

A BRIEF LOOK AT AND COMMENTS ON THE SOCIAL LIFE IN “THE ADVENTURE OF TOM SAWYER” BY MARK TWAIN

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Abstract

Prose is one of the three literary kinds. Sub kinds of prose are history, description, biography, fiction, reflection, persuasion, censure and humor. The writer will take one sub-genre of prose only, which is fiction. Fiction is action, which primarily appeals to the imagination. This research aims to find the properties of the novel and the social life and comments described in the novel. The scope of the study is limited only a brief look and comments on the social life in “Adventure of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain”. Data analysis was conducted with the qualitative analysis. The results showed that there was seven elements, which are the biography of the author, the list of his writings, the summary of the adventure of Tom Sawyer, the theme, the plot, the characters, the setting and points of view. In answered the second questions about two aspects consist of; a) human beings has good behaviour, he will do positive activities in the social life such as human beings are not descrimination of racial in their environment. They have a good nature, the nature of love, patience, wisdom, kindness, simplicity, the nature of protection and responsibility and than have the potency to belief in God, b) human beings has bad behaviour, he will not do the positive or good activities in the social life, because there were some the economic gaps in their environment which make them have identical the nature of greed, selfish, arrogance, stinginess and ambitions in their life. Meanwhile, the social life in our environment can make us become mature and care with other people. We have to be able give good services to each other and try to avoid bad behavior which may depress ourselves.

Keywords : a brief look at, comments, social life, the adventure of Tom Sawyer, Mark Twain

Introduction

As an American variant of English culture developed in colonies, it was reflected in the partial Americanization of the English language. Americanism also arose from the combaining of words already in the english language.

It should be thought of as art. Literature in terms of individual works of total work of authors or works of such periods have in common. As has been pointed by Larick, Nancy (1971:554) ; “Literature is one of communicating the emotional, spritual, or intellectual concerns of mankind”. Literature is fictive or as it is popularly called “creative”.

Literature comes from a Latin word which means “letter” or “writing”. There are two concepts of literature ; the first, literature in general sense and the second, literature in specific sense.Literature in general sense is everything which has been written, such as timetables, advertisements, history, announcements, etc. Literature in specific sense is anything that belongs to an artistic form of writing. The artistic

form of writing is a literary work that can suggest our emotion and thought. There are three kinds of literature : poetry, drama and prose. Here the writer intends to describe prose, because it relates with her topic directly.

Prose is one of the three literary kinds. Sub kinds of prose are history, description, biography, fiction, reflection, persuasion, censure and humor. The writer will take one sub-genre of prose only, which is fiction. Fiction is action, which primarily appeals to the imagination. It is narrative or descriptive. Novel is a work of fiction that is written in a literary form of prose, dealing with human manners and characters. It has five elements, namely ; theme, plot characters, setting and point of view. The writer in her paper has chosen the literary work, because by choosing this topic, the writer can relate directly to the novel that it can make the writer know further about human manners and their characteristics in the novel. The social condition of society and the author's imagination. She wants to learn Mark Twain's novel more deeply, especially " The adventures of Tom Sawyer" and in this novel the writer limits her discussion to the social life.

Methodology

The social life in a novel entitled " The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain, published by the Penguin Group, New York. To collect the information and data for this research, the writer has used the following techniques ; Library research, to find and read books that have close relationship to the topic discussed and interview to discussing about the novels with the people who have read its novel.

Conceptual Theory

A. The American Literature and the writers

The first American literature was not really literature. It was not literature as we know in the form of poetry, essays or fiction but rather an interesting mixture of travel accounts and religious writing.

During the last half of the seventeenth century, the American literature already arose and there were poets and essayist, but there were no novelists. The absence of novelists caused the people to believe that fictions were imaginative writing of the writers, they were not true stories.

Since the eighteenth century, the American-born writers have become important. There are the names of the American writers during the national beginnings of literature, as follows :

According to David L, Stephenson and Albert S Cook (1971: 510Q), as follow :

1. Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790) He was a brilliant writer, his most famous work is his "Autobiography".
2. Washington Irving (1783-1859) Irving's best know is the short story " Rip Van Winkle".
3. James Fenimore Cooper (1804-1864) " The last Mohicans" is his novel.

4. Nataniel Hawthorne (1804-1864) His Short stories and novels still rank among the best that American has produce. “ The Scarlet letter” an “Dr. Heidegger’s Experiment” are his famous novels.

We have seen the American literature gradually develop. There were many talent writers that indicated the developing of American literature. According Webster (1986:1890), realism can be clarified, as follow :

“Realism is the story of practice in art and literature of fidelity to nature or to real life and accurate representation without idealization of the most typical view, detail, surroundings of the subject”.

In the beginning of the 20th century, many people in the world thought of the great country, America the people and their life. In this period, the American people seemed to be pretending ; they looked like the materialistic and optimistic. Materialistic because they were eager for everything about materials and they bought many electronic things, thought that they did not have much money to buy them but pretended to be rich to make them proud in public. Optimistic because the American people thought that they lived in a great contry so they believed that they had the power to do good things in a good world and everything they did was the best thing.

There is some truth about the impression of many people in the world about America and their people, but America literature came to the reality instead of pretense. Some American writers emerged with their real things about the world, such as mark Twain, Crane and James. They are the best known realistic writers. They began to write their novels to criticize the quality of the American society. In their novels, they try to write the reality, not fantasy and pretense. They write the real American society and the people in the 20th centur as they no only write about suffering and pessimisms, but also about the poor.

According to Muste (1972 :414), there are the names of some American realistic writers of the 20th century :

1. Mark Twain (1835-1910)
His real name is Samuel L.Clemens. His to greatest works “ The Adventures of Tom Sawyers “ and “TheAdventures of Huckleberry Finn”.
2. Theodore Dreiser (1871-1945)
“His well-know novel is ‘An American Tragedy”.
3. Sinclair Lewis (1885-1951)
Hi famous novel and first great success is “Main Street”.
4. H.L.Mencken (1880-1956)
For twenty years his magazine, “The American Mercury” was read by everyone with intellectual pretensions.
5. F. Scott Fitzgerald (1896-1940)
Fitzgerald’s first novel is “This side of Paradise”. One of his best novels is “The Great Gatsby”.
6. Jhon Steinbeck (1902-1968)
He is the last realistic writer of American literature. Steinbeck is the best of social protest novelist of the 30s, the decade of the Great Depression. His

most important work is “ The Grapes of Wrath”, which helped win the Nobel Prize, and another of his famous books is “The Pearl”.

B. The Definition of Social Life

In our society, we as human beings can not live alone without anybody else. We need people around us to help and complete our life, the concept of the social life. As has been pointed by “Sociology Dictionary” by Soekanto (1983:56), as follows : “The social life is related with the interpersonal behavior in their life or it is related with the social process”. This concept means the interpersonal behaviour influences the social life of human beings. If a human beings has a good behavior, he will do the positive activities in the social life. On the other hand, a human being who has a bad behavior will not do the positive or good activities in the social life. So, the social life is influenced by the interpersonal behavior.

Finding

A. The nature of Human Beings

Human beings have specific characters which are not possessed by other creatures. God creates human beings as noble creatures different from others. The character of human beings that is brought by human beings that is brought by human beings since they were born. According to Webster (1986:1507), as follows :

“The nature of human beings is the fundamental character, disposition or temperament of a living beings usually innate and unchangeable”.

The nature of human beings influences their behavior in society. The nature and the behavior are related to one another, because what human beings do, depends on their nature, the nature of human beings good or bad .

1. The view and comments of the social life in the adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain

a. The Biography of the Author

Mark Twain (1835-1910)

Mark twain is America’s greatest humorist and one her greatest writers. He is best known for two novels of boyhood life on the Mississippi River in the mid-19th century. It included of Huckleberry Finn and Tom Sawyer. These books define boyhood in terms of play, pleasure and youthful adventure, for Mark Twain, who grew up along the Mississippi, could not forget his childhood and it is play. But personal experience tells only part of the story; Twain’s creation of Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer was also based in his extensive apprenticeship and hard work as a writer.

b. The Theme

In Mark Twain's "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer", the writer described about children's friendship. Tom's family-aunt Polly, Marry and Sid do not always appreciate him and does not figure into his rich imaginative life. However, Tom's friends-Joe Harper and Huck Finn in particular-look up to him precisely because he is so imaginative and adventures. The boys see each other as they want to be seen and together they create an exciting world of intrigue and adventure. The friendships between Tom and Huck especially is highlighted in the novel.

c. The Plot

An imaginative and mischievous boy named Tom Sawyer lives with his aunt Polly and his half-brother, Sid in the Mississippi river town of St. Petersburg, Missouri. After playing Hooky from school on Friday and dirtying his clothes in a fight, Tom is made to whitewash the fence as punishment on Saturday. At first, Tom is disappointed by having to forfeit his day off. However, he soon cleverly persuades his friends to trade him small treasures for privilege of doing his work. He trades his small treasures for privilege of doing his work. He trades these treasures for ticket given out in Sunday school for memorizing Bible verses and uses the tickets to claim a Bible as a prize. He loses much of his glory, however, when in response to a question to show off his knowledge, he incorrectly answers that the first two disciples were David and Goliath.

Tom falls in love with Becky Thatcher, a new girl in town, and persuades her to get "engaged" to him. Their romance collapses when she learns that Tom has been engaged before to a girl named Amy Lawrence. Shortly after being shunned by Becky, Tom accompanies Huckleberry Finn, the son of the town drunk to the grave yard, they witness the murder of Young Dr. Robinson by the Native American "half-breed" Injun Joe. Scared, Tom and Huck run away and swear a blood oath not to tell anyone what they have seen. Injun Joe blames his companion, Muff Potter, a hapless drunk. For the crime. Potter is wrongfully arrested and Tom's anxiety and guilt begin to grow.

Summer arrives, Tom and Huck go hunting for buried treasure in a haunted house. After venturing upstairs they hear a noise below. Peering through holes in the floor, they see Injun Joe enter the house disguised as a deaf and mute Spaniard. He and his companion, an unkempt man, plan to bury some stolen treasure of their own. From their hiding spot, Tom and Huck wriggle with delight to find a box of gold themselves. When they see Tom and Huck's tools, they become suspicious that someone is sharing their hiding place and carry the gold off instead of rebuying it.

Huck begins to shadow Injun every night, watching for opportunity to nab the gold. Meanwhile, Tom goes on a picnic to Mc. Dougal's cave with Becky and their classmates. That same night, Huck sees Injun Joe and his partner making off with a box. He follows and overhears their plans to attack the Widow Douglas, a kind resident of St. Petersburg.

By running to fetch help, Huck Forestalls the violance and becomes an anonymous.

d. The charcters

The following are the characters of the novel :

Tom Sawyer : The young protagonist of the novel. He is leaving with his aunt Petersburg, Missouri. He has a penchant for adventure and showing off.

e. Setting

The setting of Tom is very important in creating a sense of atmosphere. Tom lives in a village on the Illinois bank of The Mississipi, facing the state of Missouri. Particular location in the novel are :

1. The village of Sint Petersburg
2. The island where the boys play at pirates
3. The cave where Tom and Becky get lost.

f. Points of view

The novel's narration is third person, limited ominiscient with Tom Sawyer as the central consciousness. This means that the story told about Tom's world and is particularly focused on him by narrator who is able to understand the motivations and feelings of some of the charcter. This point of view earns the reader's amused admiration of an unlikely hero. Tom is a mischievous boy, an orphan who cares nothing foe school or church or any other polite social cinventions but instead spends most of his time pretending that he is a pirate or a robber, sneaking out his window at midnight to have secret adventures with his friends in places like cemeteries and entirely likely to have in his possession object like dead cats. Tom Sawyer's character ia a realistic portrayal of a young boy who gets into trouble constantly and than trying the patience of the adults around him while making them smile.

B. The Aspect of the social life

The descriptions of the social life, that the writer found in The Adventures of Tom Sawyer novel are, as follows :

“ This new interest was a valued novelty in whistling, which he had just acquired from a Negro and he was suffering to practice it undisturbed. It consisted in a peculiar bird like turn, a sort of liquid warble, produce by touching the tongue to the roof of the mouth at short intervals in the midst of the music”. (*It is said by Tom Sawyer*) (page 10)

“He remembered that there was company at the pump. White, mullatto and Negro boys and girls were always there waiting their turns, resting trading playthings, quarelling, fighting, skylarking”. (*it said that by Tom Sawyer*) (Page 15)

“In Ben Roger’s hay-loft. He lets me, and so does his pap’s nigger man, uncle Jake. I tote water for uncle Jake whenever he wants me to, and any time I ask him he gives me a little something to eat if he can spare it. That’s a mighty good nigger, Tom. He likes m, becuz I don’t ever act as if I was above him. Sometimes I’ve set right down and eat with him. But you neednt’t tell that. A body’s got to do things when he’s awful hungry he wouldn’t want to do as a steady thing”. (*It is said that by Huck*) (Page 174)

From the descriptions of the novel above, the writer concludes that Tom Sawyer and Huck were not the discrimination to the Nigger. They much learnt new something about a life and give new style into inspiration to someone. By the study of Ria Hilmiati Drajat said that “ a human being is the creature from Nabi Adam who has the potency to belief in God and who has the morality and responsibility to his own bahavior”.

She was so overcome by the splendor of his achievement that she took him into the closet and selected a choice apple, and delivered it to him, along with an improving lecture upon the added value and flavor a treat took to itself when it came without sin through virtuous effort”. (*it is said by Aunt Polly*) (Page 21)

“ Yom got out his chiefestJewel, abrass knob from the top of an andiron, and passed it around her so that she could see it, and said ‘please’ Becky, won’t you take it?”. (*It is said that by Tom Sawyer*) (Page 59).

“ But as I was saying, said that Aunt Polly, he warn’t bad, so to say – only mischevous. Only just giddy, and harum-scarum. You know. He warn’t any more responsible than a colt. He never meant any harm, and he was the best-hearted boy that ever was – and she began to cry”. (*it is said that by Aunt Polly*) (Page 103)

From the descriptions of the novel above, the writer concludes that they have a good nature, the nature of love, patience, wisdom, kindness, simplicity, the nature of protection and responsibility besides that they can do the positive activities in this life. In the society, we have to appreciate what are doing to each other and to make safe and comfort the situation in their environment. By Soekanto stated that “the social life is relate with interpersonal behavior influences the social life of human beings. If a human beings has a good behavior, he will do the positive or good behavior, he will do the positive activities in the social life. On the other hand, a human being who has a bad behavior will not do the positive or good activities in the social life.

Conclusions

After studying a few definitions of novel in Chapter II, the writer would like to draw her conclusions. She considers novel as the work of literature telling about the social life as the creation of an author. The writer had found many descriptions of the social life in the *Adventures of Tom Sawyer* novel, consisting of ; a human beings has a good and bad behavior. The writer can describe one by one, as follows;

- 1) Human beings has good behavior, he will do the positive activities in the social life, such as the charcters in the novel are not discrimintaion of racial in their environment. They have good nature, the nature of love, patience, wisdom, kindness, simplicity the nature of protection and responsibility and than have the potency to belief in God.
- 2) Human beings has bad behaviour, he will not do the positive or good activities in the social life, because there are some the economic gaps in their environment which make them have identical the nature of greed, selfish, arrogance, stinginess and ambitions in their life.
- 3) The social life in our environment can make us become mature and care with other people. We have to be able give good services to each other and try to avoid bad behavior which may depress ourselves.

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