Character Education: Meaning of Honesty  
In Western Perception and Islam

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Abstract

This article aims to examine character education. The data obtained through the study of reference literature al-Quran and as-Sunnah and western theories that berkiatan with the theme above, with the method of documentation. Data were analyzed through qualitative analysis. Personal education that is identical with the character, will deliver to be perfect human under the guidance of Allah swt, because education is needed in life. One form of character that is sidiq, can be a barometer of human life in words, deeds, wills, agreements, association and reality. Affirmed the Messenger of Allah who ordered every Muslim must always be honest, because honesty brings goodness and goodness will lead to heaven. While the perception of the west, honesty is a positive value in the human soul and the source of truth or honesty is a spiritual power that comes from a conscience that always pushes or brings to the truth, beauty and goodness.

Keywords: education, character, honesty, perception

Introduction

It is impossible for Allah's prophets and messengers to lie and lie. Since his confession as a messenger of God and what he broadcasts. If it is not true / honest their words, it will be destroyed perish of mankind and no religion is calling to worship Allah SWT. As affirmed in verse 52 of Yasin,

وَصَدَّفَ الْمُسْتَرْوَتُ

Meaning: "...and true His Messengers".

And the Qur'an surah An-Najm verse 3,

وَمَا يَنطِقُ عَنْ أَهْوَأِ

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Meaning: "And it is not what he utters (the Qur'an) according to his own desire."¹

The above is corroborated by Yunahar Ilyas, that it is impossible for an Apostle to have the nature of a kazib or a liar, for that causes no one to justify his message. As for ordinary people who have the character of a liar, will not be trusted people, let alone an apostle. Individual education is nothing but to make man a real person. Thus the necessity of education, with the aim of bringing humans to the right direction that is to achieve perfection under the guidance of the All-Perfect is God.²

Every Muslim is demanded always in a state of true birth and mind, true heart (shidq al-qalb), true words (shidq al-hadith) and true deeds (shidq al-'amal). Between the heart and the word must be the same, it should not be different, let alone between words and deeds.³ C.S. Snyder et al in his book explains that "we believe that character education is an active ingredient of positive living and if we believe that character education is an active ingredient of life positive. This belief can be empirically tested in life through research studies."⁴

Be Honest in Western Perception

Building character (character building) is the process of carving the soul, so that formed unique, interesting, and different from others. Character as self-development, will not develop by itself, but influenced by innate factors and environmental factors. As according to the development psychology, that humans have innate potential that will be actualized after birth, termausk associated with the character or values of virtue. In this case Confucian, a famous Chinese philosopher, states that man basically has the potential to love virtue, but if it is not accompanied by education, then that potential will turn into an animal, even more so.⁵

² Mudlor Achmad, Etika dalam Islam, Surabaya : Al-Ikhlas, tt, 143.
³ Yunahar Ilyas, Kuliah Akhlaq, Yogyakarta : Pustaka Pelajar Offset, hlm. 81.
⁵ Ibid., hlm. 31-32.
The opinion of Theodore Roosevelt, quoted by Kaimuddin in his paper, states, To educate a person in mind abd bot in morals is to educate a menace to society, meaning to educate someone in the aspect of brain intelligence and not moral is the threat of harm to the community. Furthermore Martin Luther mentions intelligence plus character .... That is the goal of true education, meaning intelligence plus character ... it is the ultimate goal of true education.

Honesty is a positive value in the human psyche, it is necessary to uphold the value of kejujuruan as mentioned in the book Positive Psychology ie “honesty : young person tells the truth even when it is not easy”. Which means upholding the value of honesty although bitter or not easy.

In the next process, honesty needs to be bold, ie Integrity, speaking the truth but more broadly presenting oneself in a genuine way, yang intinya keberanian menghadirkan diri untuk berbicara dalam kebenaran. Keberanian merupakan kekuatan emosional yang melibatkan kehendak untuk mencapai tujuan dalam menghadapi oposisi yang eksternal dan internal, dalam berbagai seperti wisdom ang konowledge : cognitive strengths, courage : emotional strength, humanity : interpersonal strengths, justice : civic strengths, temperance and transcendence. In the next process, honesty needs to be bold.

Criminal cases in the United States were caused by minor matters, as Frank S. Hogan, a New York District Attorney, quoted Muhammad Yidin in the book Islam Religion Robbani, "that half of the criminal cases filed against the courts are based on - little things. It's like fighting in the family, or mutually insulting, offended or...

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6Ibid., hlm. 29.
7C. R. Snyder, Shane J. Ipoez dan Fennefer Teramotot, Positive Scientific dan Practical ......., hlm. 53.
8Ibid., hlm. 47.
9Ibid., hlm. 47-48.
underestimated. These small cases that cause cases of mistreatment or murder. Very few are really cruel and big-blown..\textsuperscript{11}

In the 3,000-year-old Hindu Vedas, holy words (say true) are seen as the major creative forces, while the Christian Gospel of St. John begins with "In the beginning there is only the Word". This text implies that the power of speech is amazing. Saying right, like all seven components of practice is a skill that is honed with practice. The longer will be easy and peaceful. Goals say true, acting right benefit others as well for yourself. In other words acting right, means serving oneself, serving others and benefiting results for everyone..\textsuperscript{12}

**Be Honest in the Perception of Islam**

1. Honest Understanding

Prophets or Apostles must have been conferred by God, noble traits, so they have their own peculiarities compared to other humans. One of them shiddiq nature is true and honest. It means that whatever is conveyed is true and honest. The honesty of a prophet includes honesty in everyday intentions, intentions, words and actions.\textsuperscript{13}

Shidiq (ash-sidqu) is true or truthful, the opposite of a lie or a lie (al-kadzib). True heart if decorated with faith in God and clean from all heart diseases. True words, if all that is spoken is truth not evil. And true deeds, if all are done according to Islamic shari'ah. The same thing is also mentioned in other books, as-shidqu means always to say the truth, never lie under any circumstances. Whatever an Apostle says, whether it be news, promises, future forecasts and so on\textsuperscript{14}.

Rachmat Ramadhana al-banjari further reinforces the meaning of the word shadiq (honest people) derived from the word shidq (honesty). Siddiq's word is a form of emphasis from shadiq, a person


dominated by honesty. Shadiq is a righteous man in his words, while siddiq is a truly honest man in all his words, deeds and his inner state.\textsuperscript{15} While the meaning of the term according to Rachmat Ramadhana al-Banjari, defining shiddiq or honest is the presence of a force that can escape from a lie or dishonest attitude toward God, self or others.\textsuperscript{16} While Imam Ghazali, who quoted Mudlar Achmad in his book means sidq / honest is real, real-naya, seriousness. Sidq is used in six kinds, namely in speaking, intending and willing, interested, carrying out interests, in doing and in occupying religious maqom (khof, king', ta'dhim, zuhud, ridla, tawakkal and love).\textsuperscript{17} If one is really in one of the six is called Shodiq and if in all it is called Shiddiq.

Relating truthfully and honestly, Hamdani describes as happening yaumul haq, that one day all the essence of truth is clear, real and not hidden or kept secret by anyone and that day is also a certainty and truth that will come and surely will be experienced by every human being. It is affirmed by the Quran of Surah An-Naba verses 38-39, which means: On the day when the spirits and angels stand by the sha'ah, they are silent except those who have been granted permission to him by the Most Gracious God, and he said the right word. That's the exact day. Then whoever wills, he will undertake a way back to his Lord."\textsuperscript{18}

Forms to be true or honest, in detail there are five forms of shidiq namely:

a. True Words (shidq al-hadith).

A Muslim always speaks correctly in conveying information, answering questions, banning and commanding or otherwise. People who always say the truth will be loved by God and trusted by the people. Shidq al-hadith is the most popular and most visible form.

\textsuperscript{15}Rachmat Ramadhana al-Banjari, Prophetic Leadership, Yogyakarta : Diva Press, 2008, hlm. 156.

\textsuperscript{16}Ibid., hlm. 154.

\textsuperscript{17}Mudlor Achmad, Etika dalam Islam, ...........hlm. 171.

\textsuperscript{18}Hamdani Bakran Adz-Dzakiey, Prophetic Intelligence : Kecerdasan Kenabian Mengembangkan Potensi Robbani Melalui Peningkatan Kesehatan Ruhani ..........., hlm. 286-287.
b. True Intercourse (shidq al-mu'amalah)

A Muslim should always bermu'amalah correctly, not cheating, not treacherous and not fake, even to non-Muslims. People shidq in bermu'amalah away from the nature of arrogance and ria. He will always be right with anyone, regardless of his wealth, power or other status. Whoever is always shidiq in mu'amalah, then he will be a public trust.\

c. True Will (shidq al-azam)

Before deciding something, a Muslim should consider and assess first whether what is done is true and beneficial? If true and sure is useful, it will do without hesitation and be affected by the right-hand side of the pros or cons.

d. True Promise (shidq al-wa'ad)

If promised, Muslims always keep it, even with enemies or small children. Azam or decisions of the heart to do a good judgment of a promise, keep it called wafa' and mengungkinya called kadzib (lie).

e. True Reality (shidq al-hal)

A Muslim will present himself as the real situation. He will not cheat reality, do not wear clothes of falsehood, neither looking for security nor making up. This means that the person who is decorated with not hers to look rich just like a person who uses two personalities. 19

2. Honest in the Qur'an and As-Sunnah

Al-Qur'an sura at-Taubah verse 119,

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Meaning: "O those who have believed, fear Allah and be with the righteous."

19Yunahar Ilyas, Kuliah Akhlaq, ........ hlm. 81.
Al-Qur'an sura An-Nisa verse 69,

وَمَنْ يُطَعِ آللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ فَأُولَٰئِكَ مِنَ الْمُتَّقِينِ
وَالصَّدِّيقِينَ وَالشَّهِيدَانِ وَالصَّلِّيِّينَ وَحَسَنَ أُولَٰئِكَ رَفِيقًا

This means: And whosoever obeys Allah and His Messenger, they shall be with those who are blessed favors by Allah, ie the prophets, the righteous, the martyrs, people who are pious. And they are friends as well as possible ".

Al-Qur'an sura verse 8,

Meaning: "For the pious emigrants who were expelled from their homes and from their possessions, for seeking the grace of God and His good pleasure and they helped Allah and His Messenger. Those are the righteous ".

Al-Qur'an sura An-Nur verse 26

سُورَةً أَنْزَلْنَاهَا وَفَرَضْنَاهَا وَأَنْزَلْنَا فِيهَا دَايَةً بَيِّنَتَيْنَ أَلْعَلْكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ

Meaning: "The abominable ladies are for the abominable men, and the abominable men for the abominable women. And good women are for good men, and good men are for good women too.... "

Rasulullah SAW. ordered every Muslim should always be honest / shidq, because Shidiq attitude brings goodness and goodness will lead to heaven. Instead he forbid his people to lie, because lies will bring to evil and evil will end up to hell. As the Holy Prophet said: "Let all of you be honest, because honesty leads to goodness, and goodness brings to heaven. Someone who is always honest and seeking honesty will be written by God as an honest person (shiddiq). And stay away from the lie, because lies lead to evil and evil bring to hell. The one who always lies and seeks out lies will be written by Allah as a liar (kadzdzab). "(Narrated by Bukhari)

21Yunahar Ilyas, Kuliah Akhlaq, ............. hlm. 82-85.
Muhammad Hasan ibn Ali bin Abi Talib said: "I have memorized the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad. Leave anything that doubts you on anything that does not doubt you. For verily the truth brings to tranquility, while the lie raises doubt (HR At-Tirmidhi)

Sahl bin Hunaif ra. Saying that the Prophet (s) said: "Whoever has asked for the true God of martyr, Allah will deliver it to the position of martyr, even though he died in his bed". (Muslim).

Inspirational Story

1. The First Story

In a hadith narrated by Luqman Hakim, reported that one day someone had come and met with the Messenger of Allah (saw) to embrace Islam. After saying the shahada, the man then said: O Messenger of Allah, this servant always always sins and hard to leave it. So the Messenger of Allah replied: Will you promise that you can abandon the words berbogong? Yes. I promise, answer the man, then go home. According to history, before the man embraced Islam, he is very famous of a bad person. The likes of stealing, gambling and drinking hard. So after embracing Islam, with all efforts to leave all the ugliness. Therefore he asked the advice of the Messenger of Allah.

On the way home the man said in his heart, I also want to leave what is desired by Rasulullah SAW .. So every time his heart is compelled to do evil, his little heart continues to mock. Dare you to do evil. Do you answer later when asked Rasulullah SAW. Can you lie to him, whisper a little heart. Every time intend to do evil, then he remembered all messages Rasulullah SAW. and every time his heart said: If I ask Allah's Apostle. means I betrayed my promise to him. Conversely, if I say truthful I mean I will accept the punishment as a Muslim. Oh God indeed in the message of the Prophet Muhammad. contained a very precious wisdom. After struggling with his passions, the man finally triumphed in his struggle against his instinct's will. According to the hadith, from that day begins a new chapter in his life. He has emigrated from evil to the glory of life as outlined by the Messenger of Allah, until he has finally turned into a pious and noble believer.\footnote{Imam Musbikin, Quantum Hikmah, Yogyakarta : Mitra Pustaka, 2009, hlm. 392-393.}
2. The second story

During the reign of Caliph Umar ibn Kaththab, there was a milkmaid who prepared his wares for Umar bin khatthhab, Suddenly his mother ordered: mix the milk with water. His son said: do not bu! Caliph Umar has forbidden the act! The Caliph will never know, for who knows only the two of us, his mother replied.

Then gently and courteously and decisively, the girl said to her mother, O my Mother, even though the Kahlifah Umar did not know it, but Allah sees all the works of His servant. All will be held accountable in the akherat later. Unbeknownst to them, Caliph Umar was traveling around the city of Medina, to see the condition of his people and by chance he heard their conversation. Subhanallah, so noble akhlaq the girl, praise Caliph Umar in his heart.\(^23\)

3. The Honest and The Honest

Rasulullah SAW said: from Hammam bin Munabbih he said: this is the story of something narrated by Abu Hurairah from Rasoollah SAW, then he mentioned some hadith which among them is that Rasulullah SAW said: There is someone give land from others, then people who buy land it found a jar containing gold from the ground that had been bought. The one who buys it says to the one who sold it, Take your gold from the land I bought it. Because, I just bought the land from you and did not buy your gold. The one who sells the land says: All I am selling to you is the land and its contents. Therefore, if you find gold, then it is yours.

Eventually the two men went to see someone to ask for a decision between the two of them. Then the person asked for the decision asked both of them, Do you two have children ?. One of them answered, Yes I have a son. And the other answered, Yes I also have a daughter. Then the person asked for the decision said: You should just give your boy and daughter both off. After that, spend the gold for your sake and give alms to you two (Bukhari and Muslim)\(^24\)


Conclusions

Honest is a very important doctrine in Islam, so in the Qur'an and as-Sunnah is much called. As-shidqu means always to say the truth, never lie under any circumstances. Honestly comprehensively includes the true heart when adorned with faith in God and clean of all heart diseases. True words, if all that is spoken is truth not evil. And true deeds, if all are done according to Islamic shari'ah.

References


