

# The Value of Caring for Early Childhood in the Storybook "The Story of the Shade Tree" by Liza Erfiana

Iqlima Elda Zein Bilqis

iqlimaeldazeinbilqis@gmail.com

Prof. K.H. Saifuddin Zuhri State Islamic University

Jl. A. Yani No.40A, Karanganjing, Purwanegara, Kec. Purwokerto Utara, Purwokerto, Indonesia

## Abstract

This study aims to determine the value of caring for the environment, especially for trees and plants contained in the storybook "The Story of the Shade Tree". The approach used in this research is a qualitative approach using descriptive methods. Based on the results of the study, it shows that the attitude of concern for trees and plants is very important to be instilled from an early age in order to have the character of environmental love from childhood. Because in reality in the storybook "The Story of the Shade Tree" there are still humans who do not care about the tree named Tanjung. The data in this study are storybooks that contain the value of caring for trees and plants by Liza Erfiana. This research, the data source needed is the storybook "Kisah Pohon Penuh" by Liza Erfiana. The data collection technique in this study is content analysis. Data analysis techniques include: data reduction, presenting data, and drawing conclusions.

**Keywords:** value of care, early childhood, storybooks

## 1. Introduction

The environment is everything around humans that affects the development of human life both directly and indirectly. Loving the environment is a process carried out by humans to maintain and sustain the surrounding environment so that it can provide benefits and survival for living things. So, as early as possible, children should be accustomed to loving their environment. By loving the environment, humans have protected themselves, others, and the next generation. Environmental education should start in the family and continue in kindergartens, schools, universities, etc., because true protection of nature can only be achieved when people change their minds and realize that they live in nature, not the other way around. (Safira, 2020).

Environmental education is a type of education that increases people's awareness and understanding of the environment and related topics while providing knowledge and skills on these topics. According to the Belgrade Charter, environmental education is a type of education that increases people's awareness and understanding of the environment and related topics as a whole. Placing environmental education as a top priority compared to all other activities because environmental education is a science. Environmental education should be introduced early on because this is the golden age where children form their character through the stimulation they receive (Chandrawati & Aisyah, 2022).

According to Merrick & Braus in the article (Safira, 2020) The field of environmental education argues that children should learn about environmental literacy from an early age. However, not only understanding the environment, but also having a positive and caring attitude towards it. This attitude shapes attitudes, and environmental education should start at an early age. Therefore, it is crucial to teach children about their environment so that they become people who love their environment and strive to improve it.

In essence, humans and the environment have a very related relationship with each other. The environment is everything around humans that affects the development of human life both directly and indirectly. Caring for the environment is a human way of protecting and maintaining the surrounding environment so that it can benefit living things and survival. (Afriani et al., 2023) The destruction of the environment is the work of humans themselves because they do not care about the surrounding environment. Environmental damage causes natural disasters such as floods, landslides and air quality becomes bad if you don't take good care of the environment. The story of Shade Tree by Liza Erfiana contains the value of care. The characteristics of care include honesty, love, care and care, help and mutual cooperation. The form of care in this storybook is concern for plants by protecting and caring for them. From the story of this book provides an understanding to early childhood that in this life there are other living things outside of themselves that must be maintained and cared for, and explained that between God's creatures with one another need each other; not only fellow humans, but to plants as well.

One of the things that can increase children's awareness is the storybook "The Story of the Shade Tree". This storybook contains a caring attitude towards trees and plants. That as early as possible children should be accustomed to protecting the environment. Especially maintaining and caring for trees or plants. because in reality there are still many humans who do not care about the existence of plants, an example is found in the storybook when there are some people who put up boards and nail the cape tree in the storybook. after the tree was damaged, the leaves fell off and the trunk became damaged. Nails can also damage the inside of the tree. This behavior is something that illustrates that there are still many people who do not care about trees and plants.

## **2. Research Methods**

This research uses a descriptive qualitative method. This research is a type of qualitative research because researchers analyze and understand empirical data objectively related to the object to be studied. (Wekke Suardi, 2019) This descriptive method is used to describe, describe, explain existing phenomena. One research method is qualitative research, which aims to gain an understanding of reality. through an inductive thinking approach, the researcher participates in the situation and conditions of the phenomenon studied by the researcher. It is expected to always focus on the reality or events that occur in the observed context. reality or events that occur in the context being observed. (Adlini et al., 2022)

The purpose of qualitative methods can be seen: (1) Describing the object of research (describing object); the object of research must be described through photos, videos, illustrations, and narrating so that it can be understood. Events, social interactions, religious social activities, and so on can be described in this way. (2) Exploring the meaning behind the phenomena. Through in-depth interviews and participant observation, researchers can show and reveal the meaning behind the phenomena or facts. (3) Provide an explanation of the phenomenon that occurs (object explanation). Phenomena seen in the field are sometimes not the same as the purpose, the core of the problem, or in other words, appear different from the main intention. Therefore, explanations must be given thoroughly, in detail, and systematically. (Zafirahana, 2021)

Qualitative descriptive research displays data as it is without treatment or other processes.

The purpose of this research is to provide a complete picture of an event or phenomenon. only by describing a number of variables related to the problem under study. This research interprets and describes information about the circumstances, perspectives, and perceptions of the community. (Rusandi & Muhammad Rusli, 2021)

This research is a non-experimental research, which is research not in the field. The data collection technique in this research is document analysis or content analysis. According to Nugrahani in the journal (Amril & Pransiska, 2021), says that the activity of analyzing the contents of documents is called content analysis, because in this activity the researcher not only records the contents that are in the document, but also the content of the document. explicit in the document, but also master the meaning implied in the document carefully, carefully and critically.

content analysis is done by analyzing a storybook entitled "The Story of the Shade Tree" which contains the value of caring for trees and plants by protecting and caring for them. In the data analysis, the last try is to transcribe the data in the form of stories into writing, inventory and apply the value of caring for early childhood and the last is to conclude.

### 3. Results and Discussion

The data analyzed was obtained from the storybook *Kisah Pohon Penuh* by Liza Erfiana. This story contains the value of caring for the environment, especially caring for trees and plants around.

According to (Noviatul Latifah et al., 2023) that there are nine ethical values towards the environment. The ethical values are as follows:

Principle of respect for nature, Responsibility to nature, Solidarity with nature, Compassion and care for the environment, Living simply and in harmony with nature, "No harm" principle and Fair to nature.

According to the Ministry of Education in the journal (Jamhariani, 2019) One of the 18 values of character education is the character of environmental love. This character can be described as attitudes and actions that continue to prevent damage to the surrounding environment and increase efforts to repair damage that has occurred. Environmental Education for Early Childhood

Early childhood education is informal education provided to children between the ages of 0 and

6 years. As children's characters are different from adults, environmental education should be tailored to each child's individual character. Environmental learning should not be limited to the formal school year; it should cover all stages of life, from infancy to childhood. In a person's life, early childhood is the best stage in the formation of their character; what they do then has an impact on what they do later in life. (Safira, 2020)

The storybook *The Story of the Shade Tree* was written by Liza Erfiana and published by the Language Development and Development Agency.

This storybook is made to attract the attention of children and readers. This book is accompanied by interesting pictures from each page as a complement and contains wise messages and good wisdom in each sub-chapter. Each sentence is typed in simple and straightforward language to be easily understood by readers, especially children. This storybook focuses on the Cape Tree who feels sad because many humans do not care about their existence so they dare to damage themselves by installing boards and nailing them to make advertisements.

The storybook *The Story of the Shade Tree* by Liza Erfiana contains the value of caring. The characteristics of caring include honesty, compassion, care and maintenance, helping and mutual cooperation. The form of care in this storybook is concern for trees and plants by protecting and caring for them. From the story of this book, it provides an understanding to early childhood that in this life there are other living things outside of themselves, and it is explained that between God's creatures one another need each other; not only fellow humans, but also plants.

A caring attitude towards children must be instilled as early as possible through habituation activities. Habituation of caring behavior towards plants will help children in the formation, value, attitude of responsibility, respect for the existence of trees and plants, maintain and care for them by not destroying them as happened to the Tanjung tree in the storybook that was used as the main object by the researcher. Behavior patterns that are instilled early will remain in every child. (Nabila et al., 2023)

The value of caring in this storybook is found in the story fragment:

"It was a very sunny afternoon, many people came to him. They took off the boards, they pulled out the nails. He was very happy, they had helped him".

**Figure 1**  
**Forms of care**



The fragment of the story means that the people care about the Tanjung tree. Based on this explanation, it is concluded that the value of caring for the environment is very important to be instilled in early childhood, in order to create a sense of compassion, attitude and character of love for the environment. So that it can maintain and care for the surrounding environment which has a major influence on the ecosystem of human life.

#### **4. Conclusion**

Based on the results and discussion of the book "The Story of the Shade Tree", the conclusion that can be drawn is that by being introduced and instilled a sense of concern for trees and plants from an early age, children will appreciate the existence of plants, protect and care for them by not destroying them as happened to the Tanjung tree in the storybook. In addition, children have a sense of responsibility for the environment. Because the environment is not only the responsibility of adults, but also the responsibility of all humans including children.

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