

Reading Albom's Tuesday with Morrie' to Enhance Students' Pedagogical Values in Literature Class for EFL Teacher Candidate

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Abstract

Enhancing pedagogical values for EFL teacher candidates is essential as this aggrandizement is aimed to support the students in teaching, educating and improving their professionalism. Moreover, because pedagogical values are values in social actions and interaction to strengthen both teachers and students relation in some different settings, it is a must to find means in exploring the values. One of them is a novel written by Mitch Albom entitled Tuesday with Morrie. The novel is the main text in Literature Class for EFL teachers candidate. Hence, this research is aimed to describe the literature teaching process and to explore deeper the pedagogical values and teachers' code ethics in this novel through close reading. Finally, the result; the cycle teaching in literature class, find the worldview, belief, and perspectives about teaching and learning in educational practices are found and used as tool to spread up values. Next, some practical pedagogy of Morrie Schwart as Mitch's coach/lecturer were closely discuss. In addition, there were also precious values of life found from this novel.

Keywords: Pedagogic values, EFL teachers candidate, Literature Class, Code of Ethics

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INTRODUCTION

Reading English literary works; short story or novel, in Literature Class is a regular activity for EFL teacher candidates in our campus. This is done early at the first year for some reasons; students might broad their horizon for life's values and lesson, and experience. Through The literature class, they are hoped to improve their critical thinking too. When they study English Literature, they may get emotional awareness and maturity. This opinion is in line with Hirvela and Boyle (1988) in their research that the learning objectives of Literature Class more less gave some benefits for the learners to gain them acquiring their competence of target language (English), give

personal process for being involved in experience depicted from the Literary text.

Being a professional English teacher requires some criteria. The teacher candidate has some ideal educative traits with pedagogical knowledge/concept to teach and to manage the class. The pedagogy itself is very essential knowledge for EFL teacher candidates before they do practical teaching at schools. This will help them to improve their professionalism as being teachers. It generally covers about terms in teaching such as designing classroom, teaching methodologies, teaching techniques, curriculum, syllabus, assessment, leading in learning, classroom management, teaching ethics, etc. It also involves other personal good quality of teacher so they will be able to educate their students. As It

is stated that a teacher must be flexible, innovative, responsive, dynamic, being a leader in class, good at understanding curriculum, implicative for self-development, being cooperative and collaborative in team works. (Woods, 1993; Tripp, 1993).

Other requirements for teachers' candidates should have certain positive professionalism traits and strong educative values since they will educate their students and being their role models. As it is mentioned by Ministry of Education and Employment (2012) that code of Ethics covers some practical basic characters of a teacher in implementing their job as a professional teacher.

Some of the traits and educative values are depicted in Albom's Tuesday with Morrie. It tells the readers about the special relation of a lecturer and student. Morrie, as the protagonist character, he is a professional Sociology lecturer who teaches his students (Mitch) in Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts. He suffers from deadly generative nerve disease (ALS). Morrie's student named Mitch, accompanies his lecturer's every Tuesday in fourteen meeting before his dead. This story is indicated to give the readers views of moral ethics, values, and pedagogical traits that might be beneficial for the readers (teachers candidates)/

In addition, Albom's novel tells some sub-titles about; The Classroom, Curriculum, Syllabus, Classroom, Orientation, Audiovisual, and Taking Attendance. Those must be important terms in educative place setting. On the other hand, the content of those terms are about life values, morals, ethics, and attitudes of people.

The paper will discuss the process of Literature Class and to find the content of pedagogic values which will be beneficial for the earliest EFL teachers candidate to prepare them to be professional teacher.

METHODS

This research is aimed to explore the process of Literature Teaching, and to find deeper about the pedagogic values in this novel through close reading. This research is a narrative inquiry which focuses on the process of narrating the process of literature teaching and to analyze the findings of

pedagogic theory, practice of pedagogic teachers', and teachers' of code ethics (Barkhuizen, 2014).

The data collection were done in two ways; classroom observations and close reading of the Albom's to find pedagogic values from the intrinsic and extrinsic elements. The intrinsic elements involve characters and characterization, setting, and plot.

In observation class the steps will be narrated the steps of teaching process; from pre-teaching class, presentations, classroom activities, closing, and assessment, evaluation class.

In findings values and pedagogic views were found by reading and interpreted the story, analyzing the events, conversations, and narrators descriptions. Extrinsically, the concept of pedagogy, educative values (Woods, 1993) and Principles Teachers' of Code and Practice by The Council Of Teaching Professional in Malta (2012) will be used to analyze the story. Thus, in reading the novel, the students are hoped to have broad worldview, belief, and perspectives before they implement their practice as an educators or teachers.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

The findings and discussions cover two research result: first about the Literature Teaching Process and second finding some evidence pedagogy practices done by the main character Morrie Schawtz. By doing the the close reading, there are some topics of discussions below.

Literature Teaching Process

There were some steps of process of in Literatyre Teaching class. Before the students did the reading text, they were given knowledge about pedagogy and the sixth principles of Teachers' Code of Ethics. Hancock's in Collins (2001) stated that in Literature Hours covers four activities; share text work, focus in word work, independent reading and writing activity, and plenary.

They were supposed to gain the those two concepts. Next meeting, the students got the text of the novel and they were given some instructions to read some chapter in class. They were put into groups to get the interpretation of the story and

tried to identify some practical, educative and pedagogical actions done by the protagonist (Morrie Schwatz). In group they would have some discussion about the story. After they found the values, they would have class discussions.

Some meetings would be done intensively in class, but some meetings would be done at home. While the students had to read the text at home independently. In class, the teacher should have a discussions or students' presentation about the findings of some pedagogical topics. In the class, the teacher also urged the students to have plenary sessions by asking and answering their friends' question. On the other hand, the teacher mentoring the classroom process and being motivator of the class.

Morrie's Pedagogic traits

The sixth Principles of teachers' Code of Ethics as The Council Of Teaching Professional in Malta (2012); Maintain Professional Relationships with Students, Mantain Trust in His Profession, Respect the Uniqueness and Diversity of Students, Work in a Collaborative Manner with Colleagues, Parents, Guardians and Carers, Act with Honesty and Integrity, Keep their Professional Knowledge and Practice Up To Date.

Mantain Trust in His Profession

Morrie as a lecturer in the story is clearly depicted in Alboom's that he has a flat character; humble, kind, tolerant, persistent, energetik, open minded, humorous, optimistic, and hard worker man (2003). He is a senior lecturer of Sosiology at University at Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusettes of who applies teachers' code of ethics that had pedagogical traits. As Wood stated (1993) that pedagogical traits for educators are being a leader for others, good at understanding others, implicative for self-development, being cooperative and collaborative in team works.

Work in a Collaborative Manner with Colleagues, Parents, Guardians and Carers

In the Mitch's graduation day, it was portrayed that Morrie has the trait reflected from one of the six principles of Professionalism Code of Ethics. At that occasion, Morrie maintains good

relationships with Mitch's parents, and they had close conversation to tell how great is Mitch being his students (Alboom, 2003, p.3). This actually one of the teachers' ethics since maintaining good relationship with students, institutions, guardians, carers is the practical act of Maintaining Trust in Profession (2012) The Council Of Teaching Professional in Malta.

He also worked in a collaborative manner with colleagues and other professionals. This is story, Morrie Schwatz worked with the host Ted Koppel of ABC TV program called 'Nightline'. Morrie Schwatz was visited by the host for interviewing him as ALS patient whose have limit time for living. Morrie tried to fulfill the host's demand being audience's inspiration for the audiences (Alboom, 2003 p.50-53).

Act with Honesty and Integrity

The identical traits in Morrie's life is honesty. This trait is clearly reflected in his daily life that he did not hide from public that he suffers from deadly generative nerve disease. He is portrayed his conditions at the beginning of his condition from half numb until the last time he become totally numb. He confessed for other people's assistance for his daily life. (Alboom, 2003 p.221).

In the novel Morrie has great integrity in doing his job as a lecturer. Even he suffers from ALS and stays on wheelchair he still implemented class in his house (Alboom, 2003, p.15) Not only that, he also still never feels tried to educate, and share his experience with positive thought and feeling. He shares life value towards his beloved students about understanding others, great tolerant, that someone needs others' assistance (Alboom, 2003).

Morrie's Genuine Traits

In the novel, the genuine traits of Morrie's as the protagonist character; flexible, innovative, responsive, dynamic, tolerate, optimistic, and loving, and hard working. Some of the Morrie's dominant traits are tolerate, loving, and flexible.

The story in Alboom's is mostly reflected the relation between teacher, student, and some academic terms. When we analyze it closely, the

values and the traits tend to focus on the life experience, life values.

Being a professional of teacher is not easy things to do. In the very beginning of the semester, a teacher candidate should have the basic characters based on Wahyudin, et all (2001); hard worker, initiative, creative, discipline, responsible, productive, being professional, being motivator, and being tough. Some of traits in Morrie is the reflection how those characters are found in his daily life, how he handled the problems, and how he dealt with people surrounding.

Pedagogic Terms found in Chapters of the Novel

The chapters' title of the novel reflected educative term; such as; Curriculum, Syllabus, students, Audio Visual, Taking Attendance, and The classroom. The teachers candidate should be familiar with those terms such as curriculum is a very crucial for teacher before they conduct educational practice. At least they know about the term of curriculum and how to read curriculum before they design syllabus. They will learn about curriculum guidelines and how to translate them into teaching class process and how to reach the teaching and learning objectives.

Curriculum

Curriculum is crucial component of teaching and learning. The students should know well of roles of curriculum in educative setting. The teacher's candidate should know what the concept of curriculum is. It relates to the track to be conducted in a course study especially in educative institutions (Collins, 2001) It also known as the guidelines of the process of teaching and learning in certain level of formal or non-formal education.

In Indonesia, the EFL students also should know that curriculum would be developed or renovated based on the needs and in certain condition. This was happened of Indonesian government enforced the use of KTSP, Curriculum 2013, and Curriculum of MBKM.

The curriculum from the Albooms' is quite different. It tells about lists of informal students' activity joining Morries' class while he suffers of ALS and he is punished of death. While the author describes about curriculum, it absolutely about the

element to be mastered in a whole of he courses. That is The Meaning of Life which consists of learning to apply the feeling of love for family, community, and humanity, being forgiveness person, and learning of dying (Alboom, 2002).

Syllabus

Syllabus is part of components of teaching and learning process. Syllabus is the breakdown of curriculum is designed. It is a list of teaching topics or materials for reaching the teaching and learning objectives. As Richards stated that before teachers conduct the teaching and learning process, they should create the design syllabus (2001).

In Morries' coversation, he emphasizes that the lists of the students to do the real actions of syllabus design. They should be responsive, responsible for completing the tasks, asking to apologize when they made troubles to someone, helpful for everyone in surroundings (Albooms, 2002, p. 41)

Classroom

Teachers in class a teacher should master three dimensions of effective teacher. As Collin (2001; 2) stated that a teacher should master the content of teaching (teaching subject), understand and know well of the students, and he/she is able to handle the process of learning and teaching. In addition, the teacher is able to evaluate, to assess the students and he/she will do reflective teaching.

While in the novel is describing about a classroom in Morrie's house. He was teaching, creating classroom activities; collaborative, and cooperative learning. (Alboom, 2001, p. 83)

CONCLUSION

Enhancing EFL students become teacher candidate with pedagogic knowledge is not enough. One of the more important things is in enhancing them is with some of life experiences, life values, moral values, ethics, and educative traits. Literature Teaching will be an alternative way for lecturers to enhance teachers' candidate to be more human so they would be ideal role models for their students.

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