

MORAL VALUES IN JUSTIN ZACKHAM'S MOVIE SCRIPT *THE BUCKET LIST*

Fitri Marini, Pardi

Faculty of Literature, Universitas Islam Sumatera Utara
Medan, Indonesia
E-mail: fitrimarini1501@gmail.com

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Abstract

Justin Zackham published the script for his film *The Bucket List* in 2007. The script tells the story of two men who have serious illnesses and have a strong desire to continue doing things they haven't done before they die. The film script was adopted into a film in 2008. This study aims to reveal the moral values contained in the film script. Various theories related to moral values were adopted to support this analysis, but the main theory that will be used is the theory proposed by Berterns. Another concept is proposed by Elizabeth stating that moral is controlled by the moral, the rules of moral to which the members of a culture have become accustomed to and which determine the expected behavior pattern of all group members. The method used in this study is a qualitative descriptive method. The results of the analysis show that the moral values found in the characters discussed, Edward Cole and Carter Chambers, are the values of courage, honesty, patience, responsibility, and humility. These moral values make the two characters successful and useful for many people.

Keywords: moral values, bravery, honesty, patience, responsibility and modesty.

1. Introduction

The Bucket List is an American drama-comedy movie written by Justin Zackham (2007). He was born in America and became a screenwriter, director and producer. This movie was inspired by Zackham when graduation from NYU film school. Zackham wrote his own "List of Things to Do before I Kick the Bucket," which was shortened to "Justin Bucket List". In his bucket list, he wants to make a movie in a big Hollywood studio. A few years later, his wish list became the idea for a movie scenario. Zackham wrote it down in the specs before sending it to producers, who almost all rejected it. Finally, the script got to Rob Reiner, a famous producer who made this script into a very popular movie.

The Bucket List movie script tells about two main characters, Edward Cole a millionaire who is suffering from terminal cancer and a low-profile man, Carter Chambers, who has cancer first. They are in the same room in the hospital owned by the millionaire, Edward Cole. The thing that makes Cole and Carter in the same room is because of the full hospital rooms and the existence of a policy from Cole to place two

patients in the same room, in order to get a big profit. Unfortunately, the rules ended up being used for himself.

After several weeks of treatment and chemotherapy, the doctor states that Cole and Carter have only 6 months to live. In the end, Carter writes down some of his last wishes before he leaves this world. The wishes are apparently read by Cole and he also thinks about what he would do before he dies. In the end, Cole and Carter carry out their last wish and enjoy life as long as they have.

From the explanation above, there are several moral values that we can represent in our respective lives. Moral values are values that are found in a person related to good or bad deeds that serve as guidelines in human life in general. These moral values can encourage people to act or do something or as a source of motivation. In other words, moral values tend to regulate and limit our actions in everyday life.

According to Sternberg (1994: 938), understanding morality is to be specific about definitions of good (or bad) and right (or wrong), since these terms can be used in several different ways". In other words, a person's moral values can be about bravery, patience, honesty, responsibility and modesty.

The writers chooses this movie script to be examined because the topic of moral values is closely related to people's daily life. Hopefully, this paper can be a reminder for everyone to respect every existing moral value.

This movie script tells many aspects to be discussed so that the writers decide to limit what will be analyzed. The analysis will only focus on the moral values that are found in the movie script such as bravery, honesty, patience, responsibility and modesty. The other things that are not related to the problem will not be analyzed.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Character

According to Dali (1982: 29), character is a personality in terms of ethics or morals, for example a person's honesty, usually related to relatively fixed characteristics. Other observers also say that character is a psychological trait, or morals that distinguish a person from others. In other words, character is a trait or personality that is found in a person related to psychology and morals. Character is usually used as a person's value. In addition, Characters are divided into 3 categories: protagonist, antagonist, and deuteragonist. Protagonist is usually the main character that has a good role. Antagonist is the opposite. The antagonist has an evil role that often becomes the opposite of the protagonist. Meanwhile, the deuteragonist is a form of characterization other than the protagonist and antagonist in a literary work. Deuteragonist can help or trouble the protagonist character. In addition, deuteragonist is more suitable as a character that undergoes a role change from the supporting role of the protagonist to the supporting role of the antagonist.

Moreover, a protagonist has an important role to play a story in a literary work. According to Altenberd and Lewis (1966: 59), the protagonist is a character admired by his readers, who is always called a hero because he always performs an ideal role and follows the rules and values in society. In other words, the writers can say that the protagonist and main character are almost the same character. But it should be emphasized that the protagonist pushes the plot forward the main character affected by the plot. Protagonist is the chief character in a work. The world was originally applied to the "first" actor in early Greek drama. The actor was added to the chorus and was its leader; hence, the continuing meaning of protagonist as the "first" or chief player.

Based on the statements above, it can be concluded that the protagonist is a role that becomes the main character in a literary work and is always a good character. Choosing the right actor and role for the protagonist character in a literary work is very important because it is the main condition for the success of a storyline.

2.2 Moral Value

The notion of morality is more specific about defining good (or bad) and right (or wrong), because these terms can be used in several different ways, Sternberg (1994: 938). Moral is something to be conveyed by the author to the reader, where the meaning contained in a literature work and the suggested meaning is conveyed through stories, Nurgiyantoro (2005: 42). Therefore, Elizabeth (1997: 386) says moral is controlled by the moral, the rules of moral to which the members of a culture have become accustomed to and which determine the expected behavior pattern of all group members. Every society has values to arrange their life that contain some principles, ideals and standards. In addition, Bertens (2000: 139) says value is something that is attractive to us, something we are looking for, something that is a fun, something that is liked, and in short is something good; value has a good connotation. Value is something high, valuable, important and useful for human. Value is a belief or feeling that is believed to be an identity which gives a special pattern to a way of thinking, feeling, attachment and behavior, Ahmadi (1991: 23). According to Benninga in Hadil's book, the term "value" may suggest judgments of right and wrong, lofty and base, just and unjust, and more personal preferences, things that are useful for individuals (Benninga, 1991: 131). Earle (1992: 92) says that value is the positive quality of anything that is desirable, useful, interesting, good and important, to name only a few of the terms available for the expression of the positive values. Based on the statements, it can be said that value is a form of judgment which can be either justification or error, something that is pleasant or unpleasant, and has a relative clarity of meaning.

Ursery (2002: 2) says, moral values are the people's beliefs about what is important in life. Individual's morals may derive from society and government, religion, or self. When moral values derive from society and government they, of necessity, may change as the laws and morals of the society change. Moreover, according to Bertens (2000: 142) loyalty is a moral value, but it must be applied to other human values in general, for example husband and wife's love.

Based on Bertens (1997: 144) theory, there are four characteristics of moral values, thus are:

1. Relating to the person's responsibility, moral values concern with the human's personality which has responsibility. It causes the person to be guilty or not because he is responsible. It is created within the actions which become his duty. Human being is as a source of his moral values.
2. Concerning one's inner self this values produces "voice" from one's inner self. It will accuse us if we are against it and praise us if we bring the values to reality.
3. Moral values has absolute obligation which cannot be bargained. We are obliged to do something without requirements. It is applied to human being as a root of humanity. Human is hoped to perform the moral values. It is impossible that someone chooses some moral values and refuses the others, for example, someone receives honesty and loyalty as the values in his life but rejects justice. Therefore, all the people should accept all of the standards of behavior.
4. Having formal quality of a moral value does not have the separate substance of values. It runs with the other values.

Then, the writers conclude that moral values have been variously defined as things which are considered 'good' in themselves such as bravery, honesty, patience, responsibility and modesty.

2.2.1 Bravery

According to Webster (1981: 269), bravery is facing (something involving possible unfortunate or disastrous consequences) or enduring (as hardship) used with self-control and mastery of fear and often with a particular objective in view. Bravery is able to meet danger or endure pain or hardship without giving in to fear. Bravery is arising from or suggestive of mastery of fear and intelligent use of faculties especially under duress.

Bravery refers to feeling or at least showing no fear. Bravery refers to boldness or determination in facing great danger, especially in battle. Then according to Greenberg (2012: 15) the characteristics of bravery are:

1. Feeling fear yet choosing to act.
2. Following your heart.
3. Persevering in the face of adversity.
4. Standing up for what is right
5. Expanding your horizons; letting go of the familiarity.

2.2.3 Honesty

Honesty is a form of conformity to words, as well as the suitability of one's behavior in life and society. In every religion it is also taught to continue to behave honestly in everyday life. Likewise, with matters of success, being honest is the key to getting success through the trust that society has given us. Honesty is estimable character; fairness and straightforwardness of conduct or adherence to the fact. Honesty is freedom from subterfuge or duplicity, truthfulness, and sincerity (Webster, 1981: 1086). Honest behavior is proven to educate students about self-confidence, responsibility, curiosity, and courage, (Syaodih & Andayani, 2017: 28).

Then according to Kesuma (2011: 17) the characteristics of honesty are:

1. If he is determined to do something, his determination is truth and benefit.
2. If he says he is not lying.
3. There is a similarity between what his heart says and what he does.

2.2.4 Patience

Patience as defined in the current study, however, does not involve selecting between different outcomes with respect to waiting time. It is rather seen as the way a person waits in the face of frustration, adversity, or suffering when there is no choice but to simply wait. When participants received patience training, their depression score decrease and their positive influence increase" (Schnitker, 2012: 7). Schnitker & Emmons (2007: 19) say that "patience is a predictor of life satisfaction, happiness, health, and goal achievement". Therefore, it can be said that patience will only be possessed by people who have a clear purpose in life and are sure of their success and believe that they will be able to go through their patience all this time. According to Yusuf (2010: 58), the characteristics of patience include:

1. Being strong in stance or principles, which means being strong in completing what has been planned and holding fast to goals.
2. Steadfastness, which means to stay strong to face the challenges and trials.

3. Diligence, that means carrying out tasks continuously so that you can achieve your goals.

2.2.5 Responsibility

Responsibility is a form of awareness of one's obligation to something. Since childhood, everyone must have been taught how to form a responsibility and also taught how to overcome and complete these obligations. Being responsible is to have control and authority over something or someone and the duty of taking care of it or them (Walter, 2008: 47). According to Fitri (2012: 112), responsibility is an important moral value in people's lives; responsibility is responsibility for actions, parents and yourself. Mustari (2011: 25) says that the characteristics of responsibility are:

1. Choosing a straight path.
2. Always advancing yourself.
3. Maintaining self-respect.
4. Always being vigilant.
5. Having a commitment to duties.
6. Performing tasks with the best standards.
7. Recognizing all his actions.
8. Keeping promises.
9. Daring to take risks for his actions and words.

2.2.6 Modesty

Modesty is synonymous with the phrase simplicity. Modesty means a life that is not extravagant but also not miserable. A simple life will bring a person into a phase of a calm and peaceful life phase. Hamka (1984: 152) reveals that a simple person will be honest, because honesty is a simple straight show. Then, Wijaya (2014: 1199) also states that the characteristics of modesty can be assessed by:

1. Not easily suspicious of others.
2. Not showing off.
3. Not being arrogant.
4. Being Honest.
5. Being Helpful.

3. Research Method

In writing a study, the research method is one of the most important elements that must be resolved. The research method contains a systematic way of how a study is conducted and shows research that provides the design, data collection, and analysis of research data.

3.1 Research Design

Research design is all the processes required in planning and implementing a research design. According to Creswell (2009: 3) research design is plans and the procedures for research to detailed methods of data collection and analysis.

The research design differs according to the research purpose. To analyze the data found in this movie script, the writers use qualitative method. A qualitative method research is a process of research and understanding based on methods that investigate social phenomena and human problems. This method is used to build knowledge

through understanding and discovery; this method is also used to describe moral values in the movie script.

4. Result and Discussion

4.1 Result

After the moral values in *The Bucket List* movie script written by Justin Zackham are analysed, some results can be concluded. They are as follows;

1. There are five forms of moral values found in this movie script they are, bravery, honesty, patient, responsibility and modesty.
2. Bravery is shown by Edward and Carter makes them never give up of fear.
2. Honesty that Edward and Carter do make them respect each other and respect each other's decisions and beliefs.
3. Edward and Carter's patience are seen through all the most difficult phases of their lives.
4. The sense of responsibility shown by Edward and Carter makes them care about themselves, their families and those around them.
5. Modesty that exists in Edward and Carter makes them more accepting of the circumstances of life and understanding about life.

4.2 Discussion

The moral values in this film script is how the main characters still have moral values in their conditions, struggling with cancer and also influencing other characters to maintain several points in moral values, such as:

4.2.1 To be Brave

Bravery is an act of a person that is usually used to fight fears such as injustice, forms of oppression and things that one thinks appropriate to fight. Bravery is also usually caused when someone is under pressure and is required to make decision regardless of the pain. It can be seen in the following:

“We still feel good, right? Enegery's coming back. We're not in pain. Asymptomatic, the doc says. The way I see it, we can lie around here hoping for a miracle in some bullshit science experiment... or we can put some moves on”
(Zackham, 2006: 35)

The quotation above shows that Edward and Carter cheer each other after hearing the doctor's statement that they only have a few months left of their lives. This statement does not make them afraid but make them believe that everything will be fine; all they need is a bravery to continue living the rest of their lives. What Edward and Carter do, shows that they have a brave attitude.

“Dreams are for teenagers. Let's face it, we've had our time and we did with it” (Zackham, 2006: 31)

In this quotation Edward encourages Carter to start their bucket list. Previously, Carter is not sure of the bucket list that he has written on a paper, he feels it is just a wish that would not be possible. He thinks there would never an opportunity, time and money to run his bucket list. Edward cheers and assures Carter that they can do it.

4.1.2 To be Honest

Honesty is an act of a person in the form of speech and behavior in society, all of which are in accordance with what he does. Honesty is a commendable behavior, usually if someone becomes an honest person there will be many people who respect, trust and respect every decision and his words.

“Edward, you’re strong, but you’re not that strong. When Rachel left for college there was a hole. There was no more homework, no more Little League games, recitals, school plays, kids crying, fights, skinned knees. For the first time in forty years, I looked at Virginia without all the noise, without all the distractions, and I couldn’t remember how it felt when I couldn’t walk down the sidewalk without holding her hand. She was the same girl I feel in love with. She had not changed, but somehow everything was different. We lost something along the way... “(Zackham, 2006: 48).

The quotation shows that Carter expresses that Virginia is childish. For 45 years he has taken care of the family and worked with engineering and machinery. He feels annoyed with his wife and thinks that his feelings for Virginia are not what they are used to be. This shows that Carter has always been true to his feelings.

“I do. I’m sorry. A man much smarter than me once said, ‘Sometimes you have to go a long distance out of your way to come back a short distance correctly.’ I blamed you. And you didn’t deserve that. I blamed you because I thought it should be. I had an extraordinary life. You gave me that” (Zackham, 2006: 74).

In this quotation, Carter has returned home and is dancing with his wife. He says that he should be honest with his feelings and his love that does not change from he is young till old with Virginnia, his wife. What Carter does shows that he has an honest attitude as the characteristics of honesty according to Kesuma (2011: 17).

“I don’t know what most people say at these occasions, because in all honesty, I’ve tried to avoid them. The simplest thing is I loved him and I miss him.

Carter and I saw the world together. This is amazing when you think that only three months ago we were strangers, I hope it doesn’t sound selfish of me, but the last months of mine. He saved my life, and he knew it before I did” (Zackham, 2006: 102).

The quotation shows that Edward finds out Carter has left this world. He realizes that his meeting with Carter is not just an ordinary meeting. Carter teaches many things in Edward's life, such as being a brave man who is strong in battling his illness. Everything that Carter goes through in these three months becomes the best part of Edward's life before he also leaves this world. He is lenient with his meeting and parting with Carter. What Edward says shows that he has a patient attitude in his friendship with Carter.

4.1.3 To be Patient

Patience is a form of attitude of someone who is always steadfast and generous to face something and believes that everything will pass well. Patience is also a commendable attitude as some of the quotes below:

“There was a survey once; a thousand people were asked, if they could know in advance, would they want to know the exact day of their death.

Ninety-six percent of them said no. I always kinda leaned towards the other four percent. I thought it would be liberating, knowing how much time you had left to work with” (Zackham, 2006: 30).

As informed in the quotation, Carter receives a doctor's decision stating that his remaining life is only about six months. This does not frighten him, but he is patient and generous to accept it; he says that he gets a lot of time and he could spend it doing the things he has never done before.

“Death? Treat it as if it were your own. Now go get me one of those almond croissants and don't buy any green bananas” (Zackham, 2006: 32).

In this quotation Edward's personal assistant, Thomas, comes to see him in the morning and tells him about his work. Then Thomas asks how he is going to manage Edward's funeral. With grace and patience, Edward says to take care of his death ceremony as Thomas also wants to be treated.

“I definitely want myself cremated” (Zackham, 2006: 67).

The quotation above is Carter's statement while walking in India with Edward. He says when he die he wants his body to be cremated. The meaning of Carter's statement really shows that Carter is very tolerant and patient in accepting all his illnesses even until his death he has thought about.

4.1.4 To be Responsible

Responsibility is the act of someone who is undertaken to carry out his obligations for something. The attitude of responsibility cannot be underestimated, if someone already understands the true meaning of responsibility; this means he has become a wise person.

“It's not that... It's just. If you're worried about letting me down... it's easy for me. I mean, you've got your family to think about” (Zackham, 2006: 59).

In this quotation Edward and Carter are on their travelling the world. At that time Virginia, Carter's wife calls Edward to talk about her husband, she asks if Carter is okay during the trip and Virginia wants Edward to return her husband as soon as possible. It makes Edward hesitated, and tells Carter about it. Edward asks once again about their mission, whether they will continue or return to their house. What Edward does shows a responsible attitude to take Carter with him.

“The ancient Egyptians had a beautiful belief about death. When their souls reached the entrance to heaven, the gods would ask them two

questions. Their answers determined if they were admitted or not. First, have you found joy in your life? Second, has your life brought joy to others?" (Zackham, 2006: 63).

In this quotation Carter and Edward are sitting at the desert of Egypt watching the sun rises. Edward delivers an ancient Egyptian phrase to Carter as a reminder that a person is responsible not only for himself but also for those around him.

"What any father would do. I took care of it. I called a guy who called a guy who handles these kinds of things. I don't know what he said or what he did. All I know is he didn't kill him and my daughter never heard from him again" (Zackham, 2006: 64).

The quotation shows what Edward explains about sacrifice and responsibility to protect his daughter who has a fight with her partner. He wants to do whatever it takes as long as his daughter does not hurt him anymore, including hurting his child's partner, but his daughter forbids him because his daughter loves him and he cannot do anything about it. Although his daughter hates Edward, Edward's sense of responsibility as a father has never been lost. What Edward does shows that he has a responsible attitude towards his daughter.

4.1.5 To be Modesty

Modesty is an attitude or behavior in someone who does not do anything excessively. This attitude is usually adjusted to the actual situation, looking as it is and living with what you have.

"Didn't anyone tell you it's rude to talk about money?" (Zackham 2006: 51).

In this quotation Carter and Edward are on their journey to start their bucket list. At that time a simple man like Carter wonders how someone could have that much money and he wants to ask how much money Edward gets. But Edward does not want to answer and instead scolds Carter. This shows the modest side of Edward who just wants to make himself and those around him happy without thinking about any costs. For him, money can be earned but time and opportunity cannot be wasted. What Edward does shows a modest attitude not to show off his wealth.

"...well, get familiar, just want to know where I stand is all" (Zackham, 2006: 31).

The quotation above shows a simple attitude from Edward. He asks his personal doctor, Hollins, to also check Carter's condition and immediately asks for the results of the lab that have been done. He does not want to seem like a privileged person even though the hospital is Edward's. Now he also wants Carter to be treated the same as whatever Edward gets at the hospital.

5. Conclusion

Based on the analysis of the moral values in Justin Zackham's movie script *The Bucket List*, it can be concluded that:

1. There are several moral values that have been found in the movie script, they are bravery, honesty, patience, responsibility, modesty.

2. Moral values held by a person can make that person highly respected by others.
3. Usually, moral values can awaken a person from the mistakes he makes because of his selfishness.

According to the analysis and conclusion of the moral value in the movie script, there are some recommendations given by the writer:

1. We must have moral values in living our life.
2. The moral values can make you find and bring the joy for yourself and the others.
3. We have to continue doing good things, starting with ourselves such as; being honest, responsible, patient, brave and simple.
4. We should live our life to the fullest every day and to always have a goal to keep ourselves going and looking forward.
5. No matters how hard life is, everything we should do is just to be a good person.

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