

## BUSHIDO : REPRESENTATION of “BUSHIDO VALUES” in the MAIN CHARACTERS of the FILM RUROUNI KENSHIN BEGINNING

<sup>1</sup>Azmi Rahman Irfanto, <sup>2</sup>Pipiet Furisari

<sup>1</sup>Universitas of Dian Nuswantoro, Semarang, Indonesia

<sup>2</sup>Universitas of Dian Nuswantoro, Semarang, Indonesia

([312201800803@mhs.dinus.ac.id](mailto:312201800803@mhs.dinus.ac.id))

**Abstract.** The discussion in this study is about the representation of bushido values from the main character in the film Rurouni Kenshin the Beginning. Kenshin is depicted as a samurai expert in using swords and brave. The purpose of this study is to describe the bushido values found in Kenshin using Stuart Hall's representation theory. The research method used in this study is a qualitative descriptive research method, namely a research method that utilizes qualitative data and is described descriptively. Based on the results of the analysis, it is known that Kenshin's bushido values include honesty, courage, kindness, sincerity, politeness, etc.

Keywords: bushido, film, samurai, values, representation

### RESEARCH BACKGROUND

Bushido is a way that must be applied by every honorable samurai knight and comes from the warrior class. The word “bushido” comes from 武士道 (ぶしど, bushido), consisting of the kanji 武士 (ぶし, bushi) which means warrior or army, 道 (ぶし, do) which means way of life or rules. Literally the meaning of bushido is “the way of the army”. Bushido functions as a guideline for life that regulates the attitudes, behavior, and decision- making of samurai in carrying out their duties. This principle teaches the importance of courage, honor, respect of truth, justice, maintaining integrity, and loyalty to superiors or clans. The values of bushido come from a blend of philosophical and spiritual traditions in Japan, such as Confucianism, Shinto, and Zen Buddhism, which emphasize self-control, inner peace, and wisdom in facing life.

This study aims to represent the values of bushido reflected in the main character of the film Rurouni Kenshin the Beginning. The main goal is to understand the meaning of bushido values such as loyalty, honor, politeness, courage, honesty, virtue, and sincerity.

Research on the theme of bushido values has been conducted by DEDE RACHMAT (DEDE, 2018) in the Rurouni Kenshin film based the theory of film narrative structure with the research title Bushido Values Still Held by the Main Character in the Rurouni Kenshin Film by Keishi Ootomo. This study explain the seven bushido values that are still held by the Kenshin character.

There are similarities between previous research and the author’s research, namely the bushido value of the main character in the film Rurouni Kenshin by Keishi Ootomo. The difference between Dede Rachmat’s research and this study lies in the data source to be studied, Dede uses sources from the film Rurouni Kenshin by Keishi Ootomo in 2012 while the research

that the author examines uses data sources from the film Rurouni Kenshin by Keishi Ootomo the Beginning in 2021.

## REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Related to the theory used in this study is the theory of representation. Representation is defined as the process of reconstructing the world and the process of interpreting it, representation is a depiction of a meaning. Representation can be interpreted as the use or use of signs to display something that is absorbed by the senses, or that is felt in physical form. The representation referred to in this study is a form of acceptance and rejection. Representation is a concept used in the social process of meaning through the available marking system, such as dialogue, writing, video, film, photography. Representation means producing meaning by using language to convey something meaningful or to represent something meaningfully to others.

## RESEARCH METHOD

The research method used in this study is a qualitative descriptive method. Qualitative descriptive is a research method used to describe an event or condition as a whole, the data collected is qualitative, meaning data in the form of words, not numbers.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the analysis of the bushido values of the main character “Kenshin” in the film Rurouni Kenshin the Beginning produced 5 values shown by the main character Kenshin as follows.

### 1. Courage

Courage is doing what is right by facing all kinds of dangers, risking oneself, and breaking through the jaws of death according to the samurai. The spiritual aspect of courage is evidenced by calmness of mind. It is a static form of courage, while dynamic courage is action. Courage is a character and attitude to stand firm for the principles of truth that are believed in, even in the face of various pressures and difficulties. Courage is also a characteristic of the samurai. Samurai are prepared to take any risks, including risking their lives to fight for whatever they believe in and defend.



日村剣心	: 私怨はないが。
勝井	: ん？
日村剣心	: 新時代のため。
勝井	: そやつあなんち？
日村剣心	: あなた方には死んでもらう。
<i>Himura Kenshin</i>	: <i>Shien wa naiga...</i>
<i>Katsui</i>	: <i>N?</i>
<i>Himura Kenshin</i>	: <i>Shin jidai no tame...</i>
<i>Katsui</i>	: <i>Soyatsua nanchi?</i>
<i>Himura Kenshin</i>	: <i>Anatagata ni wa shinde morau</i>
<i>Himura Kenshin</i>	: I have no personal grudge...
<i>Katsui</i>	: What?
<i>Himura Kenshin</i>	: But for a new era...
<i>Katsui</i>	: What's he said?
<i>Himura Kenshin</i>	: You're all will die

The dialogue except is about Himura Kenshin who has been captured by the Katsui group and intimidates Kenshin, but Himura Kenshin is not afraid and even turns around to scare the Katsui group.

The dialogue and the picture represent the value of bushido in him, if Himura Kenshin does not feel afraid at all because he is surrounded by several samurai who are ready to execute Himura Kenshin. However, Himura Kenshin shows that he is very confident and will do everyting for the victory and Himura believes he can bring a new era he dreamed of.

## 2. Virtue

Bushido has two aspects of balance that are prioritized and must be possessed by nobles, namely, masculine (yin), and feminine (yang). Jin represents the feminine nature of love. Although practicing swordmanship and war strategy, samurai must have the nature of love, compassion, and care.

巴	: では私を始末しますか？ 昨晚の黒いを侍のように。
日村剣心	: どう思うとあなたの勝手だ、だが徳は皆が安心 して暮らせる新時代のために人を斬っている。 誰彼構わず斬っているのではなく。 刀を持つ幕府の者だけを敵としている。 市井の人はもちろん敵であっても刀を持たぬ者は決して斬りはしない。
<i>Tomoe</i>	: <i>Dewa watashi o shimatsu shimasuka?</i> <i>Sakuban no kuroi o samurai no yō ni.</i>
<i>Himura Kenshin</i>	<i>Dō omou to anata no katteda, daga toku wa mina ga anshinshite kuraseru shin jidai no tame ni hito o kitte iru.</i>

- Dareka kamawazu kitte iru no dewanaku.*  
*Katana o motsu bakufu kitte iru no dewanaku.*  
*Ichiino hito wa mochiron tekideatte mo katana o motanu mono wa kesshite kiri wa shinai.*
- Tomoe : So, are you going to kill me too?  
Like the black samurai last night
- Himura Kenshin : Whatever you think, i will kill to bring about a new era where everyone can live in peace.  
It's not like killing everyone.  
Only shogun soldiers carried swords.  
Absolutely do not kill any townspeople or anyone who does not have a sword.

From the dialogue, it talks about who the people are that Himura Kenshin will kill to bring about a new era.

The dialogue represents the value of bushido virtue displayed by Himura Kenshin in his dialogue with Tomoe. Showing that Himura Kenshin has a sense of care by not killing anyone to bring a new era but he will only kill enemy troops, namely the shogun's soldiers.

### 3. Honesty

Honesty is an important moral principle in Bushido. Samurai are expected to always speak the truth, act the truth, and value the truth in all their actions. samurai has the power to decide on a certain action according to reason, without hesitation. Samurai always act honestly and sincerely, speaking and giving information that is in accordance with the truth.

- 巴 : お話と为什么呢？  
日村剣心 : あなたは面倒の元だ、ゆうべ見たことは一切忘れてここを立ち去ってもらいたい。
- 巴 : ここにいては迷惑ですか？  
日村剣心 : 家の者が心配するだろう。
- 巴 : 帰れる家があるなら、夜更けに女一人でお酒なんか。  
日村剣心 : どんな事情かは知らんが、今我々はあなたに構っている状況じゃないんだ。
- Tomoe : *Ohanashi to nandeshou?*  
Himura Kenshin : *Anatawa mendō no genda, yūbe mita koto wa issai wasurete koko o tachisatte moraitai.*
- Tomoe : *Koko ni ite wa meiwaku desuka?*  
Himura Kenshin : *Ie no mono ga shinpai surudarou.*
- Tomoe : *Kaereru ie ga arunara, yofuke ni on'nahitori de osake nanka.*  
Himura Kenshin : *Don'na jijō kawa shiranga, ima wareware wa anata ni kamatte irareru jōkyō janainda.*
- Tomoe : Is there anything you want to talk about?  
Himura Kenshin : You are the source of the problem, I want you to forget everything you saw last night and get out of here.
- Tomoe : Is it disturbing here?  
Himura Kenshin : You're family at home will be worried

Tomoe : If I had a home to go back to, I wouldn't drink alcohol alone late night

The dialogue is very clear representation of Himura Kenshin about the honesty of bushido shown when he met Tomoe and said "this is not your place, go home, this is not a safe place, I feel disturbed by your presence here". Himura is very honest when he said that because he did not want to be disturbed by Tomoe's presence in Himura's neighborhood, and did not want Tomoe to interfere in his affairs because it could endanger himself.

#### 4. Sincerity

Sincerity is the end and beginning of all things, without sincerity there will be nothing. An honest attitude in thought, word, and deed. This value is highly upheld and serves as a foundation for humans to better understand morality and ethics.

日村剣心 : しかしその時が来たら、甘いざれ言かもしれないけど、俺は人を切るのではなく、人を守る道を探そうと思う。この目に映る人々の幸せを大切にまもりながら、罪を背負い償う道を。巴、君が一度は失った幸せを、今度こそ俺が守り抜いてみせる。

Himura Kenshin : *Shikashi sonotoki ga kitara, amaizare gen kamo shirenaikedo, ore wa hito o kiru no dewanaku, hito o mamoreru michi o sagasou to omou.*

*Kono meniutsuru hitobito no shiawase o taisetsu ni mamorinagara, tsumi o shoi tsugunau michi o.*

*Tomoe, Kimi ga ichido wa ushinatta shiawase o, kondokoso ore ga mamorinuute miseru.*

Himura Kenshin : But when that time comes, even if it sounds stupid, I will find a way to protect people instead of killing them.

A way to maintain people's happiness, to bear my sins and atone for my mistake.

Tomoe, this time I will protect the happiness that you once lost.

The representation of Himura Kenshin's bushido value of sincerity is when he tells Tomoe, "when the war is over, I will find a way to protect people rather than killing again, to bear all my sins, I will maintain everyone's happiness". It is very clear that Himura regrets his actions because he has taken away the happiness of others to reach a new era.

### 5. Courtesy

Samurai were never rude and careless, but always used their code of ethics perfectly at all times. Politeness and respect were not only shown to leaders and elders, but to guests or anyone they met.



The representation of the bushido value of Himura's politeness can be seen when he receives a guest, namely one of his leader's trusted people, Himura invites his guest to sit first and then he follows, but Himura's way of sitting is by sitting in seiza, namely sitting by bending both legs towards the back and sitting on the heels then placing his hands on his thighs with his body in an upright position. Seiza sitting is a traditional Japanese sitting style because it is believed to be very polite when entertaining guests or older people. It is very representative that Himura has the politeness that he upholds as a samurai.

### CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis, it can be concluded that Himura Kenshin has 5 bushido values, namely courage, virtue, honesty, sincerity, and politeness. Although Himura Kenshin is very famous with the nickname of the cold-blooded killer, he did not immediately abandon the bushido values in his daily life as a samurai because he carried out these values correctly. If Himura did not carry out the principles of bushido values correctly, he would not hesitate to kill people in front of him even if they were ordinary people. And also does not care about compassion for others. Therefore, the principles of bushido values of a samurai are very important to carry out to maintain his dignity in front of others.

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