An Analysis on the Open Society to the Main Characters of Charles Dickens’ A Christmas Carol: A Perspective of Socrates

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Received: 3 January 2020; Revised: 20 March 2020; Accepted: 25 May 2020

Abstract

A Literature is important because we can understand the issue of life through reading literature. It can also amuse and allow us to avoid our dilemma for a while. In this review, the author would examine Socrates ’ viewpoint in open society with Charles Dickens ’ A Christmas Carol's main characters. The research was carried out by Mr. Ebenezer Scrooge and Jacob Marley. The study aims and focuses on the key aspects on open society related to Freedom, democracy, Equality, and Social Responsibility to the main Characters of that novel. According to him, the liberal definition of freedom, based on the categorical imperative of John Stuart Mill, was good for life and human beings are ends, and to refrain from using them as moral absolute for other purposes and as the core of an open society. Peters openness is a dynamic euphemism representing a change in philosophy and culture, a series of intertwined and nuanced changes that alter economies, production methods and consumption, culminating in a new set of policies focused on openness, collaborative ethics and academic-to-peer cooperation. The writer will use descriptive qualitative method because this analysis is intended to explore what the novel itself is. All of data used in this writing are from libraries and also from many sources dealing with the topic of this study and the primary sources of the data is exactly from the Charles Dickens ’ A Christmas Carol. The results of this study showed that first, Mr. Ebenezer Scrooge is showing a freedom and social responsibility “you were always a good friend to me,” said Scrooge. “Thankee!” You will be haunted, “resumed the ghost,” by three spirits” Scrooge’s countenance fell almost as low as Ghost (page 24). “Scrooge regarded every one with a delighted smile. He looked so irresistibly pleasant, in a word, that three our for good – humored Christmas to you!”(page: 109 ). Second, Jacob Marley is showing equality and democracy in his running, “But you were always a good man of business, Jacob,” faltered Scrooge, who now began to apple this to himself” (page 22-23), “you were always a good friend to me,” said Scrooge. “Thankee!” (page: 31).

Keywords: Freedom, Democracy, Equality, Social responsibility

Introduction

Charles Dickens’ A Christmas Carol (1843) is a wonderful novel to read. The novel informs about Mr. Ebenezer Scrooge experience met his friend's ghost, Jacob Marley, He was dead seven years ago but Scrooge might seem to be warning. He said to Scrooge that three ghosts will torment him. The first spirit of the next day came to scrooge. It brought Christmas to Scrooge's part. It showed him all his good and bad manners in his past. The experience made him realized his mistake. The second spirit brought into present Christmas. It brought him into Bob Crathit’s house. Bob Crathit’s family talked about Scrooge and Tiny Tim didn’t care him. It made realized that he had mistaken with them. Third spirit brought him into spirit future Christmas. There, he saw he was dead and so did Tiny Tim. It told them that he had to go back to present and take care tiny Tim. Scrooge felt
happy after getting the experience and he became a second father for Tiny Tim.

The existence of a freedom and social responsibility was depicted by character namely Mr. Ebenezer Scrooge. The writer found that Scrooge was very good and felt free to welcome friend of spirit and although he was haunted by three spirits, He still opened himself to be friends of them. (Rawls, 1972) He proceeds to give an account of social institutions within the scope of liberal democracy. In addition according to (Peters & Britize, 2008) Open knowledge also indicates that knowledge can be shared and created by greater numbers of inclusive individuals. Knowledge serves the public good. In this novel researcher found the closed relationship among Scrooge and the spirits. Because He felt happy after getting the experience and became a second father for Tiny Tim. And the writer took the argument that scrooge had a freedom situation, it means that he was still able to make a contact with spirits even though their lands were different. On the other side, Jacob Marley gave information about equality and democracy. In the first meeting with scrooge, He informed scrooge about the three spirits wanted to haunt him and took him into the past Christmas. It showed his good and bad manner. It means that Jacob described the equality between them and of course He let scrooge to share freely about the matter in the past year. This idea was supported by Socrates quote “Democracy as the best way to avoid tyranny than majority rules, therefore people under a democracy may accept the majority rule but should always feel free to combat it by democratic means and try to improve it”. (Mara, 1997) Plato's political philosophy is a crucial source for reflection on the hazards and possibilities of democratic politics. More over Socrates (c.469-399 B.C) showed that man could die for not only grand things but also for freedom of critical thought, for self-respect which has nothing to do with self-importance.

The research problem in this study includes: Do the main characters of the novel “Mr. Ebenezer Scrooge and Jacob Marley “show the attitude of open society?

The study aims and focuses on the key aspects on open society related to Freedom, democracy, Equality, and Social Responsibility to the main Characters of that novel. There are previews studies that had studied about open society on Socrates perspective. (Network, 2001) an open society is character-ized by the rule of law; respect for human rights, minorities, and minority opinions; democratically elected governments; a market economy in which business and government are separate; and a thriving civil society. Then (Grondin, 2018) He believed all answers existed within humans; we just need to bring out the truth through thoughtful inquiry. In addition, (Conrad & Dunek, 2012) Parallel to the idea of active learning, and following in the spirit of the Socratic method, is the idea of active open mindedness, moreover, (Margoni, 2016) Open Access is a key enable of Open Science, which in turn will lead to a more Open Society. Furthermore, the paper argues that while legislative interventions play an important role in the top-down regulation of Open Access, legislators currently lack an informed and systematic vision on the role of Open Access in science and society. (Kupsch, 2019) attributes associated with more open societies, People who have recently come to live in [country] should be treated equally, Everyone can practice their religion, Everyone can express their opinion, Government-critical groups and individuals can engage in dialogue with the government, The rights of minorities are protected, All political views can be represented in parliament, and Media can criticize the government.

Material and Methods

This research was a library research. The source of this research data was a novel entitled A Christmas Carol by (Dickens, 1843). The data collection technique was done by close reading. This research data came from the novelist’s narrations and the characters’ utterances in that novel. The data analysis technique of this research was done through three steps, namely data reduction, data display and conclusion (Berg & Bruce, 2001). Data reduction was derived from the novelist’s narrations and the characters’ utterances in Charles Dickens’ A Christmas Carol that were in relation to Mr. Ebenezer Scrooge and Jacob Marley character building which caused by the Socrates Perspective on open society. Then, the data were coded to help the researcher presented the data display. The data display which are coded by the researcher would be analyzed by using Socrates Perspective on open society, and other literatures which were related to solve the research problems. The third step was conclusion which contained the summary from the analysis.
Result and Discussion

His workplace is home to Ebenezer Scrooge. It's Christmas Eve, but it's not in the spirit of Christmas. His nephew Fred visits him, but he declines to celebrate Fred's Christmas dinner the next day. Scrooge also turns away two men seeking contributions for the destitute and subsequently only grudgingly subsidizes his staff member, Bob Cratchit, the day off for Christmas with his family. This action shows the social responsibility of Scrooge, although he is very strict with his surroundings, he still has a high level of responsibility by still willing to contribute to the poor. (Abbas, 2019) Enacted the first interpretation of Social Responsibility among the prevalent views as a term that represents the moral, financial, budgetary, business and legal aspirations of business companies by considering the perspectives of Social Responsibility as incorporating not only its contribution to business purposes but also the broader perspective of social welfare.

“his color change, though, when, without a pause, it came on through the heavy door, and passed into the room before his eyes. Upon its coming in, the dying flame leaped up, as though it cried.” I know him! Marley Ghost! And fell again... (page: 17)

“you were always a good friend to me,” said Scrooge. “Thankee!” You will be haunted, “resumed the ghost,” by three spirits “Scrooge’s countenance fell almost as low as Gost (page 24).

“…But you were always a good man of business, Jacob,” faltered Scrooge, who now began to apple this to himself” (page 22-23)

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Later that evening, as Scrooge arrives home, he thinks someone is in his room. A ghostly specter who shows out to be his departed business partner, Jacob Marley, visits him. Marley is bundled in chains with bags of cash. He tells Scrooge that he is doomed to roam earth in the heavy chains as punishment for his greed. In the above quotation you can describe The equality and Freedom shown between the two figures Mr. Ebenezer Scrooge and Jacob Marley, even though both come from a different world between humans and ghosts, they think we are the same and we still meet each other, and both feel without pressure to meet. Scrooge learns that three spirits will visit him that night and that he must listen to them to escape the same fate as Marley. If he doesn’t, he may end up bearing heavier and longer chains upon his death. (Giebler & Merkel, 2016) The claim that the proper realization of democracy requires a certain degree of cultural-economic equality. That represents the antipodes to the ancient political philosophy's trade-off claim. Rousseau's argument that people can only be free if they stay politically equal is important to our purposes here. In fact, economic justice can only be reached if there is as little inequality as possible. In the 'state of nature' people are basically free and equal, but the development of society and the injustice resulting from private property ruined both – first freedom and then liberty. In order to restore the complementarity of freedom and equality, a form of direct democracy needs to be established whereby citizens constitute a collective body capable of protecting and securing both principles. Here, we also find a clear difference between two forms of equality: democratic equality, in the form of actual democracy which involves all people, and cultural-economic equality that is challenged by personal property. In Marx's writings and other leftist philosophers, cultural-economic equality later became a circumstance not for free and equal communities. “Spirit ‘said scrooge, ‘show me no more! Conduct me home. Why do you delight to torture me? One shadow more! Exclaimed the ghost. No more!. Cried scrooge- no more. I don’t wish to see it. Show me no more!’” (page 46-47)

“Scrooge regarded every one with a delighted smile. He looked so irresistibly pleasant, in a word, that three our for good – humored Christmas to you!” (page: 109)

Scrooge's first ghost to visit is the Christmas Past Ghost. They take Scrooge back to his youth's most innocent days. Scrooge testifies to his lonely adolescence, but his love for his sister Fan (who later died after his nephew was born) is also remembered. Scrooge travels with the heart in his early adulthood. They stop at Scrooge's first employer's holiday festivities, the jovial, who was a pleasant counselor treating Scrooge as a family.

Next, Scrooge testimony the interaction between his younger self and his then fiancé, Belle. Belle realized that Scrooge would never love her as much as he loves money. The ghost later takes Scrooge to see Belle and her large, happy family. Strolling through these experiences of Scrooge belies a wide range of emotions. He begs the ghost to take him back to his own time and is in his bed. When the clock hits, Scrooge is visited by the Ghost of Christmas Present. The
ghost whisks Scrooge off after touching his robes to see various households joyfully planning for Christmas. At the humble home of Bob Cratchit, he first meets the family of his worker. Scrooge wants to learn more about the little, healthy, crippled boy of Bob. The spirit tells him that the boy is Tiny Tim, and if his life is not changed, the child will perish.

The demon shows Scrooge two emaciated kids called Stupidity and Want at the end of their journey and asks him to protect both of them, but specifically the latter. The greatest ghost to visit Scrooge is the Christmas Yet Coming Ghost. A silent spirit carries Scrooge to a widely hated man's funeral spot. Although Scrooge is shocked at the care of the deceased, the spirit cannot show him anyone who is sorry that the man is gone. Rather, his friends will only visit the grave if lunch is given, the migrant workers of the man will steal from him to make some money, and a couple are celebrating because their outstanding balance to Scrooge is now being sorted out.

“The children drank the toast after her . it was the first of their proceeding which had no heartiness in it. Tiny Tim drank it last at all, but he didn’t care two pence for it. Scrooge was the Ogre of the family...” (page : 67)

“Scrooge, will honor Christmas in my heart, and try keep it all the year, He will live in the past, present and the future. The spirit of all, there shall strive within me. He will not shut out the lesson that they teach. Oh tell me I may sponge away the writing on this stone!...( page: 103 )

Scrooge asks the ghost to show him someone who has been profoundly mourned. To his disappointment, the spirit reveals Cratchit’s family grieving the loss of Tiny Tim. Scrooge’s horror only grows as the spirit finally leads him to the grave of the despised man and he discovers his own name on the headstone. Eventually, Scrooge cracks and asks the spirit to send him back to his life so he can change his ways to escape this dark future.

Once returned, Scrooge is delighted to find that it is Christmas morning. He spends the day with Fred and his family and sends a turkey to Bob Cratchit’s family anonymously. The next day, he raises Bob’s pay and gradually becomes Tiny Tim's like a second father. From then on, Scrooge displays kindness and generosity to all he encounters and reflects the true Christmas spirit. From some of the quotations above it can be illustrated that the social life of the scrooge which was originally very hard and without caring about fruitfulness becomes good, generous, and socially influenced by the devil who met it illustrates that the nature of Freedom, democracy, Equality, and Social Responsibility still exists in scrooge.

Conclusion

The most dominant technique used is Adaptation. The percentage of adaptation technique is very high; it is 57, 6 %. Adaptation technique used in these poems since it is the best technique in translating poems without losing the true (original) meaning in Indonesian as target language. The second common technique is word for word and it is 35, 2 % in the translation. This Word for Word Technique is used when the words of English in original/source text has equal value of meaning in Indonesian as target language. The very rare and less commonly used is the combination between Adaptation technique and Word for Word technique; the percentage is only 7, 2 % of the Indonesian translation. These both combinations used by the translator with a purpose of not losing the entire meaning in the English poems into Indonesian. He must do this to convey the Truth of Meaning to Indonesian reader from English to Indonesian. There is no deviation between English Source Text and Indonesian translation. In brief, that is the conclusion of this research. I hope that this research help many students to conduct the translation research.

Literature is an element of culture. Historically and culturally it parts endless activities which will always go ahead and offer improvement, change, and innovation. Because of that it is suggested the readers should know the background of literary work especially a novel entitled A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens. Presented in interesting even in provocation ways, they permit us to experience another cultures, other aspects of life, and another human problem differing from our own.it is also suggested that readers should be given the basic knowledge of ways to analyze the literary work related to many philosophies ‘idea such as: Socrates, Plato and etc.in consequence, they will compare their perspective of life with the literary experience.

References

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