard Seppala, and the sled dog team can be interpreted as psychological responses to danger, fatigue, uncertainty, and responsibility. The approach also helps explain the motivations behind their cooperation, leadership, and perseverance (Ratna, 2004). Literary psychology reveals the relationship between individual psychology and social interaction. The novel portrays a team facing a shared crisis, in which the members' behavior is shaped by trust, communication, mutual dependence, and collective purpose (Atikah, Manalu, & Anggraeni, 2021). Literary psychology also emphasizes the reader's role in recognizing universal human experiences. Stories about courage, sacrifice, friendship, and struggle invite readers to reflect on their own emotional and moral experiences (Santos, Santos, & Santos, 2018).

2.1.1 *Human Values*

Human values are moral and ethical principles that guide human behavior and social relationships. They concern dignity, empathy, justice, responsibility, cooperation, and respect for others. Values are not simply personal preferences; they are standards that influence individuals' judgments and actions in private and social life (Gaur, Asthana, & Bagaria, 2023). Schwartz (2006) explains that values function as guiding principles in human life and are shaped by cultural, religious, philosophical, and social experiences. This study focuses on three interrelated human values, teamwork, leadership, and tenacity because they appear consistently in the narrative development of Togo and correspond with the central ideas of Human Relations Theory, particularly group interaction, motivation, communication, and supportive leadership.

2.1.1.1 *Teamwork*

Teamwork is understood as a cooperative process in which individuals with different abilities and roles work together to achieve a shared goal. A team is not merely a group of individuals gathered in one place; it is a unit whose members depend on one another and contribute complementary strengths (Driskell, Salas, & Driskell, 2018). Effective teamwork requires communication, trust, mutual support, task division, and the willingness to prioritize collective interests over individual interests (Rahman, 2015). In Togo, teamwork is represented through the relationship between Togo, the other sled dogs, Seppala, and the people involved in the serum delivery mission. Each member performs a specific function, and the success of the mission depends on the ability of all members to coordinate their efforts. Diversity of roles is portrayed not as a weakness but as a source of collective strength.

2.1.1.2 *Leadership*

Leadership is another significant human value in the novel. Leadership is not merely a position of authority or the ability to give commands; it involves the capacity to inspire, guide, protect, and motivate others toward a common objective (Avolio, Walumbwa, & Weber, 2009). A leader is expected to expose integrity, courage, responsibility, empathy, and the ability to make decisions in difficult situations (Putri, Mirzania, & Hartanto, 2020). In Togo, leadership is represented by both Togo and Seppala. Togo leads through action, particularly through courage, instinct, adaptability, and willingness to move first in risky situations. Seppala, meanwhile, represents human leadership by making strategic decisions, considering the team's safety, and maintaining responsibility for the mission. Their combination shows that effective leadership may emerge from different forms of guidance and decision-making.

2.1.1.3 *Tenacity*

Tenacity refers to the ability to persist in pursuing a goal despite obstacles, pain, failure, or uncertainty. It is closely associated with determination, resilience, commitment, and responsibility (Chao & Lou, 2024). Tenacious individuals treat challenges as conditions that require continued effort and adaptation. Tenacity also involves patience, because meaningful goals often require sustained work over time (El-Gemayel, Sibertin-Blanc, & Chapron, 2010). In Togo, tenacity is represented through the team's struggle to continue the serum delivery mission. Togo and his team face snowstorms, freezing temperatures, dangerous paths, fatigue, hunger, and injuries. Their decision to continue is motivated not only by personal determination but also by the awareness that the medicine is urgently needed in Nome. Tenacity in the novel is linked to responsibility and concern for others.

Journal of Language
Volume 8, Number 2, pp: 549-559
e-ISSN: 2685-8878 | p-ISSN: 2655-9080
DOI: https://doi.org/10.30743/jol.v8i2.14432

2.2 Human Relations Theory

Human Relations Theory provides a complementary framework for interpreting the social dimension of the novel. The theory emphasizes that humans are social beings who need recognition, belonging, communication, and supportive relationships. It developed as a response to approaches that viewed individuals primarily as productive instruments within organizations (Omolawal, 2023). According to this theory, motivation is influenced not only by material rewards but also by social acceptance, emotional support, group identity, and positive interpersonal relationships (Bruce & Nyland, 2011). Human Relations Theory is relevant to Togo because the novel portrays a team operating under extreme pressure. The team's success is influenced by mutual trust, shared responsibility, communication, and solidarity. The theory also highlights the role of leadership in maintaining group cohesion: an effective leader builds trust, provides direction, communicates clearly, and creates conditions in which members feel valued and supported (Bruce & Nyland, 2011). In Togo, both Togo and Seppala perform these functions, strengthening the team's willingness to continue the mission.

2.3 Previous Studies

The representation of human values in Togo can also be connected to previous studies. Boleng (2018) analyzed human values and character building in The Blind Side and found values such as honesty, tolerance, hard work, love of peace, and social concern. The present study shares a similar concern with human values and uses a qualitative descriptive method, but differs in its object and theoretical framework. Boleng examined a film, while this study examines a novel. Boleng relied on the concepts of human values proposed by Jimenez and Singh, whereas this study applies literary psychology and Elton Mayo's Human Relations Theory. Karmini, Sudiarthy, and Arsani (2020) examined human values in the popular novel Teman tapi Menikah through structuralism, identifying values including equality, love, tolerance, respect, cooperation, and the struggle for justice. Both their study and the present study examine human values in novels and use qualitative methods; however, the present study differs in its theoretical approach and focus, specifically examining teamwork, leadership, and tenacity in a children's adventure novel.

By combining literary psychology and Human Relations Theory, this study provides a more comprehensive interpretation of Togo. Literary psychology explains the internal motivations, emotions, and psychological responses of the characters, while Human Relations Theory explains the social relationships, group dynamics, and leadership processes that support the mission. Together, these frameworks help explain how teamwork, leadership, and tenacity are not isolated values but interconnected forms of human behavior that enable the team to overcome extreme challenges.

3. Research Method

This study employed a qualitative descriptive method. Qualitative research is appropriate because the object of the study is a literary text that requires interpretation rather than numerical measurement. The study aims to describe and explain the representation of human values in Robert J. Blake's Togo, particularly teamwork, leadership, and tenacity. Therefore, the analysis focuses on the meaning of textual evidence, the actions of the characters, the conflicts in the narrative, and the relationships among the members of the sled team.

The research design combines literary psychology and Human Relations Theory. Literary psychology is used to interpret the characters' motivations, emotions, conflicts, decisions, and psychological responses to challenging situations. Human Relations Theory is

used to analyze the social dimension of the novel, including cooperation, communication, mutual support, group identity, and leadership. The combination of these two perspectives enables the study to explain human values both as individual qualities and as values formed through social interaction.

The primary data source is Robert J. Blake's novel Togo, published by Philomel Books in 2002. The novel is a children's literary work consisting of 48 pages. The data consist of words, phrases, sentences, dialogues, narrative descriptions, and episodes that indicate the representation of teamwork, leadership, and tenacity. Secondary data are obtained from books, journal articles, and other academic references related to literary psychology, Human Relations Theory, human values, teamwork, leadership, and tenacity.

The data were collected through library research and close reading. The researcher acted as the main instrument in selecting, identifying, and interpreting the data. The data collection procedure was carried out through the following steps:

1. Reading the novel Togo carefully and thoroughly from beginning to end.
2. Marking words, phrases, sentences, and narrative passages that indicate human values.
3. Classifying the identified data into three categories: teamwork, leadership, and tenacity.
4. Selecting the most relevant quotations as evidence for the analysis.
5. Reading supporting theories and previous studies to strengthen the interpretation of the data.
6. Organizing the collected data according to the research questions.

The data analysis used a descriptive interpretative technique. The analysis was conducted by examining the attitudes, actions, motivations, and relationships of the characters in the novel. Each selected quotation was interpreted in relation to the theoretical framework and the narrative context. The analysis did not only identify the presence of human values but also explained how those values were represented through the characters and events in the story.

The data analysis procedure followed three main stages. First, data reduction was conducted by selecting and grouping the data based on their relevance to teamwork, leadership, and tenacity. Data that did not directly support the focus of the study were excluded. Second, data display was conducted by presenting the selected data in a structured form, including the quotation, its context, and its interpretation. Third, conclusion drawing and verification were conducted by comparing the interpreted data across the three categories of human values.

The validity of the analysis was maintained through careful and repeated reading of the novel. The interpretation of each data point was based on textual evidence rather than personal assumption. The use of theories also served as an analytical guide to ensure that the findings were consistent with the concepts of literary psychology, Human Relations Theory, teamwork, leadership, and tenacity.

The scope of this study is limited to the representation of teamwork, leadership, and tenacity in Togo. Other possible perspectives, such as historical analysis, cultural analysis of Inuit communities, animal psychology, or comparative analysis of the novel and the real 1925 serum run, are not the main focus of this study. This limitation is applied to keep the discussion focused and appropriate for the length of a journal article.

4. Discussion

This section discusses the representation of teamwork, leadership, and tenacity in Robert J. Blake's *Togo*. The analysis is based on selected narrative evidence from the novel and interpreted through literary psychology and Human Relations Theory. The discussion

Journal of Language
Volume 8, Number 2, pp: 549-559
e-ISSN: 2685-8878 | p-ISSN: 2655-9080
DOI: https://doi.org/10.30743/jol.v8i2.14432

explains not only the forms of human values found in the novel but also how these values are constructed through the characters' actions, decisions, conflicts, and social relationships.

4.1 Teamwork

Teamwork is the first human value represented in *Togo*. The novel portrays teamwork as a collective effort involving Togo, the other sled dogs, Leonhard Seppala, and the wider community involved in the serum delivery mission. The team's success does not depend on the ability of one individual. Instead, it is achieved through coordination, mutual trust, complementary roles, and the willingness to support one another in difficult situations (Blake, 2002: 23).

This representation is consistent with the concept of teamwork as a cooperative process in which individuals with different skills and roles work together to achieve a common goal (Driskell, Salas, & Driskell, 2018). In the novel, each member of the sled team has a specific contribution. Strong dogs pull the sled, agile dogs help the team move through difficult terrain, and Togo provides direction as the lead dog. The diversity of abilities becomes a source of collective strength because each member's weakness is compensated by another member's strength (Blake, 2002: 31).

From the perspective of Human Relations Theory, teamwork in the novel reflects the importance of social relationships, communication, and group cohesion. The team members do not work as isolated individuals. They coordinate their movements, respond to signals from the lead dog, and maintain unity when facing extreme weather and dangerous terrain. Their success is supported by mutual dependence and shared responsibility (Rahman, 2015). This finding shows that teamwork is represented not simply as working together physically, but as a social relationship built on trust, solidarity, and collective commitment.

The narrative also shows that teamwork requires sacrifice. In several episodes, the dogs continue to pull the sled despite exhaustion and injury. When one member becomes weaker, the others continue to carry the burden of the journey. This condition represents a high level of dedication to the shared goal, namely delivering the diphtheria serum to Nome (Blake, 2002: 31). Teamwork in *Togo* is closely connected to responsibility and concern for others. The value is represented through the characters' ability to prioritize the success of the mission over personal comfort and safety.

4.2 Leadership

Leadership is the second human value represented in the novel. Leadership in *Togo* is not portrayed merely as authority or the ability to give orders. It is represented as the ability to guide, protect, inspire, and motivate others in the face of danger. This value is mainly embodied by Togo as the lead dog and Leonhard Seppala as the musher. Both characters reveal leadership in different but complementary ways.

Togo's leadership is shown through his courage, initiative, and ability to make decisions in critical situations. He is able to read the condition of the environment and choose the safest direction for the team. His intuitive ability allows him to act quickly when the team faces unexpected danger (Blake, 2002: 39). This form of leadership is significant because Togo does not lead through verbal commands. Instead, he leads through action, particularly through his willingness to move first and face risk before the other members of the team.

Togo's leadership also reflects adaptability. The journey across Alaska presents unpredictable conditions, including snowstorms, frozen rivers, steep terrain, and limited visibility. Togo's ability to adjust his decisions according to the changing situation shows that effective leadership requires flexibility and situational awareness (Blake, 2002: 36). This representation

supports the idea that leadership is not a fixed quality but a dynamic process of responding to challenges and guiding others through uncertainty.

In addition, Togo's leadership is characterized by empathy and concern for the team. Although he is firm in giving direction, he also pays attention to the condition of the other dogs. He recognizes when a team member is tired or injured and attempts to maintain the team's spirit (Blake, 2002: 19). This aspect of leadership is relevant to Human Relations Theory, which emphasizes that effective leadership involves building positive relationships, providing emotional support, and increasing members' motivation (Bruce & Nyland, 2011).

Leonhard Seppala represents another form of leadership. As the human leader of the team, Seppala is responsible for making strategic decisions and ensuring the safety of the team. He remains calm in critical situations and continues the mission despite the risks. His leadership is guided by responsibility, courage, and concern for human life in Nome. The combination of Togo's intuitive leadership and Seppala's calculated leadership shows that effective leadership may appear in different forms, but it always aims to protect the team and achieve a shared objective (Avolio, Walumbwa, & Weber, 2009; Putri, Mirzania, & Hartanto, 2020).

4.3 Tenacity

Tenacity is the third and most prominent human value represented in *Togo*. The novel repeatedly presents Togo and his team facing extreme obstacles, including severe cold, snowstorms, hunger, exhaustion, injuries, and dangerous terrain. Despite these conditions, they continue their journey to deliver the diphtheria serum. Tenacity in the novel is therefore represented as the determination to continue a meaningful mission despite physical and emotional suffering (Blake, 2002: 36).

This representation is consistent with the concept of tenacity as the ability to persist in pursuing a goal despite obstacles and failure (Chao & Lou, 2024). In the novel, tenacity is not simply related to hard work. It also involves commitment, responsibility, and hope. The characters continue the journey because they understand the importance of the medicine for the people in Nome. Their perseverance is driven by a purpose greater than personal interest (Blake, 2002: 44).

The narrative evidence shows that Togo and his team experience fatigue and hunger during the journey. Nevertheless, they choose to continue rather than stop (Blake, 2002: 38). This decision represents mental strength and resilience. From the perspective of literary psychology, their persistence can be interpreted as a response to internal conflict between physical exhaustion and moral responsibility. The characters are aware of the risk, but their awareness of the urgent need for medicine strengthens their determination to continue.

Injury is another important element in the representation of tenacity. Togo and the team continue the journey despite physical pain and injuries (Blake, 2002: 42). This condition shows that tenacity is not the absence of pain or fear. Instead, it is the ability to move forward while experiencing pain, uncertainty, and doubt. The novel represents tenacity as a moral choice: the characters decide to continue because they believe that the mission must be completed.

The strongest motivation behind the team's tenacity is the awareness that the serum can save lives. This motivation is expressed through Seppala's determination to continue the journey despite the dangerous conditions (Blake, 2002: 45). Therefore, tenacity in *Togo* is closely related to empathy and social responsibility. The characters do not persist only for personal achievement; they persist because they care about the lives of others. This finding shows that tenacity is a human value that connects individual determination with collective responsibility.

Journal of Language
Volume 8, Number 2, pp: 549-559
e-ISSN: 2685-8878 | p-ISSN: 2655-9080
DOI: https://doi.org/10.30743/jol.v8i2.14432

4.4 Interconnection of Teamwork, Leadership, and Tenacity

The analysis shows that teamwork, leadership, and tenacity are interconnected in *Togo*. Teamwork provides the social foundation for the mission, leadership provides direction and motivation, and tenacity provides the strength to continue despite obstacles. These three values cannot be separated because the success of the mission depends on their integration.

Togo's tenacity strengthens the team's willingness to continue the journey. His courage and persistence become an example for the other dogs, showing that resilience can be contagious within a group (Blake, 2002: 31). At the same time, leadership supports teamwork because Togo and Seppala guide the team, maintain discipline, and encourage the members to remain united. The team's ability to cooperate depends on the presence of leadership that provides direction and builds trust.

The harsh Alaskan environment functions as an external challenge that tests the characters' values. The cold, snow, dangerous terrain, and long distance represent obstacles that cannot be overcome by individual effort alone. The novel suggests that external challenges can be faced successfully when teamwork, leadership, and tenacity work together. In this sense, the environment becomes a silent antagonist that reveals the importance of solidarity, guidance, and persistence (El-Gemayel, Sibertin-Blanc, & Chapron, 2010).

The discussion shows that Togo represents human values through the relationship between individual courage and collective action. Teamwork is represented through mutual support and complementary roles, leadership is represented through courage, empathy, adaptability, and strategic decision-making, and tenacity is represented through persistence in fulfilling a life-saving mission. These values are presented as essential qualities for overcoming adversity and achieving meaningful goals.

5. Conclusion

This study has examined the representation of human values in Robert J. Blake's *Togo* through literary psychology and Human Relations Theory. The analysis focused on three interrelated values: teamwork, leadership, and tenacity. The findings show that Togo is not only an adventure story about a sled dog and his team, but also a literary work that represents essential human values through characters, conflicts, actions, and social relationships.

First, teamwork is represented through the collective effort of Togo, the other sled dogs, Leonhard Seppala, and the community involved in the serum delivery mission. The success of the mission depends on cooperation, mutual trust, complementary roles, and shared responsibility. Each member of the team contributes a different ability, and their differences become a source of collective strength. The novel represents teamwork as a social relationship in which individuals support one another and prioritize the success of the group over personal comfort.

Second, leadership is represented through the characters of Togo and Leonhard Seppala. Togo establishes leadership through courage, initiative, adaptability, and intuitive decision-making. He leads by example, particularly by facing danger first and guiding the team through difficult situations. Seppala represents strategic and responsible leadership through his ability to make decisions, protect the team, and remain committed to the mission. The novel shows that effective leadership is not merely authority or command, but the ability to inspire, guide, motivate, and protect others.

Third, tenacity is represented through the persistence of Togo, Seppala, and the sled team in continuing their journey despite extreme cold, snowstorms, fatigue, hunger, injuries, and dangerous terrain. Their determination is motivated by the urgent need to deliver diphtheria serum to Nome. Therefore, tenacity in the novel is closely related to responsibility, commitment, and concern for human life. The characters' perseverance shows that

meaningful goals often require sustained effort, mental strength, and the willingness to continue despite hardship.

The analysis also shows that teamwork, leadership, and tenacity are interconnected. Teamwork provides the social foundation of the mission, leadership provides direction and motivation, and tenacity provides the strength to overcome obstacles. Togo's persistence inspires the team, while the leadership of Togo and Seppala maintains unity and direction. The harsh Alaskan environment functions as an external challenge that reveals the importance of solidarity, guidance, and perseverance.

Togo represents human values as essential qualities for facing adversity and achieving collective goals. The novel suggests that no meaningful mission can be accomplished through individual effort alone. Success requires cooperation, responsible leadership, and strong determination. These values are relevant not only within the context of the novel but also in contemporary individual and social life.

References

Atikah, N., Manalu, H. F., & Anggraeni, D. (2021). A psychological analysis of the main character in Franz Kafka's *Metamorphosis*. *Mediova: Journal of Islamic Media Studies, 1*(2). https://doi.org/10.32923/medio.v1i2.1914

Avolio, B., Walumbwa, F., & Weber, T. (2009). Leadership: Current theories, research, and future directions. *Annual Review of Psychology, 60*, 421–449. https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev.psych.60.110707.163621

Blake, R. J. (2002). *Togo*. New York: Philomel Books.

Boleng, M. (2018). An analysis of human values and character building in Indonesia reflected in Hancock's *The Blind Side* movie. *Journal of English Teaching, Linguistic and Literature, 1*(1).

Bruce, K., & Nyland, C. (2011). Elton Mayo and the deification of human relations. *Organization Studies, 32*(3), 383–405. https://doi.org/10.1177/0170840610397478

Cakirtas, O. (2019). *Literature and psychology*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Chao, L., & Lou, X. (2024). Tenacity. https://doi.org/10.31274/itaa.17437

Dar, A. (2022). On the relationship between literature and psychology. *International Journal of Applied Research in Social Sciences, 4*(8), 284–292. https://doi.org/10.51594/ijarss.v4i8.382

Driskell, J. E., Salas, E., & Driskell, T. (2018). Foundations of teamwork and collaboration. *American Psychologist, 73*(4), 334–348. https://doi.org/10.1037/amp0000241

El-Gemayel, J., Sibertin-Blanc, C., & Chapron, P. (2010). Impact of tenacity upon the behaviors of social actors. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-642-16098-1_18

Gaur, R. R., Asthana, R., & Bagaria, G. P. (2023). *A foundation course in human values and professional ethics*. New Delhi: UHV Publications.

Husain, A., Rahman, & Khan, A. (2011). Human values: A running commentary based on literary texts. *Men In India, 92*, 491–504.

Ilham Ali, M., & Wardhatul Jannah Husain, S. (2023). *Literature review: Social issues in works*. Penerbit Tahta Media. https://tahtamedia.co.id/index.php/issj/article/view/434

Jubaidah, S., Ilham, A., & Bahtiar, I. R. (2023). Development of cyber literature on human values and nationalism in the poetry of Ibrahim Tuqan: Semiotic structural analysis. *Kalimatuna: Journal of Arabic Research, 2*(2). https://doi.org/10.15408/kjar.v1i1.37809

Karmini, N. N., Sudiarthy, D. N. A., & Arsani, N. P. M. (2020). Nilai kemanusiaan dalam novel populer: Analisis strukturalisme. *Suluh Pendidikan, 18*(2).

Omolawal, S. A. (2023). Human relations theory: Implications for effective human resource management. *Ilorin Journal of Human Resource Management, 5*(1).

Journal of Language
Volume 8, Number 2, pp: 549-559
e-ISSN: 2685-8878 | p-ISSN: 2655-9080
DOI: https://doi.org/10.30743/jol.v8i2.14432

Purboasri, G., Saddhono, K., & Suyitno. (2017). Social problems as reflected in the *Preman* anthology of the short story by Tiwiek SA. *IJOLTL: Indonesian Journal of Language Teaching and Linguistics, 2*(2), 147. https://doi.org/10.30957/ijoltl.v2i2.281

Putri, S. A., Mirzania, A., & Hartanto, D. (2020). The importance of a transformational leadership model in managing organizational culture. *Journal of Leadership in Organizations, 2*(1).

Rahman, F. N. (2015). Teamwork: A key to organizational success. *The Government Edition, 3*, 87–95.

Ratna, N. K. (2004). *Teori, metode, dan teknik penelitian sastra*. Yogyakarta: Pustaka Pelajar.

Santos, R., Santos, J., & Santos, J. (2018). Psychology of literature and literature in psychology. *Temas em Psicologia, 26*, 781–794. https://doi.org/10.9788/TP2018.2-09En

Schwartz, S. (2006). Basic human values: Theory, measurement, and applications. *Revue Française de Sociologie, 47*, 929–968.

Sulaiman, S. (2017). Literature and human values: An experience from an EFL classroom at PSU, Pattani. *UAD TEFL International Conference, 1*, 476. https://doi.org/10.12928/utic.v1.203.20