

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents research background, research questions, research objectives, research significances, scope and limitation, and definition of key terms.

A. Research Background

Moral is a fundamental aspect of human life, it serves as a guide in determining right or wrong and shapes individual behaviour within society. Moral is a system of beliefs that is formed through continuous interaction within a social environment. In addition, moral behaviour is influenced by various internal and external factors, including individual awareness, cultural background, and social relationships, which shape how individual acts and makes decisions in everyday life.¹

Moral values are increasingly challenged by the rapid development of technology and globalization. The ease of accessing digital content without adequate filtering has contributed to a decline in moral awareness. This condition highlights the urgency of strengthening moral education through character building in order to increase moral awareness. Furthermore, moral education plays a significant role in fostering essential moral values, including honesty,

¹ Syafnidawati., & Wahidah, F. 2024. *Integrasi Perkembangan Moral dengan Perilaku Sosial dalam Perspektif Islam dan Barat*. OASIS: Jurnal Ilmiah Kajian Islam, 9(1): 65-78.

responsibility, and others, which are contribute to the development of individual who are not only intellectually capable but also socially responsible.²

Movie has emerged as one of the most influential forms of mass communication and cultural expression. As a medium that combines visual, auditory, and narrative elements, movie possesses unique capacity to convey messages, perceptions, and reflect societal values, also offer an accessible and engaging platform for moral education.³ Furthermore, movie serves not only as entertainment, but also as tool to educate the audiences, embedding moral values within engaging storylines and relatable characters.

The role of movie as a moral learning source is relevant in this digital era, where diverse audiences are exposed by amounts of content daily. Among the various genres, animated movie holds a special place due to their appeal to diverse audiences. The visual appeal and imaginative storytelling allow it to convey complex moral lessons in simplified and emotionally ways.⁴ Animated movie with their capacity to presents diverse characters and moral dilemmas, can foster critical thinking and emotional intelligence. As seen in the analysis of Luca movie, the movie highlight values like honesty, courage, and cooperation, making it a valueable tool for moral cultivation among children.⁵

² Dini, I. N., et al. 2026. *Makna Pendidikan Moral dalam Pembentukan Nilai dan Perilaku Kewarganegaraan pada Generasi Muda*. Jurnal Manajemen Pendidikan, 11(1): 267-279.

³ Sarah, R., et al. 2025. *An Analysis of Moral Values in Movie Encanto*. JEELL: Jurnal of English Education, Linguistics, and Literature, 12(3): 269-279.

⁴ Rahmayanti, E. 2023. *The Use of Films as an Educational Medium in Learning Civic Education as a Preventive Effort Against Moral Decradation in The Age of 4.0*. Capture: Jurnal Seni Media Rekam, 14(3): 257-278.

⁵ Kristanti, V., & Maisarah, I. 2023. *Analysis of Moral Values in Walt Disney Pictures and Pixar Animation Studios "Luca" Animated Film*. JESPI: Journal of ESP in Indonesia, 2(1): 53-58.

In relation to this, understanding morality requires more than simply identifying moral values. Moral reasons are seen as an important process that involves considering reasons and justifications behind a particular action.⁶ Individuals are expected not only to recognize whether something is right or wrong, but also to explain why an action should or should not be taken. This perspective shows that moral judgment is closely related to the ability to think critically about consequences, responsibilities, and ethical awareness.

Research in literature and movie analysis generally tend to focus on identifying moral values presented in a story, researchers often classify moral message conveyed by the narrative. While this approach is useful in describing what kinds of values are presented, it often pays less attention to the reasons behind the characters' actions. In several studies, the analysis stops at what is shown, without exploring why the characters make decisions in particular situations.⁷ This indicates that examining the underlying reasons of characters' actions can provide a deeper understanding on moral aspects in narratives, especially in the context of movie.

Moral development theory proposed by Lawrence Kohlberg explains that morality is not only about recognizing what is right or wrong, but also about how individuals justify their decisions through different levels of reasons. In the movie context, moral dilemma faced by characters can be used to provoke and reveal their moral reasons processes. Furthermore, Kohlberg's theory provides a clear

⁶ Sitanggang, N. A., & Yuhdi, A. 2022. *Analisis Struktural dan Nilai Moral pada Novel "Berhenti di Kamu" Karya Gia Pratama*. Jurnal LITERASI, 6(2): 301-306.

⁷ Putri, et al. 2022. *Analisis Nilai Moral dalam Novel "Cuko" Karya Ariestanabirah dan Implikasinya terhadap Pendidikan Karakter*. JIPBSI: Jurnal Ilmiah Pendidikan Bahasa dan Sastra Indonesia, 4(1): 56-65.

structure for analyzing moral reasons through its levels, also each stage reflects a different orientation of thinking.⁸ This theory is useful for examining moral reasons, as it allows researcher to categorizes the justification behind a character's actions.

The use of Kohlberg's theory enables a deeper analysis of justification behind characters' decisions. Kohlberg's theory focuses on the process of moral reasons as a gradual development, where individuals move from self-centered reasons to more complex and principled thinking.⁹ This theory is highly relevant for analyzing narratives, it can helps reveal not only what actions are taken, but also why those actions are chosen. Therefore, applying this theory can contribute to more comprehensive understanding of moral aspects in movie by highlighting the moral reasons that guide characters's behavior.

Although several studies have examined moral aspects in movie, most of them tend to focus on identifying moral values or messages presented in the story. For instance, a study in Luca movie and The Breadwinner movie mainly identified values such as courage, honesty, kindness, gratitude, and compassion as part of the moral values conveyed in the story.¹⁰ While these research are useful in highlighting what kinds of moral values appear, yet they do not provide a deeper analysis of the moral reasons that guide the characters' choices. In many cases,

⁸ Zhang, Q., & Zhao, H. 2017. *An Analytical Overview of Kohlberg's Theory of Moral Development in College Moral Education in Mainland China*. Open Journal of Social Sciences, 5(8): 151-160.

⁹ Hanafiah, M. 2024. *Perkembangan Moral Anak dalam Perspektif Pendidikan*. Ameena Journal, 2(1): 75-91.

¹⁰ Rahim, et al. 2023. *Moral Values in the Movie Script The Breadwinner (2017) by Anita Doron*. Humaniora: Journal of Linguistics, Literature, and Education, 3(1): 15-24.

the analysis focuses on what is shown in the narrative rather than why certain decisions are made in particular situations.

In addition, there is also a lack of academic research focusing in Lilo & Stitch 2025 movie. As a recently released movie, discussions about it are mostly found in popular reviews rather than scholarly publications. These reviews generally highlight themes such as family, sacrifices, and belonging, but they do not provide a systematic analysis of the moral reasons behind the characters' actions. This situation strengthens the research gap, as there is not only a need for research that identifying moral reasons, but also a need to apply such analysis to movie that have not been examined academically. Therefore, this research aims to address these gaps by analyzing the moral reasons deployed by the main characters in Lilo & Stitch 2025 movie.

Lilo & Stitch 2025 movie becomes an interesting object of research because it presents a range of conflicts and characters' interactions that contain particular moral decision. The story highlights themes such as family relationship, responsibility, and belonging, which are closely tied to moral choices made by the main characters. Each main character faces situations that require them to act based on certain considerations, making it possible to examine the moral reasons underlying their actions.

Therefore, this research aims to analyze the moral reasons deployed by the main characters in Lilo & Stitch 2025 movie and to categorize those reasons based on the levels of moral theory by Lawrence Kohlberg. Examine the reasons

behind the characters' actions is also important in order to understand how moral decisions are made.

B. Research Questions

The research questions are formulated as follows:

- a. What levels and stages of moral reasons deployed by the main characters in Lilo & Stitch 2025 movie?
- b. How did the main characters deploy their moral reasons in Lilo & Stitch 2025 movie?
- c. Why did the main characters deploy their moral reasons in Lilo & Stitch 2025 movie?

C. Research Objectives

The research objectives are formulated as follows:

- a. To identify the levels and stages of moral reasons deployed by the main characters in Lilo & Stitch 2025 movie;
- b. To explain how the main characters deployed their moral reasons in Lilo & Stitch 2025 movie;
- c. To explain why the main characters deployed their moral reasons in Lilo & Stitch 2025 movie.

D. Research Significances

a. Theoretical Significance

This research is expected to contribute to the development of literature study and movie analysis, also to enrich the existing literature by providing more analytical perspective on moral aspects in movie.

b. Practical Significance

This research is expected to help readers to better understand the reasons behind characters' actions in movie, not only the moral values presented. It can also serve as a reference for future researchers who are interested in analyzing moral aspects in movie, especially those focusing on moral reasons. In addition, this study may encourage audiences to be more critical in interpreting movies by considering the moral reasons behind characters' actions.

In the context of English Language Teaching, this research can serve as a useful reference for teachers in using movie as a learning medium. Teachers can engage students in discussions about morality while simultaneously improving their language skills, such as speaking, listening, and critical thinking. Furthermore, this research may support the development of interactive and reflective learning activities. Teachers can use materials based on movie to create discussions, role-plays, or critical response that require students to explore not only what happened in the story, but also how and why it happened.

E. Scope and Limitation

This research focuses on analyzing the moral reasons deployed by the main characters in Lilo & Stitch 2025 movie based on moral development theory by Lawrence Kohlberg. The analysis is limited to three main characters named Lilo, Stitch, and Nani, as they play central roles in the development of the story. This research examines selected dialogues and actions that contain moral reasons, with the aims to identify the underlying reasons behind those actions. The findings of this research are limited to the analysis of the selected data and are not intended to be generalized beyond the context of this movie.

F. Definition of Key Terms

a. Moral Reason

Moral reason refers to a specific consideration that underlies an individual's moral action. Rather than focusing only on what is right or wrong, moral reason emphasizes why an action is chosen in a particular situation.¹¹ The reason can be identified through the character's response to moral dilemma and interaction. By examining a moral reason, this research aims to explain the consideration behind particular action.

b. Movie

Movie is a form of visual narrative that presents a story through moving images, dialogue, and sound. As a medium, a movie is not only created for entertainment purposes, but also serves as an accessible platform for

¹¹ Zhang, Q., & Zhao, H. 2017. *An Analytical Overview of Kohlberg's Theory of Moral Development in College Moral Education in Mainland China*. Open Journal of Social Sciences, 5(8): 151-160.

conveying messages and engaging platform for moral education.¹² Movie often portrays complex character experiences through conflict and interaction, making it a relevant object for analyzing moral aspects.

c. Lilo & Stitch 2025

Lilo & Stitch 2025 is an American science fiction movie produced by Walt Disney Pictures with Rideback, and directed by Dean Fleischer Camp. Experiment 626 named Stitch, an alien designed for destruction, escaped from alien confinement and landed on Kaua'i, Hawaii. Meanwhile, a lonely Hawaiian girl named Lilo struggled with life on her own after the loss of her parents, and her older sister named Nani faced challenge in securing stable work. When Lilo adopted Stitch and thinking he's a dog, she hoped he will be her friend and help keep her small family together.

¹² Laugier, S. 2021. *Film as Moral Education*. Journal of Philosophy of Education, 55(1): 263-281.