

# Learning Environmental Love In Children In *Yuyun's Magic Bubble* Storybook

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**Abstract.** The environment is currently in a very apprehensive state. Lack of public awareness to dispose of waste in its place and behaviour that does not care for the environment result in a decrease in environmental quality. This study aims to examine learning to love the environment so that good character can be instilled in early childhood. The media used is a children's reading book entitled *Yuyun's Magic Bubble*. This research is descriptive qualitative research with a literature review method. Data were obtained from data presentation, documentation, and read and record. Then the data were analyzed through data reduction, data presentation, verification, and drawing conclusions. The results obtained are described by planting love for the environment. The concept of learning to love the environment that can be studied in Yuyun's storybook Magic Bubbles is as follows: 1) Making other people a role model; 2) Preserving the environment; 3) Dispose of garbage in its place, and 4) Recycle.

**Keywords:** environment, story books, early childhood

## 1 Introduction

"If we don't maintain the environment from now on, our children and grandchildren will not be able to enjoy a clean environment when they grow up". The current living environment is in a very poor state. We can see that the earth is now used as a landfill on a large scale which has resulted in a decline in the quality of the environment. One of the relationships between the decline in the quality of the environment and humans (social) is the result of human actions and behaviours that can result in changes in the environment. Thus, the human personality itself and the surrounding environmental situations/circumstances will affect the behaviour of one's environment. The environment and humans are two inseparable things and the environment greatly affects human life. According to Otto Soemarwoto, (2001) the environment is all objects and potentials and conditions, including humans and their behaviours that are contained in the space where humans are located and affect their survival and human welfare. Therefore, it is very important to instil a sense of love for the environment in children from an early age to maintain environmental sustainability for the life of future generations. The cultivation of this attitude can make children learn and grow into independent and responsible figures. Children will also be able to love nature and have the awareness to care for and maintain God's gift.

The storybook titled *Bubble Ajaib Yuyun* contains a story that is the true story of an Indonesian reformer named Yuyun Ismawati who dedicated her life to making a positive impact on the crowd. A reformer is a person who dares to see a problem and strive together to solve the problem. The ability to make updates can be cultivated since childhood at home by doing small habits with children, including reading and discussing. The ability to be a reformer will develop according to the child's interests. This ability will make it a force to face an increasingly developed world at a rapid pace. In this book, Yuyun is a reformer in the environmental field who always tries to maintain and love the environment.

Based on the search results, the researcher obtained several related studies as follows. 1) Research conducted by Lely Suryani (2021) that the application of audio-visual media can be used to improve environmental love behaviour in the golden age [1]; 2) Research conducted by Ratna Yulianti explained that togetherness, discipline, independence, and student responsibility are intertwined in the creative dance process can increase students' understanding of environmental love [2]; 3) Research by Yora Harlistyarintica (2017), the results of the research show that children can be creative using waste exploration so that they can instil a love for the environment in children. From various previous studies, learning about the environment is more about its application or good practice, while the research that the researcher will study is different from previous research. This research examines the concept of environmental love learning taught through stories in books.

## **2 Theory and Method**

This study aims to introduce the concept of learning environmental love to children through a storybook entitled *Yuyun's Magic Bubble*. This book was written by Maya Lestari GF and published by Bhuana Publishers Popular Science Group Gramedia. The book consists of 18 pages with interesting illustrations. This research uses a qualitative approach with qualitative descriptive research methods with the type of study research or literature review. According to [3], the Qualitative descriptive approach is a research approach where the data collected is in the form of words, pictures, and not numbers. The researcher acts as the main instrument, with the subject of storybook research entitled *Yuyun's Magic Bubble*. The object of this study is the concept of learning environmental love in children.

Data collection techniques are the most important step in research because the main purpose of research is to obtain data [4]. This study was conducted by presenting data, documentation, and reading and recording. Data analysis is the main step in research because it gives meaning to the data collected by a researcher. Data analysis in the study was carried out through three simultaneous activities, namely data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions or validation of Miles and Huberman (1992) in [4]. Data analysis in this study was carried out through data reduction, data presentation, validation, and drawing conclusions. The results obtained are described and adjusted to one of the early childhood characters, namely love of the environment.

### 3 Result and Discussion

Childhood is a golden time to shape the future of the child. With games and advanced technology around children, cultivating a love of the environment is becoming increasingly important. This is to teach environmental responsibility [5]. If knowledge and concern for the environment can be instilled in childhood can be expected when they are teenagers and adults, then the provision of attitudes and behaviors in themselves towards the environment will have a positive impact. The concepts of learning environmental love that can be studied in Yuyun's Magic Bubble storybook are as follows: 1) Making others role models, 2) Protecting the environment, 3) Throwing garbage in its place, and 4) Recycling. Making others role models.

The family is the first and foremost place for the formation and education of the child. Smart children, salih salihah, skilled, good character are the dream of every parent, and this must start from the family. Parents, whether knowledgeable or not, still have to provide education for their children to become fully human beings. Parents who instill character education in children will produce children with good character and noble heart. The word character comes from the Greek word meaning "sign" and focuses on how the value of kindness is applied in the form of an action or deed. People who behave dishonestly, cruelly, or greedily are called bad people, while people who behave honestly and helpfully are called people of good character. Therefore, the word character is closely related to a person's personality. A person can be called a person of character if he behaves ethically (Zubaedi, 2012). In psychology, character refers to a unique character or temperament or basic quality that remains continuous and lasting and can serve as a characteristic that identifies the individual (Ramayulis, 2012). Therefore, character education can be interpreted as a deliberate (conscious) effort to realize virtue, that is, the quality of humanity that is objectively good, not only good for individual individuals, but also good for society as a whole [6].

One of the points in character education is caring for the environment. Caring for the environment is the same as loving the environment or being environmentally friendly. Caring for the environment is an attitude and action to prevent damage to the surrounding natural environment and strive to repair existing damage. Specifically explained in the ECCE Character Education Guidelines (2012:25) environmental care is a value that is based on attentive attitudes and behaviors and affection for the situation that exists in the surrounding environment by paying attention to, observing, and loving the environment. The environmental love behavior in Yuyun's Magic Bubble storybook is played by the main character named Yuyun. This character is a child who always cares about the environment, because since childhood he has always been shown by his grandmother activities to love nature, such as: 1) Yuyun likes to see her grandmother folding plastic waste, 2) Yuyun sees her grandmother put food waste in soil pits to be used as compost, 3) Yuyun likes to explore fields, rice fields, and forests, 4) Yuyun likes to see oxygen bubbles coming out of the trees, 5) Yuyun likes to climb cliffs and see other wonders from the top of the cliffs. These various experiences made Yuyun love the environment, as in the quote below.

"I'll do anything to keep this all up," said Yuyun.

The environmental love behavior played by Yuyun can motivate and instill an environmentally caring character in children. According to Suryani, Tute, & Aje, (2019), for children, the surrounding environment is a place to play and experiment and explore so that the environment plays an important role in their growth [1]. This is because in the environment

there is everything around us, both in the form of living things and also inanimate objects and everything that is beneficial to our life as humans. Therefore, for several themes related to the surrounding environment, educators can invite children to carry out learning activities outside the classroom so that children can explore directly with the objects learned in accordance with the material and themes taught.

### 3.1 Protecting the environment

Indonesia is an archipelagic country that has abundant natural wealth derived from biological and non-biological natural resources. Biodiversity and animals are part of the environment that must always be preserved. The alarming reality is that the environment in Indonesia has been damaged due to human behavior that does not have the awareness to protect the environment. Illegal logging, wildlife hunting, forest burning, flash floods, air pollution, water pollution, are a series of conditions of action, disaster and environmental damage that occur in our lives today. Therefore environmental education must be instilled from early childhood [2]. The foundation for introducing children to love the environment is to learn to respect the environment. Children learn with their five senses. The child has the ability to digest his environment well. This is an extraordinarily sharp and special sensitivity, due to which, the objects around him arouse such great interest and enthusiasm that they enter and melt into the existence of the child. The child also absorbs these impressions not with his mind, but with his own life [7].

Children will be fascinated by other living beings and must learn to treat them well early on, that all beings have a natural home in which they are located, as in the quote below.

Yuyun loves to explore the fields, rice fields, and forests. He not only noticed the trees, but also the magical little things. For example, Yuyun saw oxygen bubbles coming out of the trees. The bubble flies, giving life to all creatures in nature. Yuyun hugged the trees and thanked.

Yuyun's character teaches us that even young children can love nature, which is done from simple things that start with feeling happy and like for a clean and healthy environment, and she thinks it's a cool thing. This provides information on learning concepts to readers and can indirectly instill the value of environmentally caring characters for readers or for children who are read books.

### 3.2 Disposing of garbage in its place

Environmental care behavior is something that must be instilled from an early age. This behavior is carried out through continuous habituation, such as an invitation to the child to throw garbage in its place. Law No. 18 of 2008 concerning waste management, states that waste is the residue of human daily activities or natural processes in the form of solid or semisolid in the form of organic or inorganic substances that are decomposed or non-biodegradable which are considered no longer useful and disposed of in the environment. Waste is a problem that is still difficult to handle in Indonesia to this day. This happens because of the habits of the people as consumers who always produce waste. Therefore, to overcome the above, it is necessary to have a special assessment of the presence of waste itself. One of them

is by means of 3R, reuse, reduce, recycle. To simplify the recycling and reuse process, the steps taken are separation, storage, shipping waste or sale [1].

The character in the story shows concern for the environment, that he does not remain silent when something unpleasant happens related to the state of the environment. Yuyun's feelings, attitudes, and behaviors that love the environment since childhood are carried over to adulthood, where when she grows up and finds things that are not pleasing to the state of the environment, the character immediately looks for a solution, as follows.

When Yuyun grew up, she moved to Bali. There, he noticed something unusual. Garbage can be seen piled up in the mangroves. Yuyun wanted to know the cause. Yuyun then arranged a meeting with the hotel managers. He had them take care of their own trash. However, those managers did not want to.

### 3.3 Recycling

Education about the environment in the story of Yuyun's Magic Bubble is not only conveyed in words, but is directly exemplified by the behavior shown by grandma, as in the quote below.

Since childhood, Yuyun likes to pay attention to the unique things around her. For example, Yuyun likes to see Grandma folding plastic waste. He thinks it's cool. Yuyun also likes to watch her grandma put leftovers in a hole in the ground. Grandma said, the garbage will become compost.

Recycling is the process of turning a scrap material into a new material with the aim of preventing waste that can actually be useful, reducing the use of new raw materials, reducing energy use, reducing pollution, land damage, and greenhouse gas emissions when compared to the process of making new goods.

## 4 Conclusion

Based on the discussion above, character education learning in this case love of the environment is important to teach to children, especially early childhood. This learning can be instilled through a children's reading book, in this case, called Yuyun's Magic Bubble. The concept of environmental love learning that can be studied in the Yuyun's Magic Bubble storybook is as follows: 1) Making others role models, that early childhood is in the golden age of intelligent times to learn through its five senses so that as adults should be role models or role models in behaving especially our attitudes towards nature or the environment; 2) Protecting the environment, that in the book teaches the reader to feel what the character experiences in loving the environment such as being happy with a clean and healthy environment so as to become more concerned with the environment; 3) Throwing garbage in its place, in the book it is explained the attitude of Yuyun who is very caring and willing to act to find solutions when there are problems related to the environment; and 4) Recycling in books is explained about how to recycle.

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