

## Exploring The Value of Struggle in The Inspirational Narratives Of Kip-Kuliah Recipients: A Sociological Literary Approach

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Article History	Abstract
Submitted date: 2025-07-01 Accepted date: 2025-07-25 Published date: 2025-12-30	Kartu Indonesia Pintar Kuliah (KIP-Kuliah) is a government initiative designed to promote accessible education for all segments of society. In their pursuit of higher education, KIP-Kuliah recipients have faced numerous challenges, including financial constraints and limited educational opportunities. These struggles are captured in narrative texts that compile inspiring stories from KIP-Kuliah recipients. The narratives in these literary works reflect the lived experiences of the authors, showcasing the various aspects of their life challenges. The research focuses on 30 short stories written by KIP-Kuliah scholarship recipients, which were gathered during an inspirational story competition organized by the KBBi (Keluarga Besar Beasiswa) at Universitas Negeri Semarang in 2024. This study aims to represent the values of struggle in inspirational stories through an extensive analysis of these works using descriptive analysis. The research employs a qualitative descriptive method, concentrating on sociological literary analysis as a framework. Data collection techniques included interviews, reading, and note-taking. The data analysis technique was conducted in three stages: data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion deduction. The results of the analysis show that there are several values of struggle among KIP-Kuliah scholarship recipients, such as fortitude, patience, perseverance, determination, hard work, diligence, resolve, sacrifice, persistence, and optimism.
<b>Keywords:</b> inspirational narratives; sociological literature; KIP-Kuliah; struggle values	

### Introduction

Kartu The Kartu Indonesia Pintar Kuliah (KIP-Kuliah) program is one of the government's strategic initiatives to support students with economic limitations who have the potential to pursue higher education at the university level (Zainal et al., 2023). The requirements for prospective KIP-Kuliah recipients are as follows: 1) prospective KIP-Kuliah recipients must have graduated from high school (SMA), vocational high school (SMK), or equivalent schools; 2) prospective KIP-Kuliah recipients must pass the new student admission selection process through all academic higher education admission paths; 3) they must have academic potential and come from economically disadvantaged families (Jatnika, 2024). KIP-Kuliah recipient students in higher education frequently overcome immense challenges as they continue their education. KIP-Kuliah students generally come from underprivileged families who have financial limitations to support college needs, such as living expenses, learning equipment, or transportation. In addition to financial challenges, KIP-Kuliah students also face academic, social, and psychological struggles. In terms of academic studies, they are required to adapt to college academic standards and face academic competition on campus. Through

KIP, students receive diverse benefits, but they must also follow the agreed-upon rules to continue receiving these benefits. According to Misro (2022), one of these principles is to improve their academic performance, which is measured by their grade point average (GPA) as a result of their studies. The social challenge that KIP students must overcome is adapting to a new environment, because sometimes they feel isolated due to economic differences with other students. KIP-Kuliah recipient students usually experience pressure in adjusting to their peer group, which can encourage them to engage in consumptive behavior to gain social standing (Nolo et al., 2024). Despite this, they must continue to strive to build relationships and contribute to various campus activities and learn to refrain from letting limitations hinder opportunities for interaction and achievement. According to Fadhilah et al. (2024), KIP-Kuliah recipients also have to face psychological challenges such as excessive mental pressure and often deal with academic pressure that can have a negative impact on their mental and emotional health. KIP-Kuliah students frequently feel pressure to succeed, both from themselves and from their families, who have immense expectations of them.

The KBBi (Keluarga Besar Beasiswa), as a student organization responsible for managing the KIP-Kuliah scholarship and directly interacting with its recipients, plays a significant role in supporting the development of their potential and enhancing their soft skills. One form of support provided is the organization of an inspirational story competition with the theme “Sang Pejuang Mimpi” (The Dream Fighter). The purpose of the competition was to provide a space for KIP-Kuliah scholarship recipients to express their feelings, ideas, thoughts, and experiences through writing. The stories were presented in narrative texts that conveyed the values of struggle against various challenges. The value of struggle will create a new mindset and attitude that will motivate KIP-Kuliah students to take better actions or activities to face and solve the problems they encounter in life. The value of struggle is represented in the efforts and determination of students in achieving their dreams of pursuing education (Kasmawati, 2022). These stories of struggle have important relevance in the world of education, especially to emphasize that every individual has the same right to access education regardless of their economic background. The values of struggle contained in the inspirational stories of KIP-Kuliah students have extensive meaning, both as inspiration for readers and as a reflection of the current social conditions of society. Additionally, the values of struggle found in the short stories written by KIP-Kuliah recipients can serve as an alternative approach to character and moral education for students, ensuring that, as the younger generation, they develop strong character and can compete in the global era (Anisa et al., 2024).

Concerning the value of struggle, several studies are relevant to this research. First, a study conducted by Izzudin et al. (2023) entitled “The Value of Struggle of the Main Character in the Short Story *Kabut di Teras Senja* by Sutini.” This study aims to identify the values of struggle found in the short story collection *Kabut di Teras Senja* by Sutini. The results show that the relationship between the elements of the fictional structure produces certain moral messages. The moral message intended to be conveyed to the readers centers on the value of struggle. These values include resilience, patience, cooperation, and self-sacrifice.

Second, the study conducted by Yanti et al. (2023) aimed to describe the values of struggle reflected in the novel “*Sehidup Sesurga Denganmu*” by Asma Nadia. This study employed a qualitative approach using a descriptive method. The analysis revealed a total of 31 instances of struggle-related values portrayed by several characters in the novel. These include 4 data of self-sacrifice, 2 of unity, 3 of mutual respect, 5 of patience, 11 of perseverance, and 6 of cooperation. Third, a similar study focusing on values of struggle in a short story was conducted by Sari et al. (2024). This research aimed to describe the values of struggle embodied

by two best friends, Ben and Jody, in the literary work *Filosofi Kopi* by Dee Lestari. The short story shows the journey of Ben and Jody in achieving their dreams. The theoretical framework used in this study is based on Joyomartono's theory, which outlines five key values of struggle: self-sacrifice, unity, mutual respect, patience, perseverance, and cooperation.

Previous studies on the values of struggle have primarily focused on perseverance, patience, cooperation, self-sacrifice, unity, mutual respect, and collaboration. In contrast, the present study seeks to expand upon these findings by introducing new values of struggle, including endurance, strong determination, diligence, steadfastness, sacrifice, persistence, and optimism. This research will employ a literary sociology approach, which aims to examine the relationship between literary works and aspects of social life and cultural background, including the values of struggle found in short stories (Herlina et al., 2023). Sociological literary approach is a field of literary studies that views literary works as representations of society. Concerning the social aspects reflected in the inspirational stories written by KIP-Kuliah scholarship recipients, a critical analysis of the values is necessary. This study aims to analyze: (1) the values of struggle presented in short stories written by KIP-Kuliah students; (2) the background of their lives; (3) the social and cultural conditions surrounding KIP-Kuliah students; and (4) the needs and challenges they face.

### **Methodology**

The research method employed in this study is a descriptive qualitative approach. The object of the research is a collection of short stories written by KIP-Kuliah scholarship recipients, which were submitted in the inspirational story competition organized by Keluarga Besar Beasiswa (KBBi) at Universitas Negeri Semarang. The data sources in this study consist of both primary and secondary sources. The primary sources include the short stories written by KIP-Kuliah students, while the secondary sources are drawn from relevant previous studies. The data analyzed in this research are the values of struggle identified within the short stories. Data collection was conducted through reading, observing, and note-taking techniques. The reading technique was used to thoroughly read the short stories. The observing technique aimed to ensure that the researcher gained a shared understanding and obtained accurate data (Saidah et al., 2024). The note-taking technique was employed to record the values of struggle found in the texts. In the analytical process, the researcher applied the sociological literary theory.

### **Finding and Discussion**

This study is a descriptive qualitative research that applies literary sociology analysis to explore the values of struggle found in short stories written by KIP-Kuliah scholarship recipients, which were compiled through an inspirational story competition. The researcher conducted data collection by reading, observing, and taking notes on 30 stories. From the collected stories, the researcher categorized them using a research instrument that includes the narrative structure and the identified values of struggle. This research instrument is presented in the following data table, which outlines the values of struggle found within the collection of inspirational stories.

Table 1. Data on the Values of Struggle Identified in the Inspirational Story Collection

No	Values of Struggle	Number of Data	Frequency
1	Endurance	1, 7, 10, 14, 20, 29	6
2	Patience	1, 10, 22	3
3	Perseverance	2, 3, 9, 12, 13, 18, 20, 21, 27, 28	10
4	String Determination	2, 3, 9, 15, 19, 23	6
5	Hard Working	2, 3, 4, 6, 11, 18, 22	7
6	Diligence	4, 9	2
7	Steadfastness	5	1
8	Sacrifice	6, 21	2
9	Persistence	8, 14	2
10	Optimism	13, 28	2

The table above presents ten values of struggle identified in 30 inspirational short stories analyzed by the researcher. The literary sociology approach was employed to explore the deeper meaning of each value by selecting two data samples for each identified value. These samples were then analyzed to determine whether the stories reflect the authors' real-life experiences as representations of the struggles they have faced in their personal lives.

## 1. Resilience

Resilience is a reflection of inner strength. The ability to accept all circumstances in life with an open heart is a form of endurance. According to Ameliawati et al. (2021), endurance is the ability to persevere, be patient, and continue to fight despite facing various challenges or painful situations in life. A person with a resilient heart is more likely to grow and rise from adversity. This is reflected in the story of a child who managed to overcome severe life trials, as seen in 6 out of the 30 inspirational stories analyzed. The value of endurance is illustrated in the following excerpt.

### Data 7

Title: Arunika

Author: Riska Meliyana

*“Satu semester, dua semester, tiga semester, ia mengikuti berbagai kegiatan dan mengikuti organisasi guna melatih diri agar kembali aktif dan lebih terbuka kepada orang lain. Itu juga bukan proses yang mudah, Arunika juga sering kali terjatuh lagi, beberapa hal juga kadang masih memicu traumanya. Namun, Arunika masih terus berusaha, beradaptasi, dan yang paling penting adalah menerima. Menerima diri sendiri, dan menerima orang-orang disekitarnya. Ia belajar bahwa kita tidak harus menjadi seperti apa yang mereka mau, begitupun sebaliknya, kita tidak bisa memaksakan mereka menjadi seperti apa yang kita mau.”*

*“One semester, two semesters, three semesters, she participated in various activities and joined organizations to train herself to become more active and open to others. It wasn't an easy process; Arunika often relapsed, and some things still triggered her trauma. However, Arunika continued to try, adapt, and most importantly, accept. Accept herself and accept the people around her. She learned that we don't have to be what others want us to be, and similarly, we can't force others to be what we want them to be.”*

The above quote illustrates the resilience of Arunika, who had to endure difficult times due to childhood trauma caused by bullying. Even though she had to live in fear, isolation, and lost her direction for years, she persevered and slowly fought to get back on her feet. With her fortitude, Arunika managed to go through a gradual process of recovery, accepting herself, and rediscovering her passion for life, even though she often fell during the process. This shows that fortitude is not only about successfully getting back up, but also about the process of healing the heart from the heavy burdens of life.

#### **Data 20**

Title: The power is within you (Kekuatan Ada di dalam Diri)

Author: Silvy Aprilliani

*"Setelah mendengar perkataan ibu, aku merasa aku harus lebih keras lagi untuk belajar, aku harus lebih semangat lagi untuk menjadi kebanggaan untuk orangtuaku. Setelah tiga hari aku di rumah, aku kembali lagi ke Semarang untuk menuntut ilmu, aku ingin menjadi kebanggaan untuk orang tuaku, aku harus sungguh-sungguh mengejar cita-citaku. Dan sampai sekarang ibu masih menjalani kemoterapi dan pengobatan untuk kanker tulang, dan aku bisa bangga dengan pencapaianku lima kali menjadi juara di lomba dakwah dan bercerita tingkat nasional."*

*"After hearing my mother's words, I felt that I had to study harder and be more enthusiastic to make my parents proud. After three days at home, I returned to Semarang to pursue my education. I want to be a source of pride for my parents, and I must sincerely pursue my aspirations. And to this day, my mother is still undergoing chemotherapy and treatment for bone cancer, and I can be proud of my achievements—five times as a champion in national-level da'wah and storytelling competitions."*

The quote above illustrates the resilience of the main character, Dinda, who must struggle alongside her mother, who is suffering from breast cancer and bone cancer. Her dream of becoming a successful person prevents Dinda from giving in to sadness or fear. Hoping to make her parents proud, she chooses to return to her hometown and pursue her education in order to achieve her goals, which means leaving her mother behind. The decision to return to school and win many competitions is a clear example of Dinda's resilience. She does not dwell in sadness but uses it as motivation to keep fighting.

## **2. Patience**

Patience is a state that must be embraced when an individual is facing difficulties in life. A patient person is able to restrain themselves, manage their emotions, and remain steadfast in the face of trials and challenging situations. Patience is not merely about enduring hardship; it also reflects the strength to act wisely, avoid despair, and maintain faith in the goodness that lies ahead. In the context of inspirational stories, the value of patience plays a crucial role in portraying strong characters who persevere through adversity. The researcher identified three instances of patience across the dataset. The following is an in-depth analysis of two selected excerpts that demonstrate the value of patience.

#### **Data 1**

Title: Celengan Cinta (Love Saving)

Author: Ananda Dwi Rahayu

*"Aku duduk termenung di depan gundukan tanah yang menyatu dengan taburan bunga, disatukan rintik hujan. Beberapa membasahiku, hampir meruntuhkanku yang lemas. Mataku bengkak, sudah habis terkuras semalaman saat tak kami sangka, bapak pergi untuk selamanya. Ibu menepuk punggungku, 'ayo pulang.' Tak ada senyuman di sana, hanya*

*cekungan di bawah matanya yang sayu. Tanganku merengkuh ibu, aku tahu aku harus lebih kuat untuk menguatkannya”*

*” I sat pensively in front of a mound of earth covered with scattered flowers, held together by drizzling rain. Some of it wet me, almost knocking me down. My eyes were swollen, drained from staying up all night when we didn’t expect it—Father had left us forever. Mother patted my back, “Let’s go home.” There was no smile there, only the hollows under her weary eyes. My hands clung to Mother; I knew I had to be stronger to support her.”*

The excerpt above demonstrates the value of hard work as portrayed by the character "Aku" (I). Despite experiencing a profound loss due to the sudden passing of their father, the character manages to endure the grief with composure, refusing to be consumed by sorrow. Acknowledging that they are the only source of strength for their mother, the character chooses to remain strong, offering encouragement and emotional support. They embrace their mother with love and gradually rise from their grief, showing resilience and determination in the face of adversity.

#### **Data 10**

Title: Mengukir Mimpi: DUIT Pendobrak Kesuksesan (Shaping Dreams: How DUIT Drives Success)

Author: Desi Permatasari

*"Pernah suatu ketika Sri dihadapkan suatu masalah, perekonomian di keluarga Sri menurun, untuk makan saja masih terbatas. Ketika itu sekolahnya akan melaksanakan ujian akhir semester bagi seluruh siswa siswinya, untuk bisa mengikuti ujian tengah semester diharuskan untuk membayar uang bangku, jika tidak membayarnya maka tidak bisa mengikuti ujian tengah semester di sekolahnya. Sri sudah bilang ke orang tuanya namun tanggapan kedua orang tua Sri tetap sama, mereka tidak sanggup untuk membayar biayanya. Sampai pada suatu ketika orang tuanya bilang ke Sri untuk berhenti sekolah dulu...*

*Sri hampir menyerah dan putus asa, tetapi ketika malam hari tiba disertai guyuran hujan yang turun Sri membuka jendela sambil merenung, dan pada saat itu Sri langsung kepikiran dengan prinsip doa, usaha, ikhtiar, dan tawakal."*

*"Once upon a time, Sri faced a problem: her family's finances had declined, and they could barely afford to eat. At that time, her school was about to conduct the final semester exams for all students. To participate in the mid-semester exams, students were required to pay tuition fees. If they couldn't pay, they couldn't take the exams at school. Sri had already told her parents, but their response remained the same—they couldn't afford the fees. Eventually, her parents told Sri to stop going to school for a while...*

*Sri was almost ready to give up and felt hopeless, but one night, as the rain poured down, she opened the window and pondered. At that moment, she immediately thought of the principles of prayer, effort, striving, and trust in God."*

From the above quote, Sri's attitude in facing economic problems shows that patience is not only about controlling emotions, but also the ability to control oneself by understanding the circumstances of her parents and finding a solution without blaming anyone. Sri always adheres to her principle of life, DUIT (Prayer, Effort, Initiative, and Trust in God), which gives her peace of mind in facing this test. Sri then got up and decided to sell fried meatballs to pay for her school exams. Sri is always patient and continues to strive to find solutions to all problems that arise, rather than just staying silent and blaming her parents' circumstances.

### 3. Perseverance

Someone who has a never-give-up attitude definitely has a strong fighting spirit to keep trying and persevere in the face of various obstacles and difficulties in life. This trait is also closely related to not giving up easily and being able to bounce back from adversity. Never giving up is an important positive character trait that young people need to have in order to achieve their goals and fight for their dreams. The analysis results show that the value of never giving up is the most frequently found value, with 10 out of 30 data points. Below are quotes from two sample data points analyzed:

#### Data 12

Title: Pemimpi dari Negeri Sejuta Gambir (The Dreamer from the Land of a Million Gambir)

Author: Gusneini Putri

*“Setelah janji di hari tersebut, malamnya tepat tanggal 17 Juli 2022 ibu berpulang ke yang kuasa. Butuh waktu untuk pikiran dan hatiku bisa kembali ke dunia ini. Rasanya kepergian ibuku, merenggut semua mimpiku. Wish list yang ku buat kini berongga, karena nama beliau terselip di antara beberapa list tersebut... Setahun lebih almarhumah pergi, aku pun sudah mulai menata kembali tujuan hidup... Sadar akan kuliah harus mandiri, aku sangat jarang meminta uang kepada ayahku, aku hanya bisa mengandalkan sedikit kemampuan menulisku untuk mengikuti berbagai perlombaan dan mencari pekerjaan di berbagai kantor hukum secara daring (online). Alhamdulillah, uang dari lomba, kerja dan beasiswa mampu mencukupiku sampai sekarang.”*

*“After the promise on that day, on the evening of July 17, 2022, my mother passed away. It took time for my mind and heart to return to this world. The loss of my mother felt like it had taken away all my dreams. The wish list I had made now feels empty, because her name was tucked away among those lists... More than a year after her passing, I have begun to redefine my life’s purpose... Realizing that I must be self-reliant for my studies, I rarely ask my father for money. I can only rely on my limited writing skills to participate in various competitions and seek employment at law firms online. Alhamdulillah, the money from competitions, work, and scholarships has been sufficient for me until now.”*

In the quote, it is evident that Innay, who hails from West Sumatra, faced economic constraints that prevented her from pursuing higher education. She also lost her mother, who had been her primary source of motivation to earn a bachelor's degree. However, with her unwavering determination, she began to rise above her circumstances and continued to strive forward by leveraging her writing skills through competitions and eventually working remotely. Economic constraints were not an obstacle for Innay. Instead, she successfully completed her studies independently and continued to strive to achieve her dream of becoming a great lawyer and being beneficial to others.

### 4. Strong Determination

Strong determination is a strong will and steadfastness to achieve goals, accompanied by conviction and sincere effort, without easily giving up in the face of obstacles. This is an inner strength that drives a person to continue fighting, even when facing difficulties. Here is the quote.

#### Data 2

Title: Sang Pejuang Mimpi: Dari Desa untuk Dunia IT (The Dream Fighter: A Journey from Village Roots to the World of IT)

Penulis: Toni Hidayat

*”Dengan tekad kuat, Jaka berjuang untuk meraih mimpinya. Ia belajar keras dari buku-buku lama yang ia temukan di perpustakaan desa. Ia juga berusaha mengumpulkan uang untuk membeli komputer bekas agar bisa belajar pemrograman.”*

*“With strong determination, Jaka fought to achieve his dream. He studied hard from old books he found in the village library. He also tried to save money to buy a used computer so he could learn programming.”*

The quote above contains the value of struggle in the form of strong determination shown by Jaka. He fought and was determined to achieve his dream despite his limited financial circumstances. Financial limitations did not make Jaka give up; he became even more determined to succeed and advance his village through technology. The value of determination is shown in the quote, “With strong determination, Jaka fought to achieve his dream.”

### **Data 3**

Title: Sang Pejuang Mimpi: Anak Petani Sabet Gelar Mahasiswa Berprestasi (The Dream Fighter: A Farmer’s Son Rises as an Outstanding Student)

Author: Aprilia Rizki Saputri

*“Maraknya berita tentang mahasiswa penerima KIP-K yang bergaya hidup hedon berhasil ditepisnya dengan membuktikan bahwa tidak semua penerima KIP-K demikian, April membuktikan dengan terus berproses dan berprogres hingga mampu menjadi seorang mahasiswa berprestasi yang kini berhasil meraih lebih dari 40 penghargaan di bidang kepenulisan tingkat nasional.”*

*“The widespread news about KIP-K recipients living a hedonistic lifestyle was successfully refuted by proving that not all KIP-K recipients are like that. April proved this by continuing to work hard and progress until she became an outstanding student who has now won more than 40 national awards in the field of writing.”*

In the quoted sentence, it is evident that April possesses a strong determination to become an outstanding student. Despite coming from a modest family, she did not allow those limitations to hinder her dream of pursuing higher education. Through hard work, discipline, and an unwavering spirit, April secured the opportunity to attend university and received the KIP-K scholarship, which helped her realize her aspirations. Her determination was her main motivation in facing various challenges during her studies, enabling her to achieve impressive accomplishments.

## **5. Hard Working**

Hard work is a commendable attitude that everyone who wants to be successful in life should have. Hard work can also be called the key to achieving success and the goals that humans aspire to (Budiman et al., 2021). Here is a quote about the value of hard work.

### **Data 4**

Title: Ketekunan dan Kerja Keras untuk Mendapatkan Beasiswa KIP-Kuliah dalam Meraih Mimpi (Chasing Dreams Through Perseverance: A Journey to the KIP-Kuliah Scholarship)

Author: Edwin Fernando Lado Djo

*“Aku mulai mencari pekerjaan dan bekerja sebagai kuli bangunan untuk mengumpulkan uang agar bisa mendaftar masuk ke perguruan tinggi Universitas Flores. Pada tahun keduanya Aku mendengar ada pembukaan pendaftaran mahasiswa baru di universitas flores, Aku mencoba mendaftar dan berhasil masuk sebagai mahasiswa.”*

*“I started looking for work and took a job as a construction laborer to save money so I could apply to Flores University. In my second year, I heard about the university’s new student enrollment opening, so I applied and was accepted as a student.”*

This quote illustrates the strong value of hard work in Edwin. With great determination, he was willing to work as a construction worker to earn money to realize his dream of attending Flores University. His persistent and sincere efforts in working show that hard work is not only about physical strength, but also commitment and perseverance to achieve long-term goals. When the opportunity to enroll as a new student arose, Edwin did not waste it and was accepted, reflecting that consistent hard work will bear fruit and pave the way to success. This value teaches the importance of sincere effort and perseverance in facing challenges in order to achieve one's goals.

#### **Data 11**

Judul: Kekuatan Mimpi (The Power of Dream)

Penulis: Dewi Kusumadani

*“Dalam satu tahun ini, Zidna bekerja di pabrik yang tidak jauh dari rumahnya. Kesehariannya ia gunakan untuk bekerja, dan belajar. Saat mendapat shift pagi, Zidna gunakan waktu malam untuk belajar.”*

*“This year, Zidna has been working at a factory not far from her home. She spends her days working and studying. When she has the morning shift, Zidna uses the night to study.”*

The above quote proves that Zidna embodies the value of hard work. Zidna shows her hard work by managing her time between work, study, and helping her family. She also leverages her creativity through motivational videos on TikTok, which eventually generate additional income. Despite facing various challenges, Zidna remains persistent, successfully saving up for school fees and supporting her parents, proving that perseverance and genuine effort yield positive results.

## **6. Diligence**

According to Poerwadarminta cited in (Permatasari et al., 2024), perseverance is being determined and sincere, so that a person's ability to focus on their work can produce monumental masterpieces that will be remembered throughout the ages. Nuryaningsih & Imanah in (Permatasari et al., 2024) argue that perseverance means being disciplined in something, continuing to make efforts step by step, so that one does not get bored with continuing to try. The following is an excerpt about the value of perseverance.

#### **Data 9**

Title: Aku dan Mimpiku (Me and My Dream)

Author: Aysyah

*“Sekarang, aku coba lagi masuk melalui span-PTKIN lagi-lagi aku dinyatakan gagal, itu tidak membuat semangat ku turun aku coba lagi masuk melalui mahasiswa undangan POLITEKNIK lagi-lagi hasilnya GAGAL...”*

*“Now, I tried again to enter through span-PTKIN, but again I failed. That did not discourage me. I tried again to enter through the POLITEKNIK invitation program, but again I FAILED...”*

This quote shows that Aysyah has great perseverance in achieving her dream of studying at UIN. Even though she experienced several failures when registering, she did not give up and continued to study and try hard. Her perseverance and hard work finally paid off when Aysyah

was accepted at UIN, proving that persistence and patience in facing obstacles are the keys to success.

## 7. Steadfastness

Steadfastness is a moral value that can shape and train a person's positive mental and moral character. With determination, a person can persevere in achieving their goals, even if they encounter difficulties along the way. This value can be seen in the following excerpt.

### Data 5

Title: *Indahnya Usai Berproses (The Beauty Beyond the Journey)*

Author: Alfyyah Azhar

*“Sementara Elena berjuang dengan konflik batinnya, berita tentang karyanya yang terinspirasi oleh Desa Aurora menyebar. Sebuah galeri seni terkenal di kota besar tertarik untuk mengadakan pameran tunggal Elena. Meskipun ayahnya masih sakit, Elena merasa panggilan untuk mengikuti peluang ini. Kali ini, dia tahu bahwa kebahagiaan dan kesuksesannya akan menjadi hadiah terindah bagi ayahnya.”*

*“While Elena struggled with her inner conflict, news of her work inspired by Aurora Village spread. A renowned art gallery in a major city expressed interest in hosting a solo exhibition for Elena. Despite her father’s illness, Elena felt a calling to pursue this opportunity. This time, she knew that her happiness and success would be the most beautiful gift for her father.”*

In this excerpt, we see that Elena is experiencing an inner conflict between staying at home and caring for her sick father or going to the city to hold an exhibition. However, with her determination, Elena chooses to hold the exhibition as a gift for her father. This shows that Elena is determined to achieve her dreams even in difficult circumstances.

## 8. Sacrifice

The value of sacrifice is a person's willingness to face challenges and trials, both internal and external (Fals et al., 2023). The value of sacrifice is necessary in achieving a dream. A person who is pursuing a dream must be ready and willing to spend time, thought, energy, and even material resources to strive to achieve that dream. This value can be seen in the following quote.

### Data 6

Title: *Kilas Balik Kisah Sang Pejuang Mimpi (A Glimpse into the Past: The Dream Fighter’s Story)*

Author: Anggi Nurmalita

*“Alhamdulillah, setelah diterpa tiga kali kegagalan saya berhasil diterima di salah satu kampus di Kota Bandung, Namun, lagi-lagi Allah swt. berkehendak lain, kedua orang tua saya tidak meridhoi keputusan saya untuk berkuliah di Bandung. Dikarenakan letak yang terlalu jauh dan biaya hidup di Bandung cenderung lebih mahal.”*

*“Praise be to Allah, after facing three failures, I was finally accepted into one of the universities in Bandung. However, once again, Allah had other plans. My parents did not approve of my decision to study in Bandung, as the location was too far away and the cost of living in Bandung tends to be more expensive.”*

The above quote shows Anggi's sacrifice in giving up her dream college. She was willing to sacrifice not studying at her dream college because her parents did not approve of her studying in Bandung, which was too far away and had a high cost of living. However, Anggi

did not give up there. She continued to try to follow another path so that she was accepted at a university in Purwokerto, which was close to where she lived.

#### **Data 21**

Title: Kisah Riri (Riri's Story)

Author: Sundari

*"Dikeluarkannya semua air mata yang selama ini tertahan. Dadanya terasa sesak mengingat semua hal yang terjadi dalam hidupnya. Mulai dari dirinya yang harus mandiri tanpa didampingi orang tua, dia harus bersusah payah mengatur pekerjaan rumah dengan kegiatan sekolah."*

*"All the tears she had been holding back came pouring out. Her chest felt tight as she remembered everything that had happened in her life. Starting from having to be independent without her parents, she had to struggle to manage her housework and school activities."*

This excerpt from the short story shows Riri's sacrifices in life. She had to sacrifice her time to do the housework that should have been done by her parents, and she also had to take care of her younger sibling because her parents had to migrate to earn a living. Riri had to sacrifice her time to do all of this while she was busy with school.

### **9. Perseverance**

Perseverance is defined as a person's determination to maintain their position (Nurtriana et al., 2023). According to Duckworth & Quinn (2009), persistence is a tendency to remain interested and determined to achieve difficult long-term goals. When someone has a specific long-term goal, they will tend to devote a lot of time and energy to it. The value of persistence can be seen in the following example.

#### **Data 8**

Judul: Merajut Aksara Harapan

Author: Astuti

*"Sebenarnya, berangkat sekolah dengan sepeda mini tua membuatku tak jarang mendapat bully-an dan ejekan dari teman ataupun kakak kelasku. Walaupun mendapatkan lingkungan sekolah yang sedikit toxic aku tetap menjadi anak yang aktif dan rajin, karena aku tahu ada sesuatu yang harus aku persiapkan untuk masa depan. Berkat kegigihanku dalam belajar, aku telah meraih prestasi sebagai juara kelas sejak kelas 1 SD."*

*"Actually, riding my old mini bike to school often made me the target of bullying and ridicule from my friends and older classmates. Even though the school environment was a little toxic, I remained an active and diligent student, because I knew I had to prepare for the future. Thanks to my persistence in studying, I have achieved the title of class champion since the first grade of elementary school."*

This quote shows that despite her limited facilities, Astuti remained persistent and serious about her education. This is proven by her achievement of being top of her class since she was in first grade.

#### **Data 14**

Title: Anak Pembantu (The Maid's Child)

Auhtor: Laila Palupi Rahmadani

*“Anak pembantu apa mampu kuliah? Kuliah mahal loh! Dengan nada agak tinggi. Perkataan tersebut tidak membuatku patah semangat untuk mencari informasi beasiswa, salah satu syarat beasiswa KIPK yaitu SKTM. Meskipun diperjalanan menjadi mahasiswa aku ditolak jalur SNMPTN aku tetap berusaha mencari cara lain dan jalur mandiri UIN Walisongo merupakan salah satu jalur yang aku pilih dan ya aku lolos menjadi mahasiswi Hukum Pidana Islam serta lolos menjadi penerima beasiswa KIPK.”*

*“Can a maid's child afford to go to college? College is expensive, you know!” she said in a slightly raised voice. Those words didn't discourage me from seeking information about scholarships. One of the requirements for the KIPK scholarship is an SKTM. Even though I was rejected through the SNMPTN pathway on my journey to becoming a student, I continued to seek other ways, and the independent pathway at UIN Walisongo was one of the options I chose. And yes, I was admitted as a student of Islamic Criminal Law and also received the KIPK scholarship.”*

The quote above shows that Laila persistently strived to fulfill her dream of going to college despite being mocked and doubted by her friend, yet that did not deter her resolve. Laila's rejection in the SNMPTN did not discourage her. She kept trying and applied through other channels so that she could be accepted at a university and receive a scholarship thanks to her persistence in realizing her dream.

## 10. Optimism

Optimism is the belief that everything has a positive side and always having hope in everything. In achieving a dream, this value is necessary so that a person does not give up easily even though the path is not easy. This value can be seen in the following short story excerpt.

### Data 13

Title: Bermimpi ingin menjadi Seorang Mahasiswa (A Dream to Become a College Student)

Author: Jumrawati

*“Saya ingin kuliah”*

*“Dapat uang dari mana kamu kuliah, Tante bukan tidak ingin membiayai tapi anak-anak Tante ramai dan tante juga tidak ada kerjaan”*

*Seketika pertanyaan itu dihempaskan oleh keadaan yang begitu kejamnya finansial. Namun aku yakin atas kekuasaannya, jika ada kemauan maka akan ada kemudahan.”*

*“I want to go to college.”*

*“Where will you get the money for college? It's not that I don't want to pay for it, but I have many children and I don't have a job.”*

*That question was immediately dismissed by the harsh financial reality. However, I believe in His power. Where there is a will, there is a way.*

The above excerpt shows that Jumrawati has an optimistic attitude in pursuing her dreams, even though her family is limited and cannot help with her college tuition. However, she remains optimistic that she can go to college and achieve her dreams.

### Data 28

Judul: Never Give Up

Author: Setiya Adi Buono

*“Ini adalah jalan terakhir aku menuju kuliah. Jika aku gagal, aku harus mengubur semua mimpiku. H-1 bulan, itu adalah waktu yang aku punya untuk belajar menguasai materi utbk. Rasanya, apa mungkin dalam waktu yang begitu singkat aku bisa menguasai semua materi. Sangat mungkin! Aku yakin pada diriku bahwa aku pasti bisa menguasai materi tersebut.”*

*“This is my last chance to go to college. If I fail, I will have to bury all my dreams. I have one month to study and master the UTBK material. It seems impossible that I can master all the material in such a short time. But it is possible! I am confident that I can master the material.”*

The above quote shows the character's optimistic attitude in preparing himself to take one of the college entrance exams. Even though he only had one month, he was very confident that he could master all the material in that time.

Research related to strong determination has been conducted by Amelia et al. (2024) in a study titled “Moral Values in Leila S. Chudori's Novel *Laut Bercerita*.” Amelia et al. found strong determination in the character of Laut. This is presented through strong determination obtained from the surrounding environment, starting from the family to Laut's social circle. Then, the value of hard work, research by Syahla et al. (2025) with research entitled “Analysis of Character Education Values in the Small Composer by Soesilo Toer”. The value of hard work is shown by Henki, who works hard to support his family by selling cakes in the morning and then helping to cook the goods. Even when he goes to school, he brings his goods with him. After school, Henki has to buy firewood. After that, he has to take care of his two younger siblings. This shows the value of hard work in Henki's daily life. Next is the value of perseverance. In previous research by Cindy et al (2021) entitled “Structural Analysis and Character Education Values in the Novel “The Sun of the Rain” by Viona Prameswari, the value of perseverance was found. The value of perseverance in the novel *The Sun Of The Rain* is shown when the character Rain wins the competition and brings pride to her school. This shows that Rain is diligent in her studies because her perseverance enabled her to win the competition.

Previous studies analyzing literary works have also found moral values, such as perseverance. A study examining Andrea Hirata's novel “*Sang Pemimpi*” by Viola et al. (2022) found that Pak Mustar possessed perseverance because he had to accept the fact that his child was not accepted into the school of his choice due to poor grades. Next is the value of sacrifice. An analysis conducted by Dtanjoeng et al. (2021) of Andrea Hirata's novel “*Ayah*” shows the value of sacrifice, marked by the character's sincere willingness to help others without expecting anything in return. The value of persistence is also found in the analysis of the short story “*Tupai Si Pantang Menyerah*” (The Squirrel Who Never Gives Up). In this study, Abraham Maslow's humanistic theory was used, and the value of persistence was found in the squirrel, who persistently persuaded his grandfather to take him as his student. A similar value is also found in the research by Suppiah et al. (2021), which examines the elements of philosophical thinking in Malay literature in modern short stories, where the value of perseverance is found in the short story titled “*Cerpen Air Mata Dalang*” (The Puppeteer's Tears). In this short story, Pak Yasok has the ability to think and strive for the excellence of his children's education so that they can succeed. Optimistic values in short stories are not only found in this study; in a previous study conducted by Christy (2021), optimistic values were also found in the novel “*Rahvayana Aku Lala Padamu*,” where the character Rahwana is optimistic and confident that Sinta will eventually come to his house.

## **Conclusion**

The value of struggle represents the outcome of an individual's efforts in facing life's challenges. Based on the analysis conducted through the lens of literary sociology, the researcher concludes that various forms of struggle-related values are found in the collection of

inspirational stories written by KIP-Kuliah scholarship recipients. Among these, the most frequently identified value is perseverance, which appears in 10 out of the 30 stories analyzed. The values of struggle demonstrated by the characters serve as guiding principles in their thoughts and actions when dealing with problems. These values act as a driving force that enables the characters to find solutions and eventually overcome the difficulties they face. The researcher hopes that this study on the values of struggle among KIP-Kuliah recipients can be beneficial and serve as a meaningful lesson for others to continue progressing in pursuit of their dream.

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