

## The Implication Of Martin Luther King, Jr's Speech In Teaching Reading Comprehension

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### Abstrak

Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif, dimana menjelaskan implementasi sebuah literatur dalam pembelajaran membaca, dalam penelitian ini penulis membahas tentang pidato Martin Luther King, Jr "I Have a Dream". Sastra tidak hanya sekedar menghibur pembacanya tetapi juga dapat memberikan pendidikan dan membangun karakter, selain itu sastra ini dapat digunakan sebagai instrumen dalam pengajaran membaca. Penelitian ini menggunakan jenis penelitian deskriptif kualitatif, menggunakan metode kepustakaan dengan mengumpulkan sumber data dan menganalisisnya. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan biografi dan pendekatan interdisipliner. Hasil kajian Martin Luther King, Jr adalah, 1) kebebasan, 2) Orientasi Moral, 3) Prestasi dan Kesuksesan, 4) Kesetaraan, 5) Demokrasi, yang mana kelima nilai ini mempunyai kontribusi dalam pembelajaran membaca, karena dapat digunakan sebagai nahan ajar dan dapat meningkatkan karakter serta wawasan siswa.

**Kata Kunci:** Martin Luther King, Jr, I have a Dream, Pembelajaran Membaca

### Abstract

*This research uses a qualitative method, which explains the implementation of literature in Teaching Reading Comprehension. In this research the writer discusses about Martin Luther King, Jr's speech "I Have a Dream". Literature not only entertains readers but can also provide education and build character, apart from that, this literature can be used as an instrument in teaching reading. This research uses descriptive qualitative research, using library methods by collecting data sources and analyzing them. This research uses a biographical approach and an interdisciplinary approach. The results of Martin Luther King, Jr's study were, 1) freedom, 2) Moral Orientation, 3) Achievement and Success, 4) Equality, 5) Democracy, where these five values have a contribution to learning to read, because they can be used as teaching and learning resources can improve students' character and insight.*

**Keywords:** Martin Luther King, Jr, I Have a Dream, Teaching Reading Comprehension

## INTRODUCTION

In study Reading comprehension, literature was a way how to get more information. Because by reading literature, students can get more information easily, through literature, they could increase their culture enrichment, and personal involvement. Cultural enrichment, means that while read the literary work, students also can study the culture. For example, when students read a

novel they can learn how is the culture in the Verona at the time, Religion, life and like. Literature is a great means of communication in the form of writing which mixes emotional and intellectual which can move heart and give pleasure. “ One of the main reasons might be that literature offers a bountiful and extremely varied body of writer material which is important in in the sense that it says something about fundamental human issues, and which is enduring rather than ephemeral (Collie and Slater in Wikipedia, 2020). Every collage students was important to learn literature, because by learning literature, students can get more information and can increase their competency in English. Studying literature is not only for enjoyment but still there are some other reason, important practical reasons for the study. In studying literature the students will be learning how to read, write and communicate better.

Teaching a foreign language is a hard work, particularly of a teacher persistently exerts him or herself his or her students do the work. The teacher should have realized an unceasing expenditure of thought and energy that they are essential for teaching the language as a subject matter. They must do this in order to ensure that English as a foreign language that is being learned by their students is realistic and living. To achieve this, they will need to use all their own skill, all their energies, abilities voices, mind and action or their themselves as actors become the instrument to reach their goals (Miharso, 2014).

In this case the writer discussed a literature about the Martin Luther King Jr. Speech, in his speech he explains about the freedom of Human Right. Martin Luther King Jr's Speech is expected can be used by the teacher as media for students in teaching and learning process, because by reading literature entitle “I Have a Dream” the students expected to explore their knowledge in the field of, Human Right, such as about, races, religions, economic and politics .

Human rights are commonly understood as inalienable fundamental rights to which a person inherently entitled simply because she or he is a human being “Human right can also be means which people can use as a tool for social transformations on the national, regional, or universal level. Every human has their right, to life to speak, to study to involve in the politics, and the like. It is

related to the story of Black People in the United States in the Nineteenth Century. They are live as slaves faced discrimination from white people. They are not allowed to join in the politics, even get an education. Therefore, one the black people leaders, Martin Luther King, Jr. Struggle is not about win over the white people it is for injustice to become a justice, and live in peace together with the white people.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Was one of either the political or literary writers who presented the political situation at that time. He lives in his speech which is edited in his book, Martin Luther King, Jr's Speech I Have a Dream. He is one of the most outstanding Black Americans writers. He becomes a political writer since he presented his speech and collects them in the book Martin Luther King, Jr's speeches in 1960's by asserting his political views in his book "I Have a Dream", Luther seemed to invite the readers to give more concerns on the political situation both in America and in the world. Martin Luther King, Jr's Speech explain about, human right, politics, economics, races, religions, and culture, therefore this literature (Martin Luther King, Jr's Speech) is interested to discuss in this study.

## **METHOD**

The method which used in this study was qualitative research, according to (Cassel and Symon stated in V. Miharso, 2016), Qualitative research is a social science method attempted to conduct and accurate description and interpretation of indicators occurred in social context. Qualitative research is more use in understanding social phenomena, and emphasize on holistic interpretation.

The method emphasized on the collecting and analyzing oral and written text as well as provided comprehends illustration toward situation being learnt by research (Bogdan and SY. Taylor stated in V. Miharso, 2014). Qualitative research is mostly associated with words, language and experience rather than measurements, statistics and numerical figures (Miles and Huberman in Mardiana, 2015) states that the general reasons for conducting qualitative research are description and hypothesis generation.

### **Research questions**

The questions in this study were:

1. What are the value of human right in Martin Luther King, Jr's Speech I have a dream?
2. What is Martin Luther King Jr's vision for the existence of blacks and white culture in America?
3. What is the significance of Martin Luther King, Jr's for the development of Black and White American Society?
4. What is the implication of Martin Luther King Speech in learning Reading Comprehension?

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

### **THE HUMAN RIGHT**

Among the fifteen American Dreams, the I Have a Dream speech is focused on six elements. They are achievement and success means that all citizens have same opportunity to gain their achievement and success therefore their life is valuable. Moral orientation means that we tend to have morality that we cannot judge people by their color of skin. Equality means that we are all human and we are needed to be treated equal. Freedom means that we are free from the domination: we are free to express our feeling to choose religion, for politics and so on. External conformity means that we are not only individual but also social , than we need to gather without worry about the difference of skin color, language, culture, religion, and the like. Democracy means that every citizen have their right to participate in politics even a women.

### **THE REFLECTION OF HUMAN RIGHT IN MARTIN LUTHER KING JR'S SPEECH I HAVE A DREAM**

#### **Freedom**

Individual freedom from domination of others is highly cherished value (Parillo in childs, 2018). Freedoms such as the freedom of thought, consciences and religion as well as of opinion and expression are protected by human rights,

(Benedek, 2015). Based on dictionary freedom is the condition of being free, the power to act or speak or think without externally imposed restraints. We are free to express ourselves without any control from outside and as long as we appreciate others.

*“It is obvious today, that America has defaulted on this promissory note insofar as her citizens of color are concerned instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given the Negro people a bad check, a check which has come back marked “insufficient funds” . But we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt. We refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this nation. So we have come to cash this check – a check that will give us upon demand the riches of freedom and the security of justice”*

*“ It would be fatal for the nation to overlook the urgency of the moment. This sweltering summer of the Negro’s legitimate discontent will not pass until there is an invigorating autumn of freedom and equality”*

*“ I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice. Sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.”*

*“ With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith we will be able to work together. To pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day”.*

*“This will be the day when all of God’s children will be able to sing with a new meaning. “ My country, ‘tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee i sing. Land where my father’s died, land of the pilgrim’s pride, from every mountainside, let freedom ring.”*

*“And if America is to be a great nation this must become true. So let freedom ring from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire. Let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York. Let freedom ring from the heightening*

*Alleghenies of Pennsylvania!" Let freedom ring from the snowcapped Rockies of Colorado! Let freedom ring from the curvaceous slopes of California! But not only that; let freedom ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia!*

*Let freedom ring from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee! Let freedom ring from every hill and molehill of Mississippi. From every mountainside, let freedom ring.*

### **Moral Orientation**

We tend to moralize, seeing the world in absolutes of right and wrong (Parrillo in childs, 2018). We srr the world on the right and wrong side. We have to say it right when it is right, and say wrong when it is wrong. We are not allowed to say it wrong when it is right just because we are with the pople (or the subject).

*" But there is something that I must say to my people who stand on the warm treshold which leads into the palace of justice. In the process of gaining our rightful place we must not be guilty of wrongful deeds. Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred"*

*"We must forever conduct our strunggle on the high plane of dignity and discipline. We must not allow our creative protest to degenerate into physical violence. Again and again we must rise to the majestic heights meeting physical force with soul force"*

### **Achievement and Success**

Competition oriented, our society places much value on gaining power, prestige, and wealth (Parrilo in childs ,2018). Every people are guaranteed to get education and work, therefore, they can fulfill their life need because every single human being have the same chance and opportunity to have a better life.

*" Five score years ago a great American, in whose symbolic shadow we stand today, signed the Emancipation Proclamation. This Momentous dcree came as a great beacon light of hope to millions of Negro slaves who had been seared*

*in the flames of withering injustice. It came as a joyous daybreak to end the long night of their captivity”.*

*“ in a sense we have come to our nation’s capital to cash a check. When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were singing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir. This note was a promise that all men, yes, black men as well as white men, would be guaranteed the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness”.*

### **Equality**

We believe in this abstract ideal, relating to each other informally, as equals (Parrillo in Childs, 2018) The equality is the need to be treated equal among the people without discriminate gender, complexion, ethics, races, or religion.

*“ And as we walk, we must make the pledge that we shall always march a head. We cannot turn back. There are those who are asking the devotees of civil right. “When will you be satisfied?”. We can never be satisfied as long as the Negro is the victim of the unspeakable horrors of police brutality. We can never be satisfied as long as our bodies, heavy with the fatigue of travel, cannot gain lodging in the motels of the highways and the hotels of the cities. We cannot be satisfied as long as the Negro’s basic mobility is from a smaller ghetto to a larger one. We can never be satisfied as long as our children are stripped of their selfhood and robbed of their dignity by signs stating “ for whites only”. We cannot be satisfied as long as a Negro in Mississippi cannot vote and a Negro in New York believes he has nothing for which to vote. No no we are not be satisfied until justice rolls downlike waters and righteousness like a mighty stream”.*

*“ I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed:” We hold these truths to be self evident:that all men are created equal”.*

*I have a drean that one day on she red hills of Georgia the sons of farmer slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood”*

## **Democracy**

We believe everyone has the right of political participation, that our government is highly democratic ( Vincent N. Parrillo in Childs,2018). There is on memorable phrase about democracy from Abraham Lincoln, which is democracy is government of the people, by the people, and for the people. Democracy is truly the ideas and principles of freedom.

*“ Now is the time to make real the promises of democracy. Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice. Now is the time to lift our nation from the quick sands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood. Now is the time to make justice a reality for all of God’s children”*

*“I have a dream today. I have a dream that one day valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together”.*

## **THE CONTRIBUTION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR’S SPEECH I HAVE A DREAM FOR BLACK AND WHITE PEOPLE.**

It was difficult to understand at the first time, that how the nonviolence resistant could be a weapon to struggle for justice. It is why that this method had refused from the Negroes. It did not make a sense that the nonviolence resistant can help them to reach justice. So, Dr King had a meeting twice a week to socialize the nonviolence resistant. This method is not physically strong but mentally strong.

Martin Luther King, Jr, always remains the black people that their struggle is not to humiliate but to win over, win the justice. “ This was always a cry that we had to set before people that our aim is not to defeat the white community, not to humiliate the white community, but to win the friendship of all the persons who had perpetrated this system in the past ( Martin Luther King in Wikipedia, 2019).



### **The Implication of This Study in Teaching Reading Comprehension**

Literature is means of communication which function not only for enjoyment but also deliver information. "Literature is a valuable complement to such materials, especially one the initial 'survival' level has been passed (Collie and Slater in Fadilah 2017)". Through reading novel for example, we can study the cultures, language, habitation, and the like. Students also can offer many advantages such as studying the language, improve language skills, increase culture knowledge, and can build students character which is important to help them in facing true life in the future. Then, the teacher should choose books which appropriate for the student's life experience. And literature also can use as the material in teaching reading comprehension.

### **CONCLUSION**

I have a dream was one of the best speeches done by Martin Luther King, Jr. On August 28, 1963. More than 50.000 Americans from many religions; ethnic background converged in Washington staging the largest demonstration in the history of Nation's capital. The orderly procession moved from the Washington monument to the Lincoln Memorial. There Martin Luther King, Jr. Gave his speech which was later acknowledged to be the one of the greatest speech's in American history. King speech entitled I have a dream outlined his hope, as he had said that one day his four children would live in a nation where they would not be judged by their color but the content of their character.

The aim of this study will determine Dr. King's idea which is focused on the single tactical principle of human right that is equality. This is what his method for the black struggle which would abolish all the handicaps and disadvantages designated by the terms of inequalities.

The speech show us the spirit for human right, such as equality, freedom, opportunities, and education. The great name of Martin Luther King, Jr. Is not only well known in America, but also famous in numerous countries in the world. The speech can be great literary work that can be told to the next generation. The

teacher can use the speech as their material to teach the students. The speech is not only to teach the students about literature, but more than that, it can be use to build the students character.

It is because, through his struggle, he had given millions of Black Americans hope in pursuing their dreams in struggling for human right in general and equality in political. The death of Dr. King in his struggle for human rights is only the death of the body. His ideas and ideal of human rights will grow in the heart of group of people in America and in the world as well.

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