The Instillation of Character Values in Indonesian Language Learning for High School

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Abstract

Indonesian language learning promotes language acquisition as well as cultivates character education. One of the characters that needs to be instilled is social behavior. Humans are not just individual beings; they need to socialize with others. Social behaviors include caring and politeness. A person needs to care about others and the environment. Students also need to be polite to be able to communicate well. In addition, they will be able to convey what they think and feel without hurting the feelings of others. By having a polite trait, students can enjoy their existence as social beings. Politeness is important in socializing. A person is said to be polite if he is able to use good and correct language and perform polite acts. Cultivating the social behaviors in Indonesian language learning can be done through discourse and material contained in textbooks, such as textbooks for high school students. Students read and listen to discourses containing those values. The traits contained in the texts that students read or listen to can indirectly teach them the values of social behaviors.

Keyword: textbook, character, polite, social, caring

Introduction

Education process will be successful if there is an increase in knowledge, skills, and acceptable behaviors. (Suyono & Hariyanto, 2014) contend that learning is an activity to acquire and increase knowledge, skills, improve behavior, attitudes, and strengthen personality so that one's learning process does not stop at the aspects of knowledge and skills. However, there are still teachers, parents, students who are more concerned with cognitive abilities. If this happens, the goals of education have not been sufficiently achieved. The purpose of education is to form a complete generation, a generation that has intellectual intelligence, good attitudes, and other skills needed in life (Santika, 2020).

One of the important character aspects a child or student needs to possess is social behavior. If a child only cares about himself, he tends to be a selfish child. In fact, humans are also social creatures who need to interact and socialize with others. Teachers need to instill such skill in students so that later they can maintain their socializing skills in their community.

In addition to caring, students also need to have polite manners. Politeness is strongly related to interactions in everyday life. Manners mean having good, civilized, and ethical acts so that society can easily accept them (Shaula & Hasyim, 2017). Such manners must be promoted and instilled from an early age, starting from the family environment. Children who are taught the values of politeness since their childhood cannot be guaranteed that when they are adults they will have a polite character. This is because the child's social environment will affect the values that have been taught in the family environment. Therefore, the family environment, school, and community need to work together in the process of cultivating the character.

Character is not formed instantly; it needs constant habitation. Children need to be accustomed to being caring and polite, to be reminded when they behave indifferently, they can correct their misbehavior. The development of children's character in schools cannot be achieved quickly; it needs to be gradual and embedded in the curriculum (Agboola & Tsai, 2012). During the Covid-19 pandemic, learning has been carried out online; it was one of the challenges for teachers to instill character values in students. One alternative to overcome this problem is by using textbooks. Textbooks are one of the learning resources used by teachers and students in the learning process. In Indonesian learning textbooks, there are parts which promote character values, one of which is politeness.
Character values acquired through family education can be further developed with various examples and habituation of social behaviors in interacting with peers, teachers, and school employees. Children who lack the provision of social attitudes can be given directions in advance. If the teacher only pursues an increase in knowledge and skills, the child will not grow up to be a human with noble character. Children or students who have good knowledge and skills can be said to be smart and skilled. However, if they have no character, they can easily be influenced by others, do not have the courage to make decisions, and can even violate the applied norms. Other types of unacceptable acts are such as ignoring other people during talks and looking at the phones too much in almost all activities. This also happens during remote learning in the pandemic situation. With the absence of face-to-face interaction, students have to keep maintaining polite ways of communication, both written and oral (Agustian, 2018).

Method

This research is a qualitative descriptive study. The data are in the form of words, phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, and discourses containing the values of caring and polite characters. There are two data in this study, namely primary and secondary data. Primary data was taken from the textbooks of Indonesian high school students in class X and XI of the 2013 Curriculum, while the secondary data was taken from the studies by Nur Eka Putri and Fita Nurul Fatimah. The research instrument is the writer equipped with the underlying theory, operational definitions, and a data card containing indicators of caring and polite character values. Before the data cards were used, the result expert judgment was validated and discussed in a Focus Group Discussion (FGD) to improve the validity of the data. The collected data were analyzed using an interactive analysis model. Interactive analysis includes data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion or verification (Miles & Huberman, 2012).

Results and Discussion

The Indonesian language learning process emphasizes the needs to promote both content knowledge and character education. Character education includes the values that need to be developed such as social behaviors. The social behavior in the 2013 Curriculum is stated in the second Core Competency (KI-2) achievement. In the Core Competency (KI), attitudes are divided into two, namely KI-1 regarding spiritual behaviors and KI-2 regarding social behaviors. These two KIs should be instilled in all subjects, not only Religion and Civic. All subjects must reflect spiritual and social behaviors which form the basis of character education.

Cultivating social behavior values above can become provisions for children or students in social life. Teachers do not only improve cognitive abilities, but need to equip emotional intelligence and noble behavior (Muhtar et al., 2018). This is necessary because as humans, children are not only as individual beings, but also as social beings. Therefore, they must be able to interact and socialize well with others.

In the Indonesian Curriculum 2013 textbook for SMA, students’ social behaviors include caring and politeness. A person is said to have a caring character if he cares for himself, others, and the environment. The following is the implementation of the values of caring in the textbooks for grade X and XI.

a. Self-care

(1) Sebagai generasi muda, calon penerus perjuangan bangsa, sudah seharusnya kita menyiapkan diri menjadi generasi yang berkualitas. Upaya menghindarkan diri dari bahaya penyalahgunaan narkoba setidaknya dapat dilakukan melalui tiga cara. Pertama, dari diri sendiri. Artinya, masing-masing kita membentengi diri dari kemungkinan menjadi pengonsumsi narkoba. Hal itu dapat kita lakukan dengan pandai-pandai memilih teman bergaul. (As the young generation, we should prepare ourselves to become a quality generation. Efforts to avoid the dangers of drug abuse can be done, starting from self-awareness of the surroundings. Choosing the right persons to get along is one of the ways to prevent us from drug use).

(2) Ada baiknya, istirahat dengan hal yang tidak membuat kita lupa waktu, tetapi lakukan hal-hal yang membuat tubuh dan pikiran kembali segar. (It is better to take some rest with activities that do not make us waste too much time, but do things that make the body and mind refreshed).

Extract (1) is contained in a discourse entitled “Bahaya Narkoba bagi Generasi Muda” (The Dangers of Drugs to the Young Generation) in the exposition text. Students listen to the text. From the listening activities, students get information on how to avoid drug abuse; one of the ways is to protect themselves. Avoiding drug abuse means caring about ourselves because more things are detrimental to us than beneficial.

Extract (2) is taken from in a discourse entitled “Kiat Tetap Semangat pada Hari Senin” (Tips for Staying Enthusiastic on Monday) in procedural text. After reading the text, the students receive information on some
lists that can be done to keep them excited, despite the common thoughts that Monday is less enjoyable day. One way to maintain enthusiasm is to pay attention to rest. The body needs rest after the tight schedules.

Maintaining physical and mental health is a form of self-care. There are times when the body needs time to rest so that it can be refreshed and recharged. Students must understand the importance of maintaining such health. Besides, understanding the body’s condition when the body needs rest is crucial. Through extract (1) and (2) it is hoped that students will have knowledge related to how to take care of their physical and mental condition.

b. Care for Others

(3) *Malutnya bergerak, seperti sedang merapalkan doa. Mungkin dia mendoakan mereka yang ada di alam kubur sana. Dan bila ada warga meninggal, Darko kerap membantu para penggali kubur. Meski sekadar mengambil air dari sumur, supaya tanah lebih mudah digali.* (His mouth moves, as if he is reciting a prayer. Maybe he was praying for those in the grave there. And when a resident dies, Darko often helps grave diggers like taking water from the well so that the soil is easier to dig).

(4) *Kita adalah bagian dari dunia. Kita tidak dapat hidup sendiri tanpa memerlukan bantuan. Kita membantu orang lain dan orang lain membantu kita. Untuk berkomunikasi dengan negara sekitar, kita memerlukan alat. (We are part of the world. We cannot live alone without other people’s help. It results in mutual benefit. To communicate with other countries, we need means for that).*

Extract (3) is found in a discourse piece of the text entitled ‘‘Tukang Pijat Keliling (The Massager)’ in the folklore text. After reading the text, students learn from the characters’ life experiences in the story i.e. the struggle to make living. Through this story, students learn to socialize in the community and to help each other like the character Darko did. Extract (4) is contained in the discourse of the text entitled “Bahasa Inggris sebagai Alat yang Penting di Era Globalisasi” (English as an Important Tool in Globalization Era) in a debate text. After listening to the debate, students can find out the importance of English proficiency in the era of globalization. The ability to communicate in English sufficiently will definitely support them to survive in international competition.

c. Care for the Environment

(5) *Ada saja sesuatu yang dia kerjakan. Bahkan yang mungkin tidak begitu penting sekalipun. Mencabuti rerumpuan liar di permukaan tanah memakam, mengumpulkan dedaunan yang berserakan dengan sapu lidi lalu membakarnya. Padahal, lihatlah betapa daun-daun tidak pernah berhenti menciumi bumi. Dia begitu tangkas melakukan itu semua, seakan memang tak pernah ada masalah dengan penglihatannya.* (There is just something he does. Even those that may not be that important though like uprooting the weeds on the surface of the grave ground, collecting scattered leaves with a broom stick and then burning them. In fact, see how the leaves never stop kissing the earth. He was so adept at doing it all, as if there had never been a problem with his eyesight).

(6) *Nah, itulah gara-gara kebiasaan kita membuang sampah di sembarang tempat. Selokan meluap, akhirnya banjir. Siapa lagi yang menderita kalau buka masyarakat itu sendiri. Makanya, lain kali kalau membuang sampah harus di tempat yang benar agar musibah itu tidak terjadi lagi.* (Well, that is the consequences of our habit of throwing garbage inappropriately. The sewers overflowed, finally flooded. The society itself will suffer. Next time, throw garbage in the right place so that this environmental problem will not ever happen again).

Extract (5) is expressed in the discourse section of the text entitled “Tukang Pijat Keliling” (The Massager) in the folklore text. After reading the text, students get examples of ways to protect the environment by pulling weeds and sweeping. Extract (6) is taken from in the explanation text material. After reading examples of comments from other people's work, students can find out the consequences of littering. The habit of littering can damage the environment, and even become a disaster for others. With examples of how to protect and the importance of protecting the environment, students are expected to have concern for it. The environment must be maintained so that it can be enjoyed continuously and there are sustainable benefits (Purwanti, 2017).

A person is considered to have a polite character if he uses language properly and correctly and shows polite behavior. Polite character is related to words and actions. The Indonesian textbook for SMA based on Curriculum 2013 contains this noble value. The following is the implementation of polite character in the mentioned textbooks of grade X and XI.

a. Using language properly and correctly

(7) *“Tak hanya itu, Yah… Rani iri sama teman-teman yang dapat dengan mudah mengunduh materi pembelajaran, mengirim tugas, bahkan berdiskusi untuk mengerjakan tugas-tugas tanpa harus keluar rumah,” kata Rani dengan kalimat yang runtut dan jelas. Kalimat yang sudah beberapa hari ia rancang untuk merayu Ayahnya.* ("Not only that, Dad … Rani is jealous of friends who can easily download learning materials, send assignments, even have discussions to do assignments without leaving
the house,” said Rani in clear sentences. The sentences she had designed for several days to persuade his father).

(8) Penggunaan bahasa yang baik juga menjadi suatu keharusan. (Halaman 13) XI. (Use of good language is also a must. (Page 13) XI).

(9) Agar mudah dipahami oleh mitra bicara, kita harus berbicara dengan jelas. Usahakan agar kita tidak berbicara terlalu cepat atau lambat, atur juga suara agar jelas terdengar. Suara yang terlalu pelan membuat kita terlihat kurang percaya diri, sementara suara yang terlalu keras membuat kita terlihat agresif. (In order to be easily understood by the interlocutor, we must speak clearly. Try not to speak too fast nor too slow, also adjust the voice so that it is clearly heard. A voice that is too low makes us appear less confident, while a loud voice sounds too aggressive).

(10) ...menggunakan bahasa santun seharusnya sudah menjadi suatu tradisi yang dimiliki setiap orang sejak kecil. Anak perlu dibina dan dididik berbahasa santun. (… using polite language should have become a tradition that everyone has since childhood. Children need to be nurtured and educated in polite language).

Extract (7) is from the discourse section entitled “HP Baru” (New Handphone) in the negotiation text. Students listen to the demonstration of the negotiation text played by the student. From listening to a negotiation text demonstration, students know how to negotiate with their parents when asking for something like a new cellphone. Requests are said in clear, acceptable sentences so that they can be understood. Extract (8) and (9) are contained in the discourse section entitled “Kiat Berwawancara Kerja” (Job Interview Tips) in the procedure text. Students are asked to read the text. Based on the text they read, students know tips how to have a successful interviews when applying for a job. When conducting interviews, it is necessary to use good language. One must understand that the interview is an official situation, so they should use formal language. In addition, it is necessary to use the correct language. Extract (10) is found in the discourse of the lecture text. Students are asked to read or listen to text. The text that students read or listen to explains politeness in language. Since childhood, children should be exposed to polite language. Being able to talk politely will help children prevent themselves from arrogance and rudeness.

The use of good Indonesian means in accordance with the situation and conditions, while the correct language means in accordance with applicable rules. Language rules that need to be considered include aspects (a) sound (phonology), (b) grammar (words and sentences), (c) vocabulary, (d) spelling, and (e) meaning, while linguistic situations include formal and informal or casual situations (Wahyono, 2017). In communicating, you should use good and correct Indonesian so that communication runs effectively, and misunderstanding can be avoided.

b. Showing Polite Behavior

(11) Dia akan berhenti ketika seseorang memanggilnya. Melayani pelanggannya dengan tulus dan sama rata, tanpa pernah memandang suatu apa pun. Serta yang membaut kami semakin hormat, dia tidak pernah sekali pun mematok harga. Dengan biaya murah, bahkan terkadang hanya dengan mengganti sepiring nasi dan teh panas, kami bisa mendapatkan kinkmakan piji yang tiada tara. (He will stop when someone calls him, serving customers sincerely and equally, without ever looking at anything. And what makes us even more respectful is that he never once set a price. For a small fee, sometimes even just by serving a plate of rice and hot tea, we can get the incomparable pleasure of massage).

(12) Bahasa tubuh pun ikut berperan. Pastikan pula kita menjaga kontak mata dengan mengangguk atau sikap tubuh yang agak condong ke depan menunjukkan bahwa kita tertarik pada apa yang disampaikan si pewawancara karena kontak mata penting dalam proses komunikasi, termasuk dalam wawancara kerja. (Body language also plays a role. Also make sure we maintain eye contact by nodding or leaning slightly forward, indicating that we are interested in what the interviewee has to say because eye contact is important in the communication process, including in job interviews).

(13) Singkatnya, akan lebih baik jika kita mampu menampikan sikap yang antusias secara verbal maupun nonverbal. Oleh karena itu, hindari bahasa tubuh yang dapat diartikan negative, seperti menggoyahkan kaki, mengetuk-ngetuk jari, atau menghindari kontak mata. Cara berbicara yang percaya diri namun tidak terkesan sombong dapat menarik minat pewawancara. (In short, it would be better if we were able to display enthusiastic behaviors verbally and nonverbally. Therefore, avoid body language that can be interpreted negatively, such as shaking your feet, tapping your fingers, or avoiding eye contact. A confident but not overbearing manner of speaking can attract the interviewer).

(14) Siswa Jepang, dari tahun pertama hingga tahun keenam sekolah dasar harus belajar etika dalam berurusan dengan orang-orang. (Japanese students, from the first year to the sixth year of elementary school must learn ethics in interacting with people).

Extract (11) is found in a discourse entitled “Tukang Pijat Keliling” (The Massager) in the folklore text. Students are asked to read the text. From the texts they read, students learn to be kind to anyone. Extract (12) and (13) are taken from the discourse section entitled “Kiat Berwawancara Kerja” (Job Interview Tips) in the procedure text. Students are asked to read the text. Based on the text they read, students know that during the interview it is not
enough to use good and correct language. They must pay attention also to body language. Body language can reflect a person’s attitude towards the other. Extract (14) is stated in the discourse section entitled “Tentang Jepang” (About Japan) in the lecture text. Students are asked to read the text. From the text they read, students gain insight related to Japanese traditions. In Japan, children are taught ethics from an early age. In interacting, one must be polite. According to the Indonesian dictionary, polite means respectful and civilized. Politeness can be seen in direct communication. Acts of politeness are often reflected in respectful, appreciative behaviors. The language used is not underestimating and demeaning (Djuwita, 2017).

Conclusion

Acceptable social behaviors need to be instilled in students. One of the ways of cultivating the values in schools is through the appropriate use of textbooks. The discourses in the Indonesian language textbook contain the character values of a social behavior namely caring and polite. Caring values as stated in textbooks includes caring for oneself, others, and the environment. The content of polite values is reflected in polite behavior in everyday life. With the character of social behaviors in textbooks, it is hoped that the noble character in students can be reflected in everyday life. Students become able to have a sense of care and be able to communicate well in the society. Better yet, a person with such character will be lovable and welcomed.

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References


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