ARGOPURO

Argopuro: Jurnal Multidisiplin Ilmu Bahasa
Vol 12 No 1 Tahun 2026
Online ISSN: 2988-6309

MORAL VALUES AND THEIR INFLUENCE ON CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT IN THE MOVIE MARS NEEDS MOMS

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Abstract

This research discusses the moral value that appear in *Mars Need Moms* movie using Linda and Eyre's theory. The aim of this study is to find the types of Moral Value that appeared in the Movie Mars Needs Moms and to find out their influences on the character development in the Movie *Mars Needs Moms*. In this research, the researcher used a qualitative method in analyzing and obtained the data from the movie. The data Taken in this research are the scene and dialogue from the movie. The results of this research showed there are total 28 data which are divided into two types of Moral Values, Moral Values of Being and Moral Value of Giving. The moral values found in the movie can be seen as follows: Moral Values of Being consist 3 data of Honesty, 4 data of Courage, 1 data of Self-Discipline and Moderation, From Moral Values of Giving consist 2 data of Loyalty and Dependability, 1 data of Respect, 10 data of Love. 2 data of Unselfishness and Sensitivity, 5 data of Kindness and Friendliness. The most dominant of moral value in Mars Needs Moms movie are Love and kindness and friendliness. These findings highlight how moral values, especially Love and Kindness and Friendliness, are not only shown through the characters but also play a crucial role in their emotional growth and interpersonal relationships.

Keywords: Moral Values, Linda and Eyre, Movie, Mars Needs Moms

Article History
Received: January 2026
Reviewed: January 2026
Published: January 2026
Plagirism Checker No 234.872.737
Prefix DOI : Prefix DOI : 10.8734/argopuro.v1i2.365
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Publish by : Argopuro

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Introduction

Literature, particularly in movies, plays a significant role in representing moral values through characters. Movies allow audiences to engage the story of the main character, experiencing the emotions and dilemmas, witness consequences of their actions. Movie not only entertains but also serves as mirror for audiences to reflect on their own values.

Moral values play a crucial role to understanding complex social issues, particularly within increasingly diverse cultures. Exposure to different ethical perspectives encourages individuals to reflect on their behavior and its effects on others.

One of the movies that strongly delivers moral values is Mars Needs Moms (2011). The story follows the main character Milo, a nine-year-old boy who realizes the importance of his mother after she abducted by Martians. His journey emphasizes themes of Love, sacrifice, courage, friendship and family relationships. The researcher chose this movie as the object of the research is because there is no research that analyzes the moral value of the movie *Mars Needs Moms* using the moral value theory of Linda and Eyre (1993).

Based on this background, the formulation of the problem in this study are; what the types of the moral values that appear in *Mars Needs Moms* movie and how those moral values influences the characters development in the *Mars Needs Moms* movie. Therefore, the

objectives of the study are to find out the moral values that appear in *Mars Needs Moms* movie and to find out how those moral value influences the characters development in *Mars Needs Moms* movie.

Theoretical Review

Moral values are principles that help individuals distinguish between right and wrong, guiding them toward self-worth, righteous conduct, and the development of good character (kumar & kumar 2022). According to Baguswaluyo in (Ummah, Eripuddin, & Rahayu, 2020), moral values serve as standards for evaluating behavior and, although they may appear universal, they are shaped by the cultural context of each society. Also, moral values are formed through a long evolutionary process that develops alongside societal growth, where human interaction give rise and norms and values from which collectively agreed-upon moral principles naturally emerge.

According to Linda and Richard Eyre's (1993) in a book *Teaching Your Children Values*, there are two types of moral values, there are; Value of Being consist of Honesty, courage, peaceability, self-reliance and potential, self-discipline and moderation and fidelity and chastity. Value of Giving consist of loyalty and dependability, respect, love, unselfishness and sensitivity, kindness and friendliness, and justice and mercy. The following is an explanation of the two types:

Value of Being

The Value of Being emphasizes that a person's existence and character are more important than what they possess or achieve. It emphasizes the intrinsic value of a person as an individual, rather than material achievements or possessions.

1. **Honesty**
   This moral value emphasizes how important it is to be honest, trustworthy and truthful in relationships with oneself, others, organizations and society. Inner strength and self-confidence are created by this consistent honesty, as people live in harmony with the truth and the values they hold.

2. **Courage**
   This moral value emphasizes the courage to do what is right, even when it is difficult or risky. This moral value shows the courage to do the right things even if they are difficult or risky, courage to resist external pressures, maintain beliefs, and influence others with a positive attitude, the courage to be friendly, open, and remain steadfast in goodness.

3. **Peaceability**
   This moral value reflects a sense of peace, a tendency to avoid conflict, and empathy. To be truly peaceful, a person must be able to control their emotions not be easily influenced by others, and have a calm attitude that seeks to resolve differences through understanding.

4. **Self-reliance and potential**
   This moral value emphasizes the importance of recognizing and developing one's uniqueness and potential. It encourages individuals to take responsibility for their actions, not to blame others for their difficulties, and to commit to achieving their personal best. It is the foundation for self-reliance and personal growth.

5. **Self-discipline and moderation**
   This moral value emphasizes the importance of self-control in physical, mental, and

financial aspects. It includes the ability to manage habits, refrain from excessive behavior, understand one's limits, and maintain a balance between discipline and spontaneity.

6. **Fidelity and chastity**
   This moral value emphasizes the importance of fidelity in marriage and self-care before marriage. It teaches that sexual relationships should be based on commitment and responsibility, and highlights the long-term effects of unfaithfulness and unethical sexual behavior.

Value of Giving

The value of giving is the concept that giving something to others is a source of happiness, meaning, and meaningful relationships in life. This value emphasizes that giving something not only benefits the recipient but also bring fulfillment to the giver.

1. **Loyalty and dependability**
   This moral value emphasizes the importance of loyalty and trust in fulfilling commitments to family, workplace, country, religious institutions, educational bodies, and other organizations. It encompasses support, service, tangible contributions, as well as consistency in honoring promises and responsibilities undertaken.

2. **Respect**
   This moral value shows respect for life, property, parents, elders, nature, beliefs, and the rights of others. It also includes courtesy, good manners, and respect for oneself through polite behavior and avoiding demeaning critics.

3. **Love**
   This moral value shows a genuine and deep personal concern that goes beyond mere loyalty and respect. It includes affection toward friends, neighbors, even those who do not agree with us, along with a commitment to love one's family as top priority in life.

4. **Unselfishness and sensitivity**
   This moral value encourages individuals to overcome selfishness and begin caring about the feelings and needs of others. It includes empathy, tolerance, brotherhood, and sensitivity to the conditions and situations around them to more understanding about social relationships.

5. **Kindness and friendliness**
   This moral value emphasizes that kindness and friendliness are more valuable than harsh or dominant attitudes. It includes a gentle attitude towards the weaker, the habit of understanding rather than antagonizing, and the ability to build and maintain friendships through helpfulness, cheerfulness and consideration for others.

6. **Justice and mercy**
   This moral value emphasizes the importance of justice in obeying the law, being fair in work and play, and understanding the natural consequences of actions. It also includes compassion through forgiveness, as well as the realization that holding grudges will only lead to emotional and mental harm.

Method

The researcher applied a qualitative method to analyze the moral values in Mars Needs Moms movie. As according to Bogdan and Taylor in (Maruwu, 2023), qualitative research generates descriptive data expressed through written or spoken words as well as observed

behaviors.

According to Riadi in (Sari & Zefri, 2019), a data source is anything that provides information relevant to the reserch. In this study, the data source is the movie *Mars Needs Moms,* directed by Simon Wells, produced by ImageMovers Digital, and released by Walt Disney Pictures on March 11, 2011, with aa duration of 1 hour 28 minutes. Meanwhile, according to sugiyono (2016) defines data as all records collected to be analyzed and interpreted. The data in this study consist of dialogues and scenes from the movie that reflect moral values based on Linda and Eyre's theory.

To collect the data, the researcher watched the movie *Mars Needs Moms* several times on the Disney+ streaming platform to gain a full understanding of the storyline. Notes were then taken on each scene and dialogues, with particular attention to statement related to Linda and Eyre's theory of moral values. And lastly the dialogues connected to moral values were rewritten for further analysis.

In analyzing the data, the researcher categorized the dialogues and scenes containing moral values according to Linda and Eyre's theory. Each datum was interpreted within the theoretical framework to explain how the characters words or actions reflected specific to moral values. Furthermore, the researcher analyzed how these values, influenced character development and interpersonal relationships. Lastly, the findings were synthesized to draw conclusions regarding the dominant values and their overall impact on character development in the movie.

Result

The researcher presented the findings based on Mars Needs Moms using Linda and Eyre's moral value theory. From the data collected and classified, a total of 28 data of moral values were identified. Values of Being, 8 data were identified, consisting of Honesty (3), Courage (4), and Self-discipline and Moderation (1). Meanwhile, Value of Giving, 20 data were identified, including Loyalty and Dependability (2), Respect (1), Love (10), Unselfishness and Sensitivity (2), and Kindness and Friendliness (5). The data can be seen in the following table:

No.	Moral Value	Types	Data
1	Value of Being	Honesty	3
		Courage	4
		Self-discipline and Moderation	1
	Subtotal		8
2	Value of Giving	Loyalty and Dependability	2
		Respect	1
		Love	10
		Unselfishness and Sensitivity	2
		Kindness and Friendliness	5
	Subtotal		20
Total			28

Value of Being

1. Honesty

Gribble: "All right. I'll tell you."

Gribble: "Fact is... Mars needs moms."

(24:13 – 24:39)

This dialogue reflects the moral value of Honesty because Gribble chooses to be honest with Milo. The moral value of Honesty is shown through the character of Gribble. Gribble begins to open up to Milo. His decision to be honest show the influence of the moral value of Honesty on Milo is his developing character from avoidance to openness and honest individual.

2. Courage

Milo: "Two Cat, we gotta save him!"

(42:40 – 42:48)

This dialogue reflects the moral value of Courage because Milo chooses to help Gribble despite knowing the danger. He follows his good impulse. The moral value of courage is shown through Milo's character. Milo takes actions when someone he cares about is in danger. He risks his own safety to save Gribble, and the influence of moral value of Courage on Gribble is his character development into empathetic individual.

3. Self-Discipline and Moderation

Milo: "Look at me. I'll explain everything. But later. Ok?"
Milo: "Right now we gotta get to the ship."

(1:09:32 – 1:09:40)

This dialogue reflects the moral value of Self-discipline and moderation because Milo controls his emotion, rather than giving in to panic or confusion, he speaks calmly and stays focus on what needs to be done. The moral value of Self-Discipline and Moderation is shown through Milo's character. Milo calmly instructs his panicked mother and leads her to the rescue ship. The influence of the moral value on Milo is his development into individual who can control his emotion and ability to make clear decisions under pressure.

Value of Giving

4. Loyalty and Dependability

Gribble: "Put my things away."
Gribble: "I did as I was told."

(51:04 – 51:13**)**

This dialogue reflects the moral value because Gribble's dedication to his family, he describes himself as a responsible and obedient child who consistently fulfilled his duties at home. The moral value of Loyalty and Dependability is shown through Gribble's character. His memories show that he once lived with a strong sense of loyalty and was reliable in his role as a son. The influence of the moral value on Gribble is his past experiences make him into someone who understands the important of loyalty and reliability.

5. Respect

Milo's mom: "Your mom would be proud of you."

(1:19:02 – 1:19:14**)**

This dialogue reflects the moral value of Respect because Milo's mother shows genuine respect and appreciation for Gribble. The moral value of Respect is shown through Milo's mother. Milo's mother shows genuine respect and appreciation for Gribble, not only thanking him but also acknowledging his personal value. The influence of the moral value of respect on Milo's mother is the development of Milo's mother into a more appreciative and values others' contributions.

6. Love
Milo's Dad: "I'll make it home as soon as I can."
Milo's Dad: "I love you."

(05:00 – 05:06)

This dialogue reflects the moral value of Love because Milo's father shows affection toward his son by apologizing sincerely and expressing his love. The moral value of Love is shown through Milo's father character. Despite being busy with work. Milo's father expression his love for his child, Milo's father reflects personal care and a lifelong commitment to family. The influence of moral value on Milo's father is his development into a more emotionally present parent who showing affection despite physical absence.

7. Unselfishness and Sensitivity
Gribble: "No, no, you don't have to worry about that."
Gribble: "It's not gonna happen."
Gribble: "We're gonna go up there and we're gonna…"
Gribble: "We're gonna go get your mom."

(53:10 – 53:46)

This dialogue reflects the moral value of Unselfishness and Sensitivity because even though Gribble had emotional trauma, he empathizes and decides to help Milo to save Milo's mother. The moral value of Unselfishness and Sensitivity is shown through Gribble character. After seeing Milo in need of his help, he empathizes, opens up, and decides to help even though it is emotionally hard for him. The influence of the moral value on Gribble is his development into a more open, empathetic individual.

8. Kindness and Friendliness
Gribble: "best buds?"
Milo: "you better believe it."

(1:18:33 – 1:18: 58)

This dialogue reflects the moral value of Kindness and Friendliness, according to Linda and Eyre's theory "the ability to make and keep friends". This dialogue included in moral value of Kindness and Friendliness because Milo and Gribble show a sincere effort to maintain their friendship. The moral value of Kindness and Friendliness is shown through Milo and Gribble character. The friendship between Milo and Gribble shows a genuine emotional closeness and a desire to maintain a good relationship even though they must part physically. The influence of the moral value on Milo and Gribble is their development into individuals who is value friendship.

Conclusion

Based on the result of the analysis and the data that has been found from Mars Needs Moms movie, the researcher found 8 out of 12 moral values based on Linda and Eyre's theory. The researcher found 28 data containing Moral Values of Being and Moral Values of Giving. From Moral Values of Being consist of Honesty (3 data), Courage (4 data), Self-Discipline and Moderation (1), from Moral Values of Giving consist of Loyalty and Dependability (2 data), Respect (1 data), Love (10 data), Unselfishness and Sensitivity (2 data), Kindness and Friendliness (5 data).

From the values of Being, courage emerged as the most dominant moral value, while from the value of Giving, Love is the dominant moral value. Love stands out as the central moral value in the movie, as the entire storyline emphasizes family affection, sacrifice, and the relation of the importance of mother's presence. In this movie, these moral values are identified through the characters' dialogue, actions, and emotional development throughout the movie.

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