



APPRECIATION TO CHILDREN IN TAYEB SALIH'S "A HANDFUL OF DATES" AND LI YOUNG LEE'S "PERSIMMONS"

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Abstract

The development of children is highly influenced by the role of caregivers. Appreciation is one of the aspects that will determine children's behavior and attitude. Through this study, how appreciation affects children's behavior is reflected in short story "A Handful of Dates" by Tayeb Salih and poem "Persimmons" by Li-Young Lee. This study indicates that appreciation from caregivers contributes to child's development in both works. In examining the two works, this study uses the close reading method which includes the following: (1) analyzing the characters; (2) identifying the appreciation shown by other characters towards the main characters; (3) drawing the conclusion concerning the outcome of appreciation in children's behavior. This study finds out that appreciation to children can function as social control and distinction from good and bad. In addition, lack of appreciation can lead children to the false projection of children's act. Revealing appreciation in the two works aims to invite the readers to nurture the children with a positive and healthy environment.

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INTRODUCTION

Literature can be categorized as the reflection of life experience. Undergoing transformation and development, literature develops as an instrument to reflect the society. Literature should be able to arouse the sense of beauty, awake the critical spirit and satisfy spiritual and or intellectual needs. Through its thoughtful writings, literature functions as an exercise of sentiments and intellectual aspect (Premchand, 2011). Octaviana also notes that the literary work reveals the educational values. It can be identified as a message within the text. The message found in the story becomes the instrument for the readers to gain social control and a guide for human being dealing with real life (Octaviana, 2018). By using the literary works as an object of research, this study has purpose to show that literature can also be a media for people to evoke their sense and stimulate their mind to gain a life lesson.

Similar to literature which provides a life lesson, experiences can be the instrument for human being to learn in life. Human being is formed by experience and social circumstances. However, childhood has an important contribution to shape human being's behavior and perspectives. Childhood experiences influence the outcome of children's behavior and attitudes in the future (Neve, 2015). The experience, environment and social circumstances somehow mold children's development in term of how they perceive the world. This study focuses on how appreciation can influence children's growth. To be more precise, this study is interested in how appreciation is reflected through the interaction from the caregivers such as parents and teacher depicted in the story. The way children gain their perception about themselves depends on how the family treats them from the start. Before going to school, the interaction within the nuclear family including mother and father will help the children's growth to identify themselves and learn how to communicate. Eventually, the family will become the first gate where children acquire the language. At the primary stage of child's development, parents need to provide secure and positive environment so that children can reach the fullest potential in learning

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language (Mulyani et al., 2019). In addition, family has its significant contribution in gaining the children's self-identity. Oostdam and Hooge quoting other researchers like Desforges and Abouchaar, Fantuzzo et al., and McWayne et al., state that good parenthood in home situation determines the parental involvements of the children (2013, pp. 338). They further explain that good parenting covers creating the safe and stable home setting, stimulating the intellectual development of the children and enabling communication between parents and children (Oostdam & Hooge, 2013). Similarly, Huston asserts that the health of children's development can be categorized from the consistency of the caregivers, emotional well-being and mental health such as self-esteem, sense of personal control and liberation from depression or anxiousness. The ability to relate oneself to both adults and peers, including understanding other's perspectives, can also be a sign for healthy children development (Huston, 2002). When children are surrounded by healthy environment, it will enable children to cope with themselves, family and also community.

Besides in a family, children can obtain the knowledge such as distinguishing between good-bad and how to socialize with peers and community in the school. However, the parental involvements have been a primary concern in school to develop the learning process of the students. Communication between caregiver and teacher reveals the attitudes and relationship to the children. Responsive and restrictive language mark how the caregivers and teacher nurture the children. Responsive language conveys a positive expression. It includes commands and expressions in nurturing ways. In contrast, restrictive language includes teacher control by using disrespectful commands, threats and punishment. Restrictive language however can cause discouragement of confidence. It leads into the submission of authority and rules. For the example, when teacher aims to warn the children not to play with sand, the responsive language will be: *"When sand is thrown, it gets in our eyes. You may play in the sandbox without throwing sand, or you may play on the slide. Which do you choose?"* Unlike responsive language, the restrictive language sounds more severe: *"Throwing sand isn't nice. What's the matter with you? You stand against the fence by yourself now."* (Stone, 1993, p.14). With the responsive language, children can learn how to behave and distinguish what is good and bad in more nurturing way. In contrast, the restrictive language limits the self-esteem of the children through the strict language.

The role of appraisal or appreciation through judgements and feedback is relevant to the outcome of children's self-perception. Based on Cooley's hypothesis in 1902, the construction of self-perception is highly affected by judgment and feedback from others. Judgment from significant others influences how someone sees themselves. It deals with the self-perception in someone's life. In other words, the appraisal from others can be compared like the looking glass self, a mirror in which someone perceives themselves (Nurra & Pansu, 2009). DePaola (in Hill et al., 2018, pp.1) discloses that appreciation aims to acknowledge the good virtues within a person and to find out a potential within themselves. In addition, appraisal takes also an understanding to appreciate the object such as artwork and nature (DePaola, 2018).

The short story "A Handful of Dates" (1964) by the Sudanese writer Tayeb Salih tells of the admiration of a young man towards his grandfather because the old man is wise, loving, nurturing and respected at the same time. As the story goes, the admiration turns into disappointment. The problem between Masood and grandfather admits that the old man is greedy to own the land from Masood. On the harvesting dates, the old man manipulates Masood to work for the harvest and pay their debt. Looking at that situation, the narrator is hurt knowing that his grandfather is not a good man. Dewi's research examines "A Handful of Dates" and Pramoedya Ananta Toer's short story "Circumcision" to see how children navigate their interaction with adults (Dewi, 2017). This current study is also interested in analyzing the presence of children in the same story. However, different from Dewi's study, this research aims

to observe how the role of appraisal given by the caregivers influences children's behavior and the effect to the children's behavior.

Meanwhile, Li-Young Lee's poem "Persimmons" (1986) also portrays how a child values adult. Li-Young Lee, a Chinese descendant author is writing about his experience dealing with two cultures, Chinese and American. The poem begins with his painful memory, when the teacher slapped his head. It was when in the sixth grade, the narrator could not differ the words precision and persimmons. Somehow, it left a mark which scattered his heart. This changed the perspective of the narrator as a young child in capturing the self-perception (Engles, 1996). Different from Engles (1996) who analyzes the content in the poem "Persimmons", this study shows the different appreciation given by parents and teacher in, respectively, "A Handful of Dates" and "Persimmons".

METHOD

The data of the study were taken from a short story by Tayeb Salih entitled "A Handful of Dates" (1964) in *Encounters from Africa: An Anthology of Short Stories* and a poem by Li Young Lee in "Persimmons" (1986) retrieved from poetry foundation website. Both literary works were chosen as the object of the study since it reflected the relation between children and adults. Moreover, Salih and Lee subtly conveyed the brevity about children's perception. The narratives in short story and poem also depicted the role of parenting including family and teacher to the children's development. Using a comparative study, this research discovered that it was still accessible to compare and relate between short story and poem under the same perspective of appreciation to children.

The method of this research used qualitative study. To find the appreciation and the outcome of the children's behavior, some steps were done in completing this study. Firstly, close reading to the short story by Salih's "A Handful of Dates" and the poem by Lee entitled "Persimmons" was done in order to analyze the characters reflected in the story. Secondly, this study attempted to identify the appreciation. The scope of internal and external education such as family and school were observed to analyze the growth of the children. Specifically, the appreciation was identified from the interaction between main characters and other characters. Thirdly, the last step in this study was to see the influence of appreciation to the child's development.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

1. Family Appreciation

In this part, this study presents the role of family including parents and other family members contributing to children's life. It is important to note that family is the first stage where children shape how they value themselves. As a result, the outcomes from children behavior, intellectual performance and relation to the surroundings are highly determined by the family. In the story "A Handful of Dates" by Tayeb Salih, the main character has a close relationship to his grandfather. It is depicted in the story that the presence of grandfather has become the important factor to the development of the young boy. For the narrator, he perceives his grandfather as someone whom he adores so much. It seems that the old man is the closest of family member he is attached to from the early age. Apart from his grandfather, the short story does not mention any other family members in relation with the narrator. The relationship between grandfather and grandson has become the primary concern that Salih depicts.

“The strange thing was that I never used to go out with my father, rather it was my grandfather who would take me with him whenever he went, except for the mornings when I would go to the mosque to learn the Koran (Salih, 2000, p.56).”

Lamb (in Hickey’s 2013 pp.134) claims that father-son relationship contributes the child’s development during the childhood. It does not have to be the physical presence in nuclear family. In fact, it also involves to the way adults and men experiencing the significance of “fathers” in their life. In Salih’s short story “A Handful of Dates”, the narrator does not have close relationship with his father. Instead, he values the presence of grandfather who substitutes the absence of his father. The perception of father is also the prominent influence on the stage of child development. It is then classified into caregiving activities, paternal warmth, nurturing activities, physical care, and stimulation to the cognitive activities (Lamb, 2010). Tracing back to the short story, grandfather is a lovely figure for the narrator since he can get the love of the father from him. As a landowner, grandfather invites the young narrator to come with him during the harvest time. Through this action, grandfather is involving his grandson to get to know his job and what it is like. Therefore, the young narrator could obtain the new sights, new experience and new understanding by coming to the harvest time.

“‘We’ll be harvesting the dates today,’ said Masood. ‘Don’t you want to be there?’—My grandfather jumped to his feet—He pulled me by the hand and we went off to the harvesting of Masood’s dates (Salih, 2000, p.62).”

By involving the young narrator in his activity, the grandfather implicitly introduces the process of how fruit is harvested directly from the land. It could be a new thing for the narrator to see the harvest time which can support his cognitive to gain new perception and experience.

There are many evidences that show grandfather’s love to the narrator. The narrator spends many times together with grandfather. The presence of grandfather has affected the growth of the narrator since he can be loved and accepted by the presence of grandfather. In addition, the sense of appreciation and encouragement are portrayed in the way grandfather responds positively to the narrator’s activities.

“When he had nothing else to do, he enjoyed listening to me reciting to him from the Koran in a lilting voice, and I could tell from his face he was moved (Salih, 2000, p.60).”

The way grandfather gives positive appreciation flourishes narrator’s confidence. Somehow, it also contributes into how the young man behaves to his grandfather. Feeling loved and accepted, the narrator treats the old man with respect. It reflects the narrator’s obedience to his beloved grandfather.

“I used to know when my grandfather wanted me to laugh, when to be silent; also I would remember the times for his prayers and would bring him his prayer-rug and fill the ewer for his ablutions without his having to ask me (Salih, 2000, p.60).”

There is an implication of how appraisal given to children. In Salih’s short story, the boy is portrayed as an obedient child. He has the initiative to start an action without having someone asks him to do it. In addition, the narrator performs the intelligence in term of

relating himself with others. He knows how to behave in various situation. It is not easy for children to understand situation and context. However, in “A Handful of Dates” by Salih, the boy is clever to position himself depending on a situation. The appraisal from the closest person can also support someone to keep being good. The grandfather’s parenting to his grandson turns out to be the essential factors in the narrator’s development. As a young boy, the narrator is raised with positive parenting from the old man. The short story illustrates young boy as a good and obedient man. The significance of appraisal from the old man can be a control for the young man to be a good child.

Like Salih’s story, parents’ role also intervenes child’s development in Li Young Lee’s “Persimmons”. The poem shows the parenting somehow influences how the narrator perceives the world. As a sixth grader student, the narrator has difficulties to cope with language. It is hard for the narrator to differentiate between persimmon and precision as it sounds almost the same for the young narrator who just learns English language.

“My mother said every persimmon has a sun
inside, something golden, glowing,
warm as my face (Lee, 1986, line 46-48).”

The presence of mother manifests an insight about how the narrator discerns persimmon and precision. Mother is always wanting what is best for the children. The way mother sees the world and collects the perspective form the development of children’s point of view (LeVine, 2010). In mother’s point of view, she resembles the idea of persimmon with her son. In writing this poem, Lee uses many similar sounds inside his work. On the first line of the stanza, the word *sun* has the similar sound with the word *son*. The mother perceives how persimmon is seen as beautiful just like her son. The appraisal comes in a sense that mother sees her son just like a sun. In retelling his experience, the narrator recalls the memories when his mother valuing him with a nice word. The appreciation given from the mother has shaped the narrator’s perception about persimmons fruit. In fact, the perspective from his mother gives some insights into how the boy treats the persimmons.

“How to choose
persimmons. This is precision.
Ripe ones are soft and brown-spotted.
Sniff the bottoms. The sweet one
will be fragrant. How to eat:
put the knife away, lay down newspaper.
Peel the skin tenderly, not to tear the meat.
Chew the skin, suck it,
and swallow. Now, eat
the meat of the fruit,
so sweet,
all of it, to the heart (Lee, 1986, line 6-17).”

For the narrator, it takes precision to choose persimmon. The idea from his mother helps the narrator not to be hurry in eating the persimmons. It is worth to wait for the ripe ones. The appreciation of mother to son and persimmons teaches the narrator to appreciate himself and the living things. The figure of the mother in a poem is warm and thoughtful. The compassion and warmth of the mother transmit to the child’s perception. It is not very common to find children at his age understand how to treat fruit. When it comes to eat persimmons, the narrator asserts that it also takes a precision. The mother’s appraisal

towards himself and persimmon evaluates the way people should eat persimmon. In narrator's opinion, eating persimmons also involves the presence of heart which makes it precise to enjoy the fruit. The heart senses the sweetness and the tenderness of the fruit. In valuing the persimmon, it is not a fruit to make someone is full, but it takes the satisfaction from the heart. The "Persimmons" results the outcome of children's behavior and perception through the mother's appreciation. As a result, from the mother's perspective, the narrator performs emotional intelligible in valuing the persimmon. Eating persimmon arises senses from sight in a way choosing the brown spotted persimmons, smell from sniffing the fruit, touch to feel its softness, and taste to sense the sweetness. All the senses are mixed with the ability to feel the fruit tenderly from heart. The appreciation is not only reflected from the mother to son. In the poem, the narrator also values the figure of his mother. The childhood memories recover the warm picture of his mother. The narrator cherishes the moment whenever he looks at his mother sewing. The precision, for the narrator, reflects when the mother is doing her works. Appraisal from the son to mother has become the evident that the children observe the way caregivers treat them and other livings. It constructs the idea of a mirror looking glass self (Nurra & Pansu, 2009), where the appreciation from parents also projects in a way children shape their perspective to themselves and others.

"Other words
that got me into trouble were
fight and fright, wren and yarn.
Fight was what I did when I was frightened,
Fright was what I felt when I was fighting.
Wrens are small, plain birds,
yarn is what one knits with.
Wrens are soft as yarn.
My mother made birds out of yarn.
I loved to watch her tie the stuff;
a bird, a rabbit, a wee man (Lee, 1986, line 29-39)."

As well as the figure of mother, the father also holds its significant contribution to form children's behavior and perspective. Discussing about fathering and child's development, there is a particular distinction between father and mother relationship towards children. The mother-child relationship is more specific in caretaking and nurturance. Meanwhile, the relationship between father and children engages in play activity (Lamb, 2010). Nonetheless, in Lee's "The Persimmons", the play activity is not really illustrated within the poem. The role of father in this poem has quite similar portray as the mother which is nurturing.

"My father sits on the tired, wooden stairs,
black cane between his knees,
hand over hand, gripping the handle.
He's so happy that I've come home.
I ask how his eyes are, a stupid question.
All gone, he answers (Lee, 1986, line 64-69)."

From the quotation, it can be seen that the narrator's father is blind. The appreciation occurs in a relation between father and son. At the fourth lines of the stanza, the father waits for the son's coming. Focusing on father's statement, the father appraises the son for giving a

happy feeling whenever the narrator is around. The narrator then can feel that he is loved and accepted from the father's appraisal.

“He raises both hands to touch the cloth,
 asks, Which is this?
 This is persimmons, Father.
 Oh, the feel of the wolftail on the silk,
 the strength, the tense
 precision in the wrist.
 I painted them hundreds of times
 eyes closed. These I painted blind.
 Some things never leave a person:
 scent of the hair of one you love,
 the texture of persimmons,
 in your palm, the ripe weight (Lee, 1986, line 77-88).”

The stanza shows the conversation between father and son. Again, the appreciation of persimmons from the father teaches the narrator to symbolize persimmon with himself. His mother tells that every persimmon is just like a sun, warm just like the narrator's face. Through this conversation, it implies that the father aims to remind his son about life. The appreciation towards a painting of persimmons conveys philosophical meaning. There is something everlasting when it comes through senses; *scent of hair of one you love*. Fathering, as it is reflected in the poem, aims to suggest the child to cherish the moment with the beloved ones. The presence of father in the poem gives certain insight in a way sense might be forgotten for most people. The ability of emotional senses is bringing back for the narrator. To emphasize the difference between persimmon and precision, the father points out through *the texture of persimmons, in your palm, the ripe weight*. Persimmon and precision are connected one another. It takes precision for someone to enjoy the persimmon. The ability to feel the persimmon precisely evokes the senses to value human as a being. The similar sound between *weight* and *wait* hence tells the narrator about precision in valuing the stage of human being will bloom right at the time. Therefore, the appreciation from the father as it is depicted in “Persimmons” helps the narrator to understand and value himself and life.

2. Teacher Appreciation

This part studies the appreciation given by the teacher to the influence of child's development. Like the family, the role of teacher also has its contribution to shape the behavior and attitude of the children. Therefore, the relation between teacher and child in a story will be analyzed to know how the teacher's appreciation contributes to the children's growth. In Salih's short story, the relation between teacher and child is narrated in the following part:

“While most of the children of my age grumbled at having to go to mosque to learn the Koran, I used to love it. The reason was, no doubt, that I was quick at learning by heart and Sheikh always asked me to stand up and recite the Chapter of the Merciful whenever we had visitors, who would pat me on my head and cheek just as people did when they saw me with my grandfather (Salih, 2000, pp. 59-60).”

He is described as a figure of young boy who loves to learn Koran compare to another children. The narrator is revealed that he is confident for children at his age because

he likes to stand up and recite the *Chapter of the Merciful*. Huston states that one of the indicators for healthy child development is the ability to perform the development of intellectual capabilities to the fullest such as language skill, achievement in school, and skill in sport, music and art (Huston, 2002, p. 62). The narrator, however, can perform his intellectual ability and his confidence by reciting the *Chapter of Merciful*. The young child or the main character inside of the story has managed to develop the intellectual capabilities not only in academic field but also to the religious aspect. Another reason that enables him to achieve the intellectual capabilities is because there is appreciation given from his religious teacher, Sheikh. At this point, the power of appreciation from the surroundings can give the positive impact to the children to express themselves in public. This is what also happened to the narrator. The narrator feels that his talent and his effort in reciting Koran are responded positively by the teacher. In consequence, the self-esteem is invested during his childhood.

Unlike the previous part that shows appreciation, Lee opens with the narrator's experience being slapped on the head by the teacher because he cannot distinguish persimmon and precision. This part shows the opposite situation when children get lack of appreciation in the society. The beginning of the stanza illustrates the moment when the narrator is degraded by the teacher.

“In sixth grade Mrs. Walker
slapped the back of my head
and made me stand in the corner
for not knowing the difference
between persimmon and precision (Lee, 1986, line 1-6).”

The stanza above narrates the bitter moment when the narrator deals with his teacher. The teacher punished and hit the narrator's head. This part shows that there is no appreciation given by the teacher, instead he got the punishment. As a teacher, Mrs. Walker uses restrictive language than responsive language. She does not tell her students the explanation in nurturing way. In fact, she punished and discouraged the narrator as it is portrayed from her restricted language. The relationship between Mrs. Walker and the narrator is not a close relationship between teacher and student. The low-quality relationship between teacher and student can limit the ability of teacher to provide supportive environment (O'Connor et al., 2011). For the child, getting punished and slapped cause a traumatic experience in the childhood. However, the way Mrs. Walker treats the narrator affects narrator's perception about language. During his childhood, the narrator does not have adequate capacities to learn English language. As a Chinese descendant, he acknowledges Chinese language better than English. As he grows up, the bad experience from his teacher changes his language capabilities. In the adulthood, his Chinese language is fade away and he gets better in English.

“Donna undresses, her stomach is white.
In the yard, dewy and shivering
with crickets, we lie naked,
face-up, face-down.
I teach her Chinese.
Crickets: chiu chiu. Dew: I've forgotten.
Naked: I've forgotten.
Ni, wo: you and me (Lee, 1986, line 18-25).”

The stanza shows how the narrator's language is shifted. The conversation between Donna, the white girl and the narrator indicates there is a cultural sharing including language between them. As a child, the young narrator may think that Mrs. Walker appreciates English language as the standard of communication. Realizing that English language is more favorable, the young narrator is dealing with gain and loss in coping with different language. Furthermore, his relationship with Donna implies that his English language gets better. The appreciation that he does not get from the teacher is replaced when he dates Donna, the white girl. During the life process from childhood to adult, his childhood memory with Mrs. Walker leaves displeasing mark. The young narrator is not appreciated by the teacher for cannot differ between persimmon and precision. Therefore, he is taking revenge as a proof of his intelligence in adulthood. At this point, the figure of Dona helps the narrator to project the unfulfilled of appreciation especially when he deals with English language. Having white girlfriend means that he is capable to speak English better. Unlike his close relationship with parents, the low appreciation from teacher can also affect the child's growth. In this case, the punishment, bad experience and physical abuse done by the teacher lead into false projection in a way the narrator craves for another appreciation.

3. Appreciation and its Implication to the Children

A. Appreciation as Social Control

After reading both short story and poetry, there is an implication where appreciation can be a social control for children to behave and perform their attitude. As an example, the short story "A Handful of Dates" shows that the narrator is being a good and religious child. It happens because he grows up in a positive environment. Other than that, the appreciation from grandfather and other people including Sheikh has supported him to reach his best potential. Appreciation is meant to value something good within an object or person (DePaola, 2018). It is also depicted in the short story, the narrator's ability in reciting Koran is appreciated positively by his grandfather and Sheikh. Realizing that reciting Koran is a good habit, the appreciation results the social control in the scope of religious belief.

In addition, the role of appraisal is seen when the narrator is portrayed as initiative and obedient child. The short story narrates the way children can relate himself with certain situation. In the previous section, the main character has the ability to behave himself, when to laugh and when to be silent. He is described as emotionally mature because he knows how to behave in a specific time and place. As same as the short story by Tayeb Salih, Li-Young Lee's "Persimmon" also has social control as a result from the appraisal. The role of the parents is found as the primary influence on children's perception. The parenting from mother and father embodies the idea of persimmon in relation to precision. The narrator is nurtured by his mother saying that persimmon is just like him. From the analysis, it shows that the way parents appreciate persimmons puts its significant role into how the narrator perceives the persimmon fruit. Appreciation to other living things such as nature shapes the narrator's behavior. The narrator is taught by his mother to wait and not to be greedy eating persimmons. The father suggests him to do so, that the ripe is worth to wait. In consequence, the social control is manifested when the narrator can appreciate persimmons as same as treating human being.

B. Appreciation as distinction between good and bad

The role of appreciation can help the children to acknowledge which one is good and bad. In the short story "A Handful of Dates", the narrator can admit that his grandfather is not as kind as what he thinks because the old man is manipulating and taking advantages from Masood. The admiration changes into hatred.

“You’re still fifty pounds in debt to me,” said my grandfather to Masood—I ran off into the distance. Hearing my grandfather called after me, I hesitated a little, then continued on my way. I felt that moment that I hated him (Salih, 2000, p.63).”

The disappointment is experienced to the narrator’s heart. It is heartbreaking for the narrator to know that he is a greedy man. Realizing that grandfather does not appreciate others as the way he appreciates his grandson, the boy finds out that the world is full of hypocrisy. The appraisal signifies there is a good value within the living things. The old man is able to appreciate his grandson by treating him compassionately. Unfortunately, the old man cannot appreciate Masood because he thinks Masood is not as good as him. For the grandfather, only his grandson can resemble him.

The poem “Persimmons” however also indicates the distinction between good and bad. The perception from parents about persimmons has formed the narrator’s perspective about how he should treat the persimmon. Having the different background of culture about persimmon, Mrs. Walker treats persimmon differently from what the narrator expects.

“Mrs. Walker brought a persimmon to class
and cut it up
so everyone could taste
a Chinese apple. Knowing
it wasn’t ripe or sweet, I didn’t eat
but watched the other faces (Lee, 1986, line 40-45).”

Mrs. Walker cannot choose the ripe persimmon appropriately. The narrator knows it is not ripe at all because the appreciation from the mother tells him to choose the ripe one. In consuming the persimmon, the mother suggests not to tear the meat instead peeling it. Hence, the narrator thinks it is not proper for Mrs. Walker to cut the meat. The other part shows that the narrator gains a perception that he is better not to eat the unripe persimmon even when the others eat it. The appreciation from parents to value the persimmon shapes the narrator’s way of thinking to choose what is good to eat persimmon.

C. Appreciation for Self-Esteem

Both literary works show there is a contribution from appreciation to improve the self-esteem of a children. “A Handful of Dates” by Salih presents that appreciation from the surroundings can help the narrator to be more confident than the others. The fact that the narrator is eager to recite Koran projects his capability and his confidence. When it comes to a performance, appreciation has its significant role to manifest the positive values in a person. It is important for children to get an appreciation so that they can gain a positive self-definition towards themselves. Besides that, appraisal from the old man makes the narrator thinks that he is his favorite grandchild. From the old man’s appraisal, the narrator perceives himself as better than his cousins.

In “Persimmons” by Lee, the figure of parents and their appraisal are meaningful for the narrator to gain a positive growth. When the mother tells him that every persimmon has a sun, something golden and glowing just like the narrator’s face, it is like a reminder for the narrator to value himself positively. The father, however, also supports the narrator’s development as he cherishes the moment with his son. Again, the appraisal helps someone to be accepted, loved and to feel enough for who they are.

D. Lack of Appreciation and False Projection

The low appreciation may influence how the children feel rejected, degraded or devalued. It is clearly depicted in the poem "Persimmons". When Mrs. Walker slapped and made the narrator standing on the corner of the class, it becomes traumatic experience. Being punished and degraded for cannot differ persimmons and precision, unconsciously the narrator has a false projection for wanting to show that he is good at English. As a Chinese student, the narrator is devalued by Mrs. Walker because he cannot speak English well. The relationship with Donna, the white girl, reveals there is a false projection in their relationship. When he was a childhood, the narrator was seen as stupid student for his lack of English language. The fact that he slept with Donna the white girl, points out that the narrator is superior now. He can prove to himself that he is no longer difficult to cope with the English language. In addition, the moment when he now acquires better English language and starts to forget his mother language can be the form of false projection in his act.

Meanwhile, there is no false projection identified from the short story by Tayeb Salih "A Handful of Dates". In Salih's narrative, the development of the character is only taken from the childhood. The story stops at the moment when the narrator hates his grandfather. There is no other prove whether the narrator has a false projection after getting disappointed with his grandfather.

CONCLUSION

This study finds that literary works can offer some insights to get more understanding about life and moral value. It intends to build awareness for the people to treat others especially children compassionately so that they can have more positive and healthy development. Both "A Handful of Dates" and "Persimmons" have similarity in depicting the relation between caregiver and children, in a sense that caregivers help children to gain perception towards themselves and the surroundings. After analyzing the two works, this study discloses that appreciation can support the growth of children. A positive and healthy environment lead into the secure and fulfilled human being.

This study shows that there are four results of appreciation to the children. First, appreciation can function as social control to the children's behavior. Appreciation from caregivers indeed maintains a positive attitude in children's development. Second, appreciation can help the children to differentiate between good and bad. By getting the appreciation, children can acknowledge that what they do is good enough. Therefore, children can distinguish about do and don'ts or good and bad through the appreciation. Third, the appraisal given from parents or teacher improves self-confidence of the children. It shows from the two literary works, "A Handful of Dates" and "Persimmons", that appreciation has its contribution to improve children's self-esteem. The last, lack of appreciation relates with the false projection to how they behave in the near future. Having less appreciation, children yearn another appreciation to make them feel enough and valued. At this point, the false projection reflected in the poem "Persimmons" indicates there is unfulfilled needs that the child still experiences. It can be concluded from this research that appreciation has significant influence on the child's development. Through the appreciation from caregivers, children can grow in a nurturing way to find the potentials within themselves.

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