

THE POTENTIAL FACTORS TO ATTAIN SUCCESSFULNESS IN R. L. STEVENSON'S *TREASURE ISLAND*

Suci Suryani*

Abstrak: Dengan pendekatan reader response novel *Treasure Island* karya Robert Louis Stevenson tidak saja mengisahkan Jim Hawkins, seorang remaja yang berpetualang mencari harta yang terpendam di Treasure Island dan akhirnya berhasil mendapatkannya, namun dapat menggambarkan beberapa faktor yang berpotensi mendorong Jim Hawkins untuk sukses mencapai apa yang diharapkannya. Sesungguhnya dihadapkannya sosok remaja adalah diharapkan menjadi *motivator* atau *inspirator* bagi generasi muda. Berbagai masalah hingga sampai nyawa menjadi taruhannya harus dihadapi dalam petualangan tersebut. Namun di usianya yang belia, dia berhasil mendapatkan apa yang diharapkan. Faktor-faktor apa saja yang mendorongnya untuk berhasil mencapai kesuksesan akan dijelaskan dalam tulisan ini. Pendekatan ini dapat mengungkapkan betapa sastra tidak hanya memberikan cerita yang menarik namun ada sesuatu yang bermakna terkandung di dalamnya yang dapat menjadi inspirator atau motivator bagi pembacanya.

Kata kunci: efferent, aesthetic, transactional, the chance, the will and the initiative.

Introduction

Literary works have potential impact to escape the readers or the audiences from their restless feeling and the ruffled thought. The readers are brought to the different atmosphere by reading the challenge events, the tremendous characters, and the exotic settings presented in literary works. The beautiful wise message implicitly or explicitly provided in literary works will enlarge the readers thought and arouse their feeling. Even the story described in literary works can motivate and inspire the readers.

The novel which is going to be analyzed presents the good story that is able to motivate or inspire especially the teenagers to be able to read every chance opens to them, to be able to strengthen the will, and to be able to maximize the initiative to achieve the target. The Robert Louis Stevenson's novel entitled *Treasure Island* tells about Jim Hawkins who gets an opportunity to do an adventure to find Captain Flint's treasure buried in Treasure Island. This chance opens as Jim has found the treasure map in the chase that is brought by the pirate, Bill who stays in Jim's inn named Admiral Benbow. Having found the leather packet in which there is the treasure map, Jim shows it to Dr. Livesey and his friend John Squire Trelawney who denotes the Customs man who guards the coast around Britain and catches anyone who breaks the law. Furthermore, Trelawney rents a ship named Hispaniola. Dr. Livesey becomes the ship doctor, Captain Smollet becomes the ship captain, and Jim Hawkins becomes the

* Suci Suryani adalah dosen Program Studi Sastra Inggris Universitas Trunojoyo

cabin boy. There are also Long John Silver as the cook and the other ship crew who sail from Bristol to Treasure Island.

When the ship goes ashore, the ship is hijacked by the buccaneers who are disguised as the ship crew. Jim and his friends stay in the stockade. At night, when his friends are sleeping, he takes over the ship by borrowing Benn Gun's ship and putting two pistols and a sharp knife in his belt. He can take over the ship and pulling down Jolly Roger, the pirate flag.

Jim Hawkins, Silver, and the other pirates continue the adventure to find the treasure. Jim Hawkins and Silver are threatened died when the pirates will shoot them due to only finding two gold coins having digging the ground. Dr. Livesey and Benn Gun help him shoot the pirates. Therefore two pirates fall down to the ground and the others run away to forest. Finally Benn Gun shows them the treasure which is kept in the safe cave.

According to Louise Rosenblatt (1978, 21), a text acts as a blueprint that reminds the readers when they interpret a text too far. The transactional takes part when it acts as a stimulus to which the readers respond in their own personal ways. The transactional reader response occurs when the readers use the aesthetic approach to interpret the text. When the readers apply the efferent approach, there will be no transactional reader response since this approach only focus on the information printed in the text, as if it were a storehouse of facts and ideas that influence the readers.

The following Isser's (1978) formulation supports what Rosenblatt states as the blueprint and stimulus. Isser states that efferent and aesthetic approaches will give the two different meanings to the text, the determinate and indeterminate meanings. Determinate meaning will arise when the readers use the efferent approach. It is because determinate meaning refers to facts of the text clearly provided by the words on the page and efferent approach only focuses on the information printed in the text. While indeterminate meaning will perform when the aesthetic approach are applied by the readers since indeterminacy refers to gaps in the text in which the readers are invited to create their own interpretation.

Discussion

The novel describes the successfulness that can be achieved by Jim Hawkins. He is a teenager who must do the dangerous adventure before finally obtains the treasure which is chased by the buccaneers. The following factors are identified as the factors that have potential impact to support Jim Hawkins to attain the target successfully, such as the chances, the will, and the initiatives.

A. The Opportunities

The opportunities are the chances for Jim to have Flint's treasure buried in Treasure Island. He is able to read every opportunity and uses every opportunity as well as possible. Jim's attitude toward the chances helps him successfully to pass the dangerous adventure to obtain the treasure.

There are many events that are identified as the chances for Jim Hawkins to obtain treasure. The opening event is when Bill, the pirate

who stays at Jim inn. Bill is very fright when Blend Phew comes to him to inform that the other pirates will come to take treasure map. Before he died, he tells Hawkins to save the chase. He finds the map quickly and run away to the near village before the pirates come to the inn (1993, 1-21). This event describes that Jim is able to read that there is a chance for him to have the treasure map. Nevertheless, the chance will be taken over by the pirate. The following quotation describes that Jim who is below seventeen years old has found the treasure map. It is his starting chance to have the treasure from the pirate who stays in his inn.

“Squire Trelawney, Dr. Liveseyasked me to write down the whole particulars about Treasure Island, .. I take up my pen in the year of grace 17, ... and go back to the time when my father kept ‘Admiral Benbow’ inn, and the brown old seaman .. took up his lodging under our roof(1993, 1)”.

The next incident is when Jim meets Benn Gun, the pirate who has been marooned for years on the way he runs away to save his life from the pirates who shoot each other to the forest. Gun informs him that he has a small ship in the cave. He uses Gun’s ship to take over Hispaniola’s ship that is seized by the pirate. It is done in the dark day when all his friends are sleeping and the pirates are drunk. This incident describes that Jim is able to read that there is a chance to take over the ship. If he does not use the chance, he and his friends will be marooned in the island due to the hijacked ship while the pirate will be success to find the treasure.

The similar event is necessary for Jim to tell to Dr. Livesey that he has met Ben Gunn. This event describes that Jim is able to read that there is a chance to get help from Benn Gun who has kept the treasure to the north of the Island. Benn Gun brings them to the safe cave which he keeps the treasure. If he doesn’t take it as a chance, the treasure will be taken by the pirates.

B. The Will

The chance when Jim Hawkins finds the leather packet in which there is the treasure map stimulates his will. Then he goes to Dr. Livesey’s house to show the leather packet. Then Trelawney makes him as a cabin boy. He sails from Bristol to Tresure Island with enthusiastically. He faces many problems on the adventure to find the treasure. He has to struggle by himself when he must run away to the forest to avoid Silver invitation to join him. That incident proves that how strong is Jim’s will to achieve the target so that he decides to go to the forest even though he is very fright in there alone. Furthermore he prefers not to join Silver even though no friend accompanies him ashore.

Jim has to fight against the buccaneers by himself when he tries to take over Hispaniola ship seized by the buccaneers. The pirates threw their knives to him when they know that the ship will be taken over. His left shoulder is wounded. He shoots the pirates and they fall to the sea. The Hispaniola is no more the pirates’ ship.

Jim must be strong and brave when Silver puts a rope round his neck and pulls him like a dog. This incident happens when Silver and the

other pirates try to find the ground on which the treasure is buried and Long John Silver is afraid if Jim will run away. Those last two incidents become the evidence that Jim faces dangerous problems but he still exists. Furthermore the more difficult the problem Jim faces the more tenacious his will is.

Squire Trelawney, Dr. Liveseyasked me to write down the whole particulars about Treasure Island, .. I take up my pen in the year of grace 17, ... and go back to the time when my father kept 'Admiral Benbow' inn, and the brown old seaman .. took up his lodging under our roof.

C. The Initiatives

To achieve his target that is to have the treasure, Jim does initiatives seriously. He applies strategies to achieve the target. The higher the target to be attained the better strategies need to be applied. He also makes the network since he realizes that he does the dangerous adventure so he will face many problems. Therefore the network will be helpful when he will get problems. The more networks built the more helps can be hope. He needs many facilities to sail and to find the buried treasure in Treasure Island. The more complicated the target is the more complete facilities need to be required.

C. 1. Arranging the Strategy

Many strategies are applied by Jim Hawkins starts from finding the map until finding the treasure. He takes a leather packet in the chest that is brought by the dead pirate, Captain Bill who stays at his inn as soon as the other pirates come to the inn to get the chase and the map. There are many gold coins besides the leather packet in the chest. He takes only the leather packet in the chest since he thinks that it will be the priceless thing that Bill suggests him to save the chest. Immediately after taking the leather packet he and his mother run away to the village near to the inn to save their life. That incident describes Jim Hawkin's strategy to have the map before it will be seized by the pirate.

Jim Hawkins goes ashore as Long as John Silver and the other pirates go ashore. At the shore, he sees Silver shoots the other pirate who does not want to join him to seize the map and the ship. Since that moment he knows who Silver is and what he and the other pirates want. That event depicts Jim Hawkin's strategy that lets him know how dangerous Silver and the other pirates are because they will fail his adventure to search the treasure.

Jim Hawkins leaves the stockade where his friends stay there. He brings two pistols and a sharp knife with him as leaving the stockade. He comes to the Ben Gunn's place and uses his small boat to take over the ship that is hijacked by Silver and the other pirates. He cuts the ship's anchor rope and it drifts away from the bay. That incident proves Jim Hawkin's strategy that makes his and his friends' adventure continued but the pirates' sail to find the treasure failed.

Jim Hawkins returns to the stockade where he leaves his friends. He finds no friends there since the pirates occupy it. As his friends return to the stockade, he asks for permission to Silver to speak to Dr. Livesey and whispers to him that he finds Ben Gunn who has found Flint's treasure and keeps it in the cave. Ben Gunn and his friends shot the pirates who will kill Jim and Silver from the tree. That phenomenon shows Jim's strategy to save his life that is almost threatened. The pirates will kill him and Silver due to the loose of gold coins.

C.2. Making the Appropriate Network

Jim Hawkins always behaves well toward everyone he meets. He also keeps good friendship. Those will let him easily get their really required helps.

Having taken the leather packet in which treasure map is found in the pirate's chase Jim Hawkins decides to go to Dr. Livesey who denotes his family doctor and has ever helped his family to make arrangement for his father's funeral. He believes that Dr. Livesey is a good man and will help him. Jim shows the leather packet to him. Trelawney who is a rich man decides to do an adventure to search the treasure. He rents a ship which is ready to sail and determines that Dr. Livesey is the ship doctor and Jim Hawkins is the cabin boy. That event proves that the good connection he builds benefits him greatly. He is involved in the adventure to search the treasure.

Jim Hawkins gets help from many men. Dr. Livesey comes to the correct time to save Jim Hawkins's life when the buccaneers will kill him since they only find two gold coins from the hole. Dr. Livesey and Ben Gunn shoot the pirates from the tree. The two pirates fell to the ground and the others run away. Then Dr. Livesey instructs Jim Hawkins and Silver to come with him to get back to Hispaniola ship by taking the pirates' ship quickly before the pirates come back.

Realizing that the other pirates will be mad because of only finding two gold coins in the hole, Silver gives Jim Hawkins a pistol. Before giving Jim a pistol, Silver puts the ropes around Jim's neck because he is worried if Jim will run away. That phenomenon proves that although Silver is a pirate, he does not mind to save Jim's life. Silver has ever experienced an incident ensuring him that Jim is a good boy. Consequently, he helps him. Silver asks Jim, his prisoner, not to leave him even though he meets Dr. Livesey who visits the wounded pirates in the stockade and Jim obeys his request. The last two events become the appropriate evidences that the good connection he performs to others will attract them to give a help.

C.3. Having the Facility

The facilities are required to do the dangerous adventure done by Jim Hawkins and his friends to search the treasure. The ship, the treasure map, the boat, the gun, and knife are identified

as the facilities that really support Jim to attain the target that is to have the treasure.

To search the treasure in Treasure Island, the Hispaniola ship is used as the transportation means to bring them from Bristol to Treasure Island, the island where the treasure is buried. When the ship is seized by the buccaneers Jim's friends can't continue the sail. They have to stay in the stockade. To continue the adventure, the ship is taken over by Jim. The ship is also required when the treasure has been found and the ship crews will return to his Island.

There is Ben Gunn's boat that is very useful to help Jim to take over the Hispaniola ship.

"...there was Ben Gunn's boat

.....Well, now that I had found the boat, cut the Hispaniola adrift, and let her go ashore (1993, 96)".

The quotation shows that Jim needs a boat to bring him to come closer to the ship. He tries to find Ben Gunn's boat which is hidden in certain tent. He drives the boat and cut the ship's anchor rope. Then the sea carries the ship away.

The pistols and the knives are necessary to help Jim to take over the Hispaniola ship that is seized by the buccaneers.

"The next thing I laid holdpistols, ...a powder-horn and bullets, (1993, 94)"

The quotation depicts that Jim is supplied with pistols and knives. The tools help him to make the Hispaniola adrift and shoot the buccaneers who attack him as they realize that the Hispaniola will be taken over.

Conclusion

The transactional operates as the literary text stimulates the readers to give their interpretation. Through the efferent approach the text that function to remind the readers when they interpret it too far and the priceless, motivating and inspiring points described implicitly in the literary works can be explored and described explicitly through the aesthetic approach. The novel observed describes Jim Hawkins, a teenager who finds a map that informs the island where Captain Flint buries his treasure. That is the priceless chance that influences his will to get the treasure. Therefore, he asked for help to the trust old men to achieve his will. They provide the Hispaniola ship to do a voyage to find the treasure. The disguised buccaneers also join the voyage as the ship crews. His life is almost threatened dead due to buccaneers attack on the way he finds the treasure but his trust old men save him. Finally, he successfully gets hundreds of gold coins which will change his life better. From the previous description, it can be concluded that the story absolutely inspires and motivates the reader especially the teenagers to achieve the target as high as possible. The successfulness to achieve the objective really depends on the way he uses the opportunity, keeps the will, and performs initiative. It is suggested that the chance should be used as well as possible. Even it will

change your life better; the chance should be taken as soon as possible before another man takes it over; keep the will as firm as possible although many problems will decrease it since the firm will is the powerful motor to support you achieve the target; perform strong appropriate initiative to achieve the goal because without performing initiative, the target will be nothing. Those are suggestions that are implicitly stated in the literary work that are going to be shared to the readers especially the teenagers. Those become clearly described through the aesthetic approach.

References

- Iser, Wolfgang. *The Act of Reading: A Theory of Aesthetic Response*, Baltimore. Johns Hopkins UP, 1978.
- Rosenblatt, Louise. "The Poem as Event" *The Reader, the Text, the Poem: The Transactional Theory of the Literary Work*. Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 1978, 6-21.
- Stevenson, Robert Louis. *Treasure Island*. New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1993.
- Tyson, Lois. *Critical Theory Today: A User-Friendly Guide*. New York & London: Gerland Publishing, Inc, 1999.
- Wellek, Rene and Warren, Austin. *Theory of Literature*. Harmondsworth, Middlesex: Penguin Books Ltd, 1963.

