

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Demon Slayer: Kimetsu no Yaiba (鬼滅の刃, Kimetsu no Yaiba, rgh. "Blade of Demon Destruction") is a Japanese novel series written and illustrated by Koyoharu Gotouge. It was serialized in Shueisha's shōnen manga magazine Weekly Shōnen Jump from February 2016 to May 2020, with its chapters collected in 23 tankōbon volumes. It has been published in English by Viz Media and simultaneously on the Manga Plus platform by Shueisha. It follows teenage Tanjiro Kamado, who strives to become a Demon Slayer after his family was slaughtered and his younger sister, Nezuko, is turned into a demon.

*Demon Slayer* is a Japanese fantasy drama television series that tells about The story follows the journey of Kamado Tanjiro, a young man who joins the Demon Slayer Corps after his family is slaughtered by demons, except for his sister Nezuko who turns into a demon. Tanjiro seeks to find a way to heal Nezuko and avenge his family's death by being part of the Demon Exterminator Corps. Meanwhile, in this novel, Tamado Kanjiro is the main character and was introduced in Gotouge's *Demon Slayer: Kimetsu No Yaiba series*. He is a charcoal seller, who must learn to use the sword of Nichirin to fight demons. Tanjiro Kamado is a kind-hearted and intelligent boy who lives with his family in the mountains. After his father's death, he became his family's breadwinner

and travels to the nearby village to sell charcoal. In these series, Tanjiro and Nezuko meet fellow Demon Slayers Zenitsu Agatsuma and Inosuke Hashibira; they team up after Tanjiro's mission to kill Kyogai, the former Lower Six. They later join other Demon Slayers in facing the family of Lower Five Rui. In the midst of battle, Tanjiro unlocks a mysterious Breathing Style known as "Hinokami Kagura", but Rui ultimately outmatches him, while Inosuke and Zenitsu are injured and the expedition is slaughtered. Giyu and Insect Hashira Shinobu Kocho rescue the survivors, who are brought back to the Corps' headquarters. It is in the story of Tanjiro is put on trial by the Hashira – Giyu, Shinobu, Flame Hashira Kyojuro Rengoku, Sound Hashira Tengen Uzui, Love Hashira Mitsuri Kanroji, Stone Hashira Gyomei Himejima, Mist Hashira Muichiro Tokito, Serpent Hashira Obanai Iguro, and Wind Hashira Sanemi Shinazugawa – who, with the exception of Giyu and Mitsuri, do not believe he and Nezuko should be allowed to live. Nonetheless, the Corps' leader Kagaya Ubuyashiki, is able to convince them to accept Nezuko and see Tanjiro's importance, believing it is with their help that Muzan can be defeated.

This topic is chosen because it is an important topic to study as it helps us to gain the benefit of moral value of the protagonist's struggle. The benefits of moral values are profound and far-reaching, influencing individuals, communities, and societies. Besides, this novel is also so popular that Japan changes it into anime series entitled *Demon Slayer: Kimetsu No Yaiba* in 2016 into 2020. Next, the background of Koyoharu Gotouge as the author of this novel has awesome career in writing. In 2020, he was awarded the Kodansha's

Noma Publishing Culture Award which honors those who have contributed to "reinventing publishing". Gotouge debuted in the 70th Jump Treasure Newcomer Manga Awards with the one-shot work *Kagarigari* (過狩り狩り). Three more one-shots followed: *Monju Shirō Kyōdai* (文殊史郎兄弟), published in *Jump Next!* in 2014; *Rokkotsu-san* (肋骨さん), published in *Weekly Shōnen Jump* in 2014; and *Haeniwa no Zigzag* (蠅庭のジグザグ), published in *Weekly Shōnen Jump* in 2015. Gotouge was born in Fukuoka Prefecture, Japan, on May 5, 1989.<sup>[1]</sup> The author uses a pen name to maintain anonymity.

## 1.2 Statement of the Problem

Based on the description above, this study is focused on analysis of moral value of the protagonist struggle. In order to make simple understanding, there are two topics will be discussed that formulated as follows:

1. What types of moral value of protagonist struggle are found in the novel?
2. How are the types of moral value of protagonist struggle reflected in the novel?

## 1.3 Objectives of the Study

Regarding to the statement of the problems above, this study has two purposes. They are as follows:

1. To find the types of moral value of protagonist struggle in the novel.
2. To analyse the types of moral value of protagonist struggle reflected in the novel.

#### **1.4 Scope of the Study**

The scope of this study focuses on the types of moral values of protagonist's struggle in Koyoharu Gotouge's novel *Demon Slayer: Kimetsu No Yaiba*. There are several important types of moral values in this novel which would be analyzed in this study, i.e. respect, kindness (benevolence), and integrity. All the types of moral values reflected by the character of the novel by the name of protagonist would be analyzed in depth in chapter IV of this study.

#### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

This study has significance for everyone, especially for people who study in school and college not only in English Department but also in other departments. This study is intended to encourage students to know more about literature and psychology of moral value and the struggle. However, there might be two significances can be taken, theoretically and practically. Theoretically, they can take this study as one of their reference in their thesis. Practically, this study may give moral lessons about the struggle in daily life.

## **CHAPTER II**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 Moral Value**

Moral values are defined as the content of the entire order that regulates human actions, behaviors, attitudes, and habits in society based on the teachings of values, principles, and norms (Sjarkawi, 2005:29). Mulyana (Sauri and Hufad, 2007:65) defines value education as the cultivation and development of values in a person. Values as an aid to students to be aware and experience values and place them integrally in their entire life. Hakam (Sauri and Hufad, 2007:65) also reveal that value education is education that considers objects from moral and non-moral perspectives, including aesthetics, namely assessing objects from the point of view of personal beauty and taste, and ethics, namely assessing the right or wrong in interpersonal relationships. This means that moral value is a principle or the standards that guide a person's behavior and choices based on what is considered right or wrong. Moral values can be shaped by culture, religion, education, and personal experience.

#### **2.2 Types of Moral Value**

According to Thomas Lickona (2013) as quoted in Windriani (2020). There are three types of moral value education in human life:

### **2.2.1. Moral Knowing**

Moral knowing is a moral value that has six important things, namely: moral awareness, knowing moral values, quoting perspective, moral reasoning, decision making, and self knowledge. For example of value in moral knowing as important thing for social life. There are; Responsibility, Respect, Justice, Tolerance, Wisdom, and Democracy.

#### **2.2.1.1 Responsibility**

Wiyoto (2001) states that responsibility is the ability to make appropriate and effective decisions. Appropriate means making the best choice within the boundaries of social norms and common expectations, to improve positive human relationships, safety, success, and well-being, for example, responding to greetings with a smile.

#### **2.2.1.2 Respect**

According to experts, respect is a key component of healthy relationships, effective communication, and personal and professional success. It is also essential for societal development, including scientific, economic, educational, and professional progress. Respect is not just the absence of disrespect. Eliminating active disrespect does not create respect. The perception of respect is influenced by culture, family, peers, and social relationships.

### **2.2.1.3 Justice**

Justice, according to Plato, is about balance and harmony. It represents the right relationship between conflicting aspects within an individual or a community. He defines justice as everyone having and doing what they are responsible for or what belongs to them. In other words, a just person is someone who contributes to society according to their unique abilities and receives what is proportionate to their contribution. They are in the right place, always striving to do their best, and reciprocating what they receive in a fair and equitable manner. This applies both at the individual level and at the organizational and societal levels. An example of a Justice according to Plato's character "Socrates" would be a person is born to be a cobbler (their nature), who has the virtue (temperance) of the economic class (social position), employed as a cobbler (occupation), and doing their work well (expertise) – thus benefitting the state's economy for all others' happiness which has the Form of "Good".

### **2.2.1.4 Tolerance**

According to UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay, “Tolerance is an act of humanity, which we must nurture and enact each in our own lives every day, to rejoice in the diversity that makes us strong and the values that bring us together” (UNESCO 1996). According to Ferrar (1976:63), tolerance has multiple dimensions, but the empirically oriented literature primarily emphasizes one: negative attitudes towards out-groups. She argues that when

scholars rely on indicators of prejudice towards social groups or discrimination in their analyses of tolerance, they imply that “tolerance and its opposite are sufficiently described by reference to categoric prejudgments of minority groups and their members”.

#### **2.2.1.5 Wisdom**

Wisdom is the individual's cleverness in using his or her intellect based on experience and knowledge, along with the integration of thoughts, feelings, and behaviors, as well as the willingness to evaluate oneself, in assessing and deciding a problem, so as to create harmony between the individual and the environment (Sahrani, Matindas, Takwin, & Mansoer, 2014).

#### **2.2.1.6 Democracy**

According to Philippe C. Schmitter and Terry Lynn Karl (1991), Democracy is a system of government in which the government is accountable for its actions in the public sphere to citizens. Citizens act indirectly through cooperation and competition with elected representatives.

#### **2.2.2 Moral Feeling**

The moral feeling is a source of energy from humans to act on moral principles. There are six emotional aspects that must be felt by a person to become a human with morals and character, namely: conscience, self-respect, empathy, love, self-control, and humility. For example of value in moral feeling



as important thing for social life. There are; altruism, love and loyalty, and also self-discipline.

#### **2.2.2.1 Altruism**

Altruism according to Sears (in Nashori, 2008) is a voluntary act that a person or group of people do to help others without expecting anything except maybe a feeling of doing good. According to Widyarini (2009), helping behavior or altruism is a trait possessed by a person to provide help for the welfare of the person to be helped. People who have such traits are called altruists.

#### **2.2.2.2 Love And Loyalty**

According to Harry Harlow, Love is an emotional attachment that is essential for healthy psychological development. Budiyo (2007:30) said that loyalty is a person who has a firm stance, obeys agreements or decisions as a result of joint deliberation, obeys parents, family, tribes and nations, and is not easily persuaded by others or property. Then Loyalty is an action in which we have decided to stick by a person to the end; even if you don't want to. But love? Love is a feeling but also a choice. Someone can be upset with us but their love for us has no room for resentment or hidden angst.

#### **2.2.2.3 Self Discipline**

Self-discipline is the ability to control one's thoughts, emotions, and behaviors to achieve long-term goals, even when faced with temptation. It's

often considered a crucial element of success and is sometimes referred to as self-control, willpower, or determination. According to Siswanto (2001), Discipline is an attitude of respect, respect, submission, and submission to applicable regulations, both in writing and in writing, and if the delegated obligations and authorities are violated, sanctions are inevitable.

### **2.2.3. Moral Action**

Moral action are morals that can be applied into real actions. To find out what drives someone to behave well, there are three things that need to be considered, namely: competence, willingness, habits. For example of value in moral action as important thing for social life. There are; courage, cooperation, and never give up.

#### **2.2.3.1 Courage**

Courage is the attitude to do something, including the difficult one, even when there is a risk or bad possibility. Courage can also be interpreted as the ability to rise above fear and do what is right. According to Irons (2003: 5), courage is an act of fighting for something that is considered important and being able to face everything that can hinder it even though there are obstacles because of believing in the truth.

#### **2.2.3.2 Cooperation**

According to Thomas and Johnson (2014: 164), cooperation is a grouping that occurs among living beings that we know. A classroom is an

excellent place to build group skills. Cooperation can eliminate mental barriers due to limited experience and narrow perspectives. Landsberger (2011) also states that cooperation or joint learning is a group process in which members support and rely on each other to achieve a consensus result. In addition, the ability to cooperate is able to increase confidence and interaction skills, as well as train students to adapt to a new environment.

### **2.2.3.3 Never Give Up**

Sholihatin (2019) revealed that the attitude of never giving up can also be interpreted as a defensive attitude to still want to achieve what you want despite experiencing failure, obstacles, or obstacles. The definition of an attitude of never giving up according to (Yuliaja, 2011). Saying that a person is unyielding (tough) is another term for privacy or a person who does not feel weak about something that happens. Personally, he thinks that something has happened in terms of his positive side. So if you don't succeed in solving something, it will not make a person say that you have failed because people who do not succeed in trying the first time, can try again a second time, and so on to try again until they succeed. But with the feeling of discouragement that arises, it will not succeed in resolving a mistake can make a person said to be a failure.

## **2.3 Protagonist**

A protagonist is the main character in a story. Usually, this character is the opponent of the antagonist. Usually the protagonist gets a lot of support and

sympathy from the audience or readers. As stated by Beckson and Ganz (1990: 217), the protagonist is the first actor who plays the main role. This opinion is in accordance with the opinion expressed by Baldick (2001: 157). Initially in ancient Greek theater, the protagonist was the main actor in the play, and this character played an important role in running the plot. This definition is in line with Cuddon's (2013: 565) definition that the protagonist is the first actor in a play who is the main actor or character.

Nurgiyantoro (2002: 178-181) states that the protagonist is the main character who supports the main idea in the story and usually has a specific plan and goal. The protagonist represents kindness and is commendable for being able to attract the sympathy of the reader. Nurgiyantoro (2010: 176-177) also said that the protagonist is a character whose story takes precedence in the novel in question. He is the most prominent character, both as the perpetrator of the incident and as the one affected by it. He also added that the protagonist's character shows some things that are in line with our views. Abrams (1999: 224) also says that the protagonist (or vice versa, the hero or heroine) is the head of the character in a plot, which is the center of our attention.

Based on some of the opinions above, the protagonist can be concluded to be the main character in a story where he greatly influences the plot of the story, which is commonly found in some literary works such as novels, dramas, films, or other literary works. The protagonist usually gets a lot of sympathy or support from readers or viewers. The protagonist is not always played by a man;

a woman can also take on the role of the protagonist. This character is considered very important in the story.

## **2.4 Struggle**

Struggle is part of the conflict in our lives at all times. Struggle is a form of maturity that involves imagination, energy, and courage in making decisions in life. Berelson (1964: 30) says that struggle is one way to achieve a better life in the future and also to increase prestige.

Sri Swami Krishnanda (1989: 5) said that struggle can be done in various ways. This is because the problems, obstacles, and limitations of a person facing problems in life are different. According to the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (2000: 1343), the term "struggle" is defined as "trying very hard to do something when it is difficult or when there are many problems". Meanwhile, Collins Cobuild English Dictionary (1987: 1703) defines "struggle" as "striving hard to do something".

Based on the definitions of struggle quoted above, it can be concluded that the struggle is trying hard to do something when difficulties or problems arise. From some of these opinions, it can be concluded that the struggle is a way for someone to fulfill his desire to achieve a better life.

## **2.5 Kinds of Struggle**

As human beings, we can never be satisfied with what we have. We must constantly strive for everything in our lives so that we can value our lives. Any

person who does not want to keep fighting cannot be said to be a human being, because half of human life is struggle and effort. There is no man who does not struggle in his life, everything that he wants to achieve, he must fight to get.

There are many forms of struggle, but for simplicity, Maizler (2012: 67) divides struggle into four types. They are negative, positive, inevitable, and chosen struggles.

(1) A negative struggle is the achievement of the goal of eliminating the deficit state. It occurs when you attempt to return to a normal state, such as by mastering a life-limiting phobia.

(2) A positive struggle is the achievement of a goal that involves the transformation from a stable state into a more evolved, growing, or developing state. Positive struggle, in contrast to the negative struggle does not involve overcoming pathology. An example of a positive struggle is going to graduate school or writing a book. The positive struggle may still involve overcoming rejection and discomfort.

(3) The inevitable struggle with regard to the necessary losses and inconveniences that condition your life in this world. As your mother struggles to bear you, you struggle to adjust to a new and less comfortable world. Over the course of life, human will struggle with grief and loss when a friend, parent, or spouse dies. This struggle is an automatic part of your life.

(4) The chosen struggle is the result of personal choice and not an automatic condition in life. A simple example of a chosen struggle is to climb a mountain, attempt to graduate in school, or become a bodybuilder.