

## AN ANALYSIS OF MORAL VALUES IN HARRIS J'S SELECTED SONG LYRICS

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### ABSTRACT

Language is a mode of communication used to convey information or messages. People utilize language in the communication process to express ideas, opinions, thoughts, or desires, whether spoken or written. Music has evolved in humans daily lives since the era of globalization. People express their emotions through their lyrics. The message contained in a song is called a moral value. This research aimed to find out moral values in the lyrics of the selected song by Harris J and to find out the most dominant kind of moral values appearing in the lyrics of Harris J's selected song. In the scope of the research, the researchers limited the study to moral values in Harris J's selected songs: Save Me From Myself (2017), Human (2019), Living Life (2021), Phases (2022), and Dear God (2023). A descriptive-qualitative approach was used by the researchers to find out the moral values in the song and have been assisted by Atlas.ti application. The results of this research indicate that there are moral values in Harris J's selected songs, such as curiosity 4 (9%), hard-working 6 (13%), honest 5 (11%), peaceful 11 (25%), religious 10 (22%), responsibility 2 (5%), social care 1 (2%), and thankful 6 (13%). The most dominant moral value is peaceful (25%). Hopefully, this research can help educators or parents in their efforts to instill moral values in the family, school, and society.

**Keywords:** *Harris J.; Moral Values; Song*

### ABSTRAK

Bahasa adalah cara komunikasi yang digunakan untuk menyampaikan informasi atau pesan. Orang-orang memanfaatkan bahasa dalam proses komunikasi untuk mengungkapkan ide, pendapat, pemikiran, atau keinginan baik lisan maupun tulisan. Musik telah berkembang dalam kehidupan sehari-hari manusia sejak era globalisasi. Orang-orang mengekspresikan emosi mereka melalui lirik mereka. Pesan yang terkandung dalam sebuah lagu disebut dengan nilai moral. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui nilai-nilai moral dalam lirik lagu pilihan Harris J dan mengetahui jenis nilai moral yang paling dominan muncul dalam lirik lagu pilihan Harris J. Dalam lingkup penelitian, peneliti membatasi kajian pada nilai moral dalam lagu-lagu pilihan Harris J: Save Me From Myself (2017), Human (2019), Living Life (2021), Phases (2022), dan Dear God (2023). Pendekatan deskriptif kualitatif digunakan peneliti untuk mengetahui nilai moral dalam lagu tersebut dan dibantu dengan aplikasi Atlas.ti. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa terdapat nilai moral dalam lagu-lagu pilihan Harris J, seperti rasa ingin tahu 4 (9%), kerja keras 6 (13%), jujur 5 (11%), damai 11 (25%), religius 10 (22%), tanggung jawab 2 (5%), peduli sosial 1 (2%), dan bersyukur 6 (13%). Nilai moral yang paling dominan adalah damai (25%). Harapannya, penelitian ini dapat membantu para pendidik atau orang tua dalam upayanya menanamkan nilai-nilai moral dalam keluarga, sekolah, dan masyarakat.

**Kata kunci:** *Harris J.; Nilai Moral; Lagu*

### INTRODUCTION

Language is a communication instrument needed by people to convey information or messages. People can express ideas, opinions, thoughts, or desires, whether spoken or written. Language is a communication system that employs voice, is read aloud by the speech organ, and may be heard by members of the public using a vowel sign that conventionally implies an arbitrator or whatever they want [1]. The development of language as a means of communication is greatly influenced by both written and electronic media. Printed and digital media now serve as essential outlets for individuals seeking accurate news and information, both nationally and globally. The widespread use of English as a global language significantly contributes to the advancement of globalization, facilitating communication in fields like business, politics, science, and technology.

Globalization has resulted in significant progress in many fields, including art. Art involves the mastery of creating exceptional creations, encompassing various human endeavors such as crafting visual, auditory, or performance pieces that convey the creator's concepts or technical prowess, showcasing their beauty and emotional impact. It has evolved significantly in this century, particularly music, which has affected people all around the world, including students. Song lyrics can also be utilized to teach reading comprehension by posing a variety of questions to students. Further the students can discuss the song and give opinion about it orally. Later, they can write their reflection on the content of the song relating to their real life [2]. Music is an emotional expression. A song has become a vital part of human life in the modern era. People hear songs practically every day of their lives. The song is not only used to entertain people, but it can also be utilized to express a message or value through the lyrics. Lyrics express the creator's feelings [3]. A song is the fusion of singing and music, a brief creation where words and melodies blend seamlessly [4]. This implies that a song's essence lies in the harmonious interplay of lyrics and musical elements; they are interconnected, forming a cohesive symphony. In essence, a song embodies rhythmic vocal expression, while music provides the underlying rhythm. Furthermore, music is used in literary works and might make one's brain more sensitive to learning. Listening to music instantly activates the reward region of the brain, providing enough motivation for the brain to learn new information. Moreover, music will improve focus, thoughts, and job length.

Morality is a frequent term, but it is difficult to apply in everyday life. Morality pertains to one's character and conduct in the context of what is considered right or wrong [5]. Morality encompasses the capacity of human beings to perceive, internalize, and subsequently convey judgments and emotions in accordance with certain principles [6]. At its core, morality revolves around the distinction between right and wrong and the ability to discern and rationalize these distinctions [7]. People have been taught about morality since they were born; however, with time, morality will decline or be delayed. Humans need to possess morality because, without it, they won't be appreciated by other people. People will find it easier to socialize with others and will feel accepted in the community. Moral values can be learned not only through formal discussions and books but also through songs, which can deliver the moral message of the songs. One of them is a song from Harris J. Harris J's songs are very inspiring and also contain many messages. Those songs are *Save Me From Myself* (2017), *Human* (2019), *Living Life* (2021), *Phases* (2022), and *Dear God* (2023). Those songs have a deep meaning for the listener. Therefore, many people like those songs. People can also learn Islamic values and other values from Harris J's songs to inspire themselves to become better people.

Currently, the Indonesian government has identified 18 moral values to strengthen character education activities in *Pusat Kurikulum and Pembukuan Kementerian Pendidikan Nasional* [8]. Thus, the researchers want to examine the similar Indonesian moral values with those that exist in the song Harris J. The 18 Indonesian moral values are religious, honest, tolerant, discipline, hard-working, creative, independent, democratic, curiosity, nationalistic, patriotic, respectful, friendly, peaceful, thankful, environment care, social care, and responsibility. According to the explanation above, it is very challenging and also interesting to conduct research on moral values as the message in Harris J's songs because the songs have received appreciation. Harris J's songs have the unique ability to calm the emotions and minds of listeners.

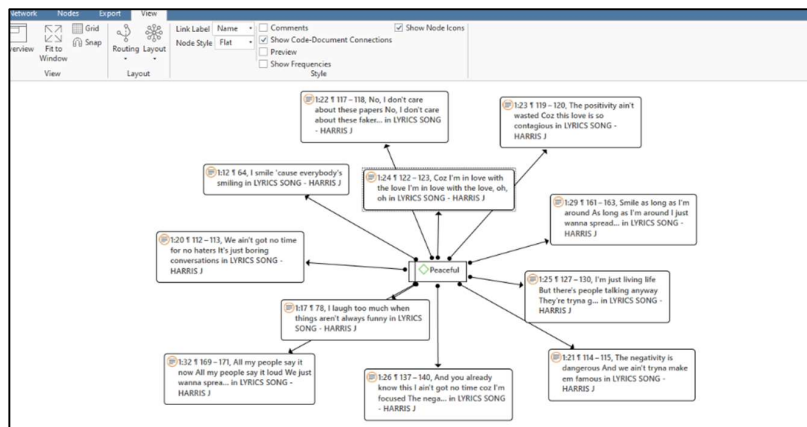
In this case, there are several studies on moral value analysis that have been carried out by previous researchers. The first research, entitled "An Analysis of Indonesian Moral Values Found in the Song Lyrics Forgive Me Album by Maher Zain," was written by Hidayah [9]. The Indonesian moral values found in the song lyrics album are religiosity, being friendly or communicative, and being peace-loving. The second previous study, entitled "Moral Values Found in Naomi Scott's 'Speechless' Song Lyrics: An Attitudinal Analysis Using Appraisal Theory," was written by Setyaning and Widhiyanto [10]. The result of the study depicted that the dominant attitude system found was the affect system (68.97%), followed by appreciation (17.24%) and judgment (13.79%). The result showed that the songwriters mostly used their feelings in their lyrics. Related to feminism, the song delivered a message in which women should not be underestimated and all the old stigmas that weaken women's position should be removed to achieve equality among genders. The third previous study, entitled "Analysis of Moral Values in Tere Liye's Novel *Pulang*," was written by Destelita and Putri [11]. The results of this study determine the moral values in the novel by Tere

Liye, namely religious moral values, social moral values, and personal moral values. From the previous studies above, the differences between this research and previous research are the theories that the researchers used and the research subjects. In the previous research, the data analysis used the manual method, whereas in this research, the researcher used Atlas.ti for analyzing the data.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research aims to find out moral values in the lyrics of the selected song by Harris J and to find out the most dominant kinds of moral values appearing in the lyrics of Harris J's selected song. In this research, the researcher used descriptive qualitative research, where this type of research can understand and describe things that are the object of research [12]. This research belongs to qualitative research because this study is aimed at making a systematic, factual, and accurate description of the moral values in the song lyrics. The source of the data in this study was selected song lyrics by Harris J. Thus, the subjects were part of song lyrics that consider and contain moral values. The subjects of this study will be compared to the 18 moral values in Indonesia. The song lyrics by Harris J are: Save Me From Myself (2017), Human (2019), Living Life (2021), Phases (2022), and Dear God (2023). The reason the researchers chose these songs is because they have many moral messages. The songs of Harris J. provide a positive value to listeners. The researchers used herself as an instrument to obtain the data since she was the one who could lead the process from the raw data collected to the conclusion reached [13]. Qualitative research focuses on the total picture of a phenomenon [14]. Referring to the purposes of the study, the researchers will collect the data by using documents (song lyrics). The instruments of the document are song lyrics by Harris J. After collecting the data, the data were analyzed qualitatively through three activities as proposed by M. B. Miles and A. M. Huberman [15], namely data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing. In this research, the researchers used Atlas.ti for analyzing the data because the application made it easier for them to complete the data coding. Following are steps to model data according to F. Van Nes and M. Doorman [16], which has been modified by the researcher:

1. First, the researchers entered the song's lyrics into the Atlas.ti application.
2. Then, the researchers began encoding the data by reading the song's lyrics, subsequently giving the code to the sentence or stanzas that corresponded to the type of moral values.
3. After the data encoding was complete, the researchers grouped the results according to type.
4. The last, making the conclusion of the analysis to answer the problems of the research.



Picture 1. Example of coding result

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Based on Syarbini [8], the moral values consist of religious, honest, tolerant, discipline, hard-working, creative, independent, democratic, curiosity, nationalistic, patriotic, respective, friendly, peaceful, thankful, environment care, social care, and responsibility. There are a lot of moral values found in the lyrics of Harris J, and those moral values are categorized as follows:

Table 1. Analysis of Moral Values in Harris J's Selected Song Lyrics

No.	Moral Values	Count	Percentage (%)
1.	Curiosity	4	9%
2.	Hard-working	6	13%
3.	Honest	5	11%
4.	Peaceful	11	25%
5.	Religious	10	22%
6.	Responsibility	2	5%
7.	Social Care	1	2%
8.	Thankful	6	13%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>100%</b>

The Table 1 shows the total number of moral values found in the selected song lyrics by Harris J. Based on the table, the most dominant moral value is peaceful with a total of 11 (25%), followed by religious with a total of 10 (22%), hard-working and thankful with a total of 6 (13%), honest with a total of 5 (11%), curiosity with a total of 4 (9%), responsibility with a total of 2 (5%), and social care was the least with a total of 1 (2%).

### 1. Peaceful

The first moral value found in this research was peaceful. The researchers found eleven quotations of lyrics in the title song *Human* and *Living Life* that were categorized as peaceful and can be found in data 12, 17, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 29, and 32.

(Data 29)

Smile as long as I'm around  
 As long as I'm around  
 I just wanna spread the love

#### Analysis:

In the part of the stanza above, it talks about a peace-loving attitude. The singer creates happiness and a sense of safety in the presence of others.

### 2. Religious

The second moral value found in this research was religious. The researchers found ten quotations of lyrics in the title song *Save Me From Myself* and *Dear God* that were categorized as religious and can be found in data 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 40, 42, 44, and 45.

(Data 5)

Allah, Allah, Allah  
 Lord I need Your help

#### Analysis:

Here the singer told or taught the listener that he was deeply in an intense capacity praying. Only Allah, or God, is where we ask and depend. Then, all people will have peace to experience their daily lives.

### 3. Hard-working

The third moral value found in this research was hard-working. The researchers found six quotations of lyrics in the title song *Save Me From Myself*, *Human*, and *Living Life* that were categorized as hard-working and can be found in data 7, 11, 13, 18, 28, and 31.

(Data 31)

We ain't never giving up

#### Analysis:

Here the singer shows his hard work. The singer told the listener that he never gave up and kept trying against the odds.

### 4. Thankful

The fourth moral value found in this research was thankfulness. The researchers found six quotations of lyrics in the title song *Dear God* that were categorized as thankful and can be found in data 36, 37, 38, 39, 41, and 43.

(Data 43)

Dear God

When I was so unable

You would pick me up and give me strength so I could handle more

**Analysis:**

The singer is always grateful to Allah, and he shows his loyalty with praises. God gives him strength to make him stronger in difficult times. God is the only one who inspires his life.

**5. Honest**

The fifth moral value found in this research was honest. The researchers found five quotations of lyrics in the title song *Save Me From Myself, Human, and Phases* that were categorized as honest and can be found in data 1, 2, 15, 16, and 33.

(Data 16)

I'm only human, I'm human

Sometimes I think I gotta let it show

**Analysis:**

The song lyrics show how the singer tries to be honest with everyone, saying that he is only human and can make mistakes.

**6. Curiosity**

The sixth moral value found in this research was curiosity. The researchers found four quotations of lyrics in the title song *Save Me From Myself, Human, Living Life, and Phases* that were categorized as curiosity and can be found in data 8, 14, 27, and 35.

(Data 27)

Why they tryna bring us down

**Analysis:**

Here the singer shows his curiosity in the part of the lyrics above. It showed how the singer wondered why people wanted to bring him down.

**7. Responsibility**

The seventh moral value found in this research was responsibility. The researchers found two quotations of lyrics in the title song *Human and Phases* that were categorized as responsibility and can be found in data 19 and 34.

(Data 34)

Even at the worst I've felt

I try to tell myself

I'm going through phases

Oh, I'm going through phases of my life

**Analysis:**

The song lyrics talk about responsibility. The singer is going through phases of his life, and he is responsible for getting through them all.

**8. Social Care**

The eighth moral value found in this research was social care. The researchers found one quotation of lyrics in the title song *Living Life* that is categorized as social care and can be found in data 30.

(Data 30)

They can never bring us down

**Analysis:**

Here the singer shows his social care. The singer tries to help convince the people around him that nothing can bring us down.

Based on the description above, the peaceful moral value was mostly found in the song of Harris J. It was caused by his background as a devout Muslim, he is very peaceful with others. There are no differences between one and the other. Therefore, peace-loving is shown in the selected songs, the singer reminds people not to insult or belittle one another. Furthermore, the moral value of religious holds significant recognition in Harris J's case, as he is widely acknowledged for his strong

religious commitment alongside his fame as a singer. In his songs, Harris J emphasizes that God is none other than Allah. Apart from that, the moral value of hard working is clearly reflected in Harris J's songs, as a young artist who tirelessly dedicates himself to learning to achieve his dreams with the aim of making his parents and those around him proud. Next, the moral value of thankful is found in Harris J's song, as he consistently expresses profound thankfulness for the events in his life and entrusts everything to God. Then, there were also four moral values: honest, curiosity, responsibility, and social care, which described that being honest, being a person with high curiosity, being responsible, and caring for others are very important so that we become better individuals than before.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the findings and discussion, the conclusions are as follows: there are eight types of moral values in the lyrics of this selected song by Harris J, namely peaceful, religious, hard-working, thankful, honest, curiosity, responsibility, and social care. In this research, the researchers found the dominant moral value is peaceful with a total of 11 (25%), followed by religious with a total of 10 (22%), hard-working and thankful with a total of 6 (13%), honest with a total of 5 (11%), curiosity with a total of 4 (9%), responsibility with a total of 2 (5%), and social care with a total of 1 (2%). The researchers hope that this exploration can assist educators and parents in instilling moral values within the family, school, and community environments.

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