

# MORAL VALUE OF *LU OVER THE WALL* MOVIE

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**Abstract.** This research is about moral values in the anime *Lu Over The Wall* by Masaaki Yuasa. The purpose of this study is to describe the moral values contained in the anime *Lu Over The Wall*. The theory used by the author to analyze the data related to moral values in the anime is the sociology of literature. The research data is obtained from the dialogues and scenes of the anime *Lu Over The Wall*. The method used is a qualitative descriptive method where the author analyzes data in the form of excerpts from dialogues and scenes in the anime *Lu Over The Wall*. The research findings are divided into two categories: first, "the relationship between humans within social and natural contexts," which includes the moral values of caring for the environment and helping each other. Second, "the relationship between humans and God," which includes the moral value of gratitude.

**Keywords:** moral values; sociology of literature; anime; *Lu Over The Wall*

## 1 Introduction

Moral ethics encompass societal agreements on what is considered good and bad regarding actions, behavior, attitudes, and social obligations. The term "moral" comes from the Latin word "mores," which refers to behavior or way of life. Humans, in their conduct, must be moral, meaning they follow the norms and rules that are considered standards in society.

According to Pratista (2017), a film is a story told through moving images. Film is an audiovisual medium that combines two elements: narrative, which relates to the theme, and cinematic, which relates to the content or storyline from beginning to end. Film is a form of literature that is very popular among people. Its various types and genres attract many viewers.

Anime is a form of literature presented in the form of animated films from Japan. Anime can serve as a communication medium to convey moral messages. Moral values, which encompass all aspects of human life and existence, can be categorized into three parts: the relationship between humans and themselves, the relationship between humans in social and natural contexts, and the relationship between humans and God (Nurgiyantoro, 2018).

The film *Lu Over The Wall* tells the story of a schoolboy named Kai whose life changes after meeting a mermaid named Lu who loves to sing and dance. Kai lives with his father and grandfather, who is an ornamental umbrella craftsman. Due to

family hardships and problems, Kai has difficulty expressing his feelings to his family. As a pastime, he enjoys writing songs and uploading them to the internet. One day, he receives an invitation from his classmates, Kunio and Yuho, to join a music band called “SEIREN.” Kai goes to Mermaid Island to practice and meets Lu, who is skilled at dancing and singing beautifully. Kai spends a lot of time with Lu and begins to dare to express his feelings. However, some residents of Hinashi town believe that mermaids are bringers of disaster. This leads to Lu being captured, unleashing a curse on the region that hits Hinashi town.

This study will identify the representation of moral values in the anime *Lu Over The Wall* through a sociological approach to literature and descriptive analysis.

## **2 Methods**

The writer employs a qualitative descriptive method in this research. This method involves gathering data from literary sources such as relevant journals and observing dialogues and scenes in the anime *Lu Over The Wall*. By utilizing the acquired data, the writer elucidates and analyzes issues to draw conclusions. The theory used to examine the moral values in the anime *Lu Over The Wall* is the theory of literary sociology. According to Wiyatmi (2013), literary sociology is often depicted as a written approach that understands the value of scholarly works through a societal perspective. Therefore, literary sociology can be considered a study involving humans. This aligns with the definition of literary sociology as an approach that considers various human activities, including moral aspects.

## **3 Result and Discussion**

The anime *Lu Over The Wall* not only entertains but also aims to convey moral values embedded within the anime through the behaviors of each character. The analysis results indicate the moral values contained in *Lu Over The Wall* are as follows:

### **3.1 The Relationship Between Humans Within Social and Natural Contexts**

Human life is inseparable from relationships with other people. Relationships that are harmonious, compatible, and balanced create harmony, mutual respect, affection, and mutual assistance. The relationships between people in the anime *Lu Over The Wall* are described as follows.

#### **Helping Each Other**

As social beings, humans cannot live without the help of others. The presence of others not only serves as companionship but also can become partners in accomplishing tasks, whether in work or otherwise. This can be observed in the following scene.



**Fig. 1.** Illustration of the cooperation among the people of Hinashi when they were hit by the curse of the tsunami, causing the town of Hinashi to flood.

Chief Priest of Shrine : 増水してくるからみんなを避難させないと！  
 Chief Priest of Shrine : The water level is rising, we need to evacuate everyone!

The spirit of helping each other among the people of Hinashi town is depicted in a scene where the Chief of Priest Shrine instructs several young people in the town's broadcasting room to help the community by using the Hinashi town radio speakers and collaborating to evacuate people to higher ground. Meanwhile, the townspeople of Hinashi use fishing boats to assist each other. Not only do they rely on human-made transportation, but also merfolk help the people of Hinashi town. Despite the flood covering the ground floors of their homes, they persevere tirelessly, leading to the rescue of many.

### Caring For The Environment

The harmonious, compatible, and balanced relationships that humans establish are not limited to individuals and society but also extend to the natural environment. Maintaining good relations with the surrounding environment and the universe helps humans appreciate nature more. This can be observed in the following scene.



**Fig. 2.** Illustration of the Chief Priest of Shrine telling Kai and Kuniko about how people in this place are connected to merfolk or nature.

Chief Priest of Shrine : うちが人魚を祭ってるのはいわくがあつてね。もともと 人魚は日に当たると燃えてしまうといわれてて。あの はげ山のとっぺんで捕まえた人魚に目を当てて。燃やしてしまったという言い伝えがあるんだ。そのとき 海の水がちょうど今陰になっている辺りまでお陰岩の内側にだけせり上がってきて。人魚の遺骸をさらっていったといわれててな。村の者たちはお陰様のたたりだとうろたえ おびえ。壁のとっぺんにも 同じほこらを建てて祭った。人魚と人間の深い因縁だ。

Chief Priest of Shrine : There is a reason why we worship the mermaid princess. Many ancient tales say that the sun is deadly to them. One story tells of a mermaid princess being burned alive on top of that mountain. At that time, the water had risen and flooded everything beneath the shadow of Coral Okage. They say the flood swept away the remains of that mermaid princess... The villagers decided it was the Curse of Okage and built another temple above the wall. And that's what connects the people in this place to the mermaid princess.

The principle of caring for the environment is depicted in this scene. Kai wants to learn more about mermaids. Kai and Kuniyo go to the Hinashi Town Shrine and meet the Chief Priest of Shrine. The priest shares the legend explaining why the majority of people in Hinashi Town are deeply connected to the Mermaid Princess, who represents the nature and sacred values of their place. The people of Hinashi are connected because in the past, they burned the Mermaid Princess, which resulted in Hinashi Town being cursed by Okage, or the tsunami waves.

### 3.2 The Relationship Between Humans and God

The relationship between humans and God is an expression of gratitude and the appreciation of His blessings by His followers. This relationship must be maintained as every religion or belief requires its followers to always fulfill His commands and abstain from His prohibitions. This can be seen in the following quotations.

#### Gratitude



**Fig. 2.** Illustration of the traditional ceremony of the Hinashi community expressing gratitude to their ancestors.

Announcer : 漁場を切り開いてくださった先人の方々。海の幸を  
育んでくれる お陰様へ感謝の気持ちを ささげます。  
Announcer : We wish to express our gratitude to our ancestors who  
opened up our fishing grounds and preserved the richness  
of the sea for us.

In this scene, the people of Hinashi Town express their gratitude to their ancestors through their traditional lantern festival. This is because their ancestors made Hinashi Town rich in fishery resources, encouraged people to fish only in the bay and not venture into the open sea, and established fish farms as a form of circular economy in the region. Therefore, gratitude towards ancestors or God is already embedded in the culture of the people of Hinashi Town.

#### **4 Conclusion**

Based on the analysis, it can be concluded that there are two types of moral values embedded in the anime *Lu Over The Wall*, namely "human relationships with others in social and environmental contexts" and "human relationships with God".

Human relationships with others in social and environmental contexts encompass mutual assistance and environmental care. Lastly, there is the relationship between humans and their God, which involves gratitude.

#### **References**

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