

## THE LEADERSHIP CONCEPTS OF PETER G. NORTHOUSE REFLECTED IN JOHN GRISHAM'S NOVEL CHARACTER, JAKE BRIGANCE

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**Abstract.** The purpose of the research is to find the hero's action that Jake Brigance does to the people in Canton based on the three novels of John Grisham, to find whether Jake has a good character based on Peter G. Northouse's book "Leadership: Theory and Practice or not, to find that Jake Brigance's character reflected the leadership character concepts in Peter G. Northouse's book. find the theories of the leadership of Peter G. Northouse reflected in John Grisham's novel character based on characteristics approach. The research is in a qualitative method, starting by collecting some data about the leadership concepts from Peter G. Northouse titled The Leadership: Theory and Practice based on the characteristics approach. Then finding who is Jake Brigance, and why John Grisham puts him in the three of his novels (A Time to Kill, Sycamore Row, and A Time for Mercy) to be the main character and also can be a decision-maker of the problems in the novels. The aims of the research are to find the actions that Jake Brigance does to the people in Canton based on the three novels of John Grisham, to find whether Jake's character is reflected in Peter G. Northouse's book "Leadership: Theory and Practice or not.

**Keywords:** leadership; theories; Jake Brigance

### I. INTRODUCTION

There are many definitions about leadership approach (Wibowo [1]). There are: (1) characteristic perspective (2) action perspective (3) possibility perspective. The characteristic perspective means the approach is related to the characters of people. The action perspective means the way that the person does. The possibility perspective means the leader acts depending on the situation. The leader is a pragmatist. Now, the research was based on the characteristics approach. The research is based on Peter G. Northouse's book "The Leadership: Theory and Practice," the character approaches of leadership consist of 5. They are: 1. Intelligence 2. Self-Confidence 3. Diligent 4. Integrity 5. Ability to socialize. Intelligence, if we talk about leadership, it is related to intelligence. A leader is usually smarter than the staff. He/She could manage, lead, and handle all problems. Self-Confident, A good leader must know what he/she will do. He/She must do everything confidently. Perseverance, A good leader never stops to lead, managing, working, and handling all problems. He/She will take a rest if all can be handled. Integrity, A good leader should be honest and loyal to the group. Ability to socialize, A good leader should be able to socialize with people around him.

The researcher has made a relationship between Peter G. Northouse's leadership with the three of John Grisham's novels. The novels are "A Time to Kill," "Sycamore Row" and "A Time for Mercy," which focus on one of the characters, Jake Brigance. In the three novels, Jake Brigance was told to be born in 1957 in Canton, Mississippi. He was just an ordinary man and an attorney, but John Grisham has made

him so special. The first book, "A Time to Kill" was published in 1989. In the novel, Jake Brigance became the hero of Carl Lee Harley, who killed two young thugs who had raped his daughter. He took revenge because the two delinquents were only lightly punished, while his daughter suffered physically and mentally. Unable to bear to see her daughter's suffering, Carl Lee Harley immediately carried out a plan of revenge. He sought advice from Jake Brigance his best friend and attorney in the city. Jake didn't suggest Carl Lee Harley for revenge. He suggested taking the two thugs to court. He didn't want his best friend to be involved in a crime that would bring him to prison. Unfortunately, the advice from Jake Brigance was not heeded. Carl Lee Harley thought that the law would side with the majority, namely white people.

That time, around 1989, was a transition period from the government of President Ronald Reagan which started from 1981 to 1989 with his successor named George H.W. Bush from 1989 to 1993. During the transition of the two presidents, the Gulf war flared up again, after the administration of President Ronald Reagan had stopped. That period was a post-industrial period, where people who had focused on the industrial sector, after that they focused more on the service sector, from nurses, and social workers to lawyers showed their existence. We know why John Grisham was so inspired by the situation at that time. People appreciated public service. That's the time for John Grisham to write something about the law. It was "A Time to Kill." He put a hero there, Jake Brigance to reflect that at that time we need a hero who could serve for public's needs.

John Grisham played a role thereby putting the issue about racialism to make the role of Jake Brigance just not a hero but a good leader who could lead the Afro-American fight for their right to be free. John also brought the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) issue. The NAACP organization was founded on February 12, 1902. This movement was inspired by WEB De Bois who was the first educated African-American to graduate from Harvard with a doctorate. (Moris [2]). The issue of racism is brought back to life in John Grisham's *Sycamore Row*, published in 2013. This book features Jake Brigance, who returned as a hero to an Afro-American slave named Lettie Lang. She was a maid who worked at her employer's house named Seth Hubbard who was sick and suffering from lung cancer, while her children were not caring until she finally commits suicide. Before Seth Hubbard killed himself, he had a letter of trusteeship done for his estate which was sent to Jake Brigance. The contents of the letter brought great trouble to Jake because in the inheritance Seth Hubbard bequeathed his property to Lettie Lang, the maid who during his lifetime cared for Seth Hubbard. Jake's heroism was tested again as a Noble White Liberal attorney. He must face off against Seth Hubbard's family to defend Lettie Lang, a black maid. John Grisham's courage to keep raising the issue of racism was related to the government's policies during the administration at that time, which was still under the leadership of President Barack Obama, where at that time the president prioritized multilateral cooperation.

This condition was an opportunity for John Grisham to continue writing because it was a great opportunity for his work to continue to spread to all corners of the world because of government policies at that time. The success of lifting the character of Jake Brigance made John Grisham even more excited to lift him. Seen in the next work published in 2021 entitled *A Time for Mercy*. *A Time for Mercy* does not raise elements of racism but raises socialites that occur in society, where this time Jake Brigance must really be a hero for a small child who has shot his mother's boyfriend who has tried to kill his mother. The condition of American society in 2000 under Donald Trump's administration which closed itself to conflicts in Europe and Asia, caused John Grisham not to raise the issue of racism which was previously associated with the figure of Jake Brigance as a Noble White Liberal attorney, but he raised issues within American society itself with life, unhappy households due to lack of education and also poor economic conditions [3].

The research about the characteristics of Jake Brigance was done in the thesis (Nainggolan [4]). He was told as an early bird person who was ready to go when someone needed his help. He didn't only help someone, but he also struggled to protect the right of Afro-Americans to have the same right to justice. Another research was about raising the issue of racism in the novel *A Time to Kill*, in which the Afro-American group defended one of its citizens named Carl Lee Harley who was involved in a criminal act as revenge for the rape of his son by two white thugs so that the issue of what is spreading is not only about racism but the resistance from white groups who defended the two thugs who were shot by

Carl Lee Harley where they invited Ku Klux Klan to join against the African-Americans who supported Carl Lee Harley that happened in South America [5]. It was told in *A Time to Kill* about Jake Brigance's effort to defend his friend, Carl Lee Harley who was an Afro-American man from the death penalty about his action to make a revenge. Jake had to find some jurors who could support the decision (Mulyani et.al, [6]).

## II. RESEARCH METHODS

This study used a qualitative method with a narrative research approach in three novels from John Grisham, *A Time to Kill*, *Sycamore Row* and *A Time for Mercy* by using a fictional characteristic study method approach using the researcher's point of view on one of the characters, Jake Brigance. The research search for the leadership theories based on the lead character in Peter G. Northouse's book entitled *Leadership: Theory and Practice* p. 19-27, Intelligence, Self-confidence, Perseverance, Integrity, Ability to socialize Research Questions are: 1. What makes Jake so special and to be a hero for Afro-American people and common people too there? 2. How could people in Canton admire him and make him become a leader to protect them from vigilantes? The aims of the research: To find the hero's action that Jake Brigance do to the people in Canton based on the three novels of John Grisham. To find whether Jake has a good character based on Peter G. Northouse's book "Leadership: Theory and Practice or not. To find that Jack Brigance's character reflected the leadership character concepts in Peter G. Northouse's book.

By using data analysis with a narrative characterization research approach, the researchers analyze the leadership attitudes of Jake Brigance's character in the three novels by John Grisham, entitled "A Time to Kill," "Sycamore Row" and "A Time for Mercy." The researchers conducted a study of fiction in conducting this research by describing the five personality concepts of Peter G. Northouse, namely: Intelligence, Self-confidence, Perseverance, Integrity, Ability to socialize. The steps in the research taken by the researcher are as figure 1.

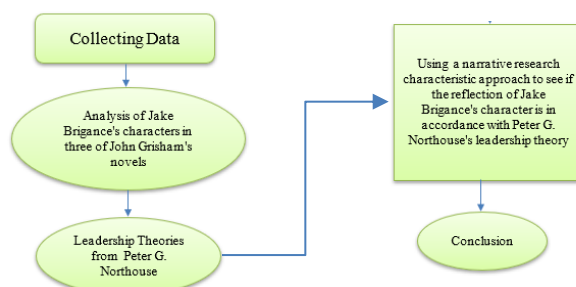


Figure 1. The steps in the research

### III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

To analyze the extent to which Jake Brigance's character reflects the concept of leadership contained in the concept of Peter G. Northouse in his book *Leadership: Theories and Practice*, the researcher uses the characteristic analysis method with the showing method (Mindrop [7]), in where the researcher will be outside of the story and see what the character is doing, in this case, Jake Brigance to show his leadership based on the concept of Peter G. Northouse. In the analysis from "A Time to Kill" The first act that Jake did as an intelligence lawyer was to refuse the offer from Earnestine Willard to protect his son with a rape case. He just asked his secretary to tell him to find another lawyer who was free of charge, Drew Jack Tyndale. The private lawyer. Jake also had the ability to socialize with the people in Canton and with lawyers. It was proved when Jake attended the court of the rape case of Willard and Cobb. He didn't want to lose the chance to see the court and discussed it with some lawyers there. When Carl Lee Harley asked Jake if Jake could defend the minority right when the criminal happened, Jake had a self-confident to do that although he didn't like Carl Lee Harley's need to make a revenge.

The integrity of Jake's character was shown when he showed the Carl Lee Harley who had shot Cobb and Willard [8]. He directly wanted to do something to protect Carl Lee Harley, but the officer asked him to go away from the accident. Jake just told him not to do anything to Carl Lee Harley while he was not there. When Carl Lee Harley asked Jake to protect his right to defend, Jake tried to be so calm and used his intelligence wisely because it was not a normal case. It would make a racism issue between Carl Lee Harley, an Afro-American man against the family of Cobb and Willard who asked the Ku Klux Klan to support them. In the analysis of "Sycamore Row" After receiving a letter from the late Seth Hubbard asking Jake for help, he must carefully re-examine the case, seeing as he had not known the man while he was alive. He should be so perseverant to handle the case. He would face the family of the late Seth Hubbard who couldn't get a lot of the inheritance. Jake's intelligence was used in this case while the late Seth Hubbard asked Jake to handle all of his inheritance. The problem came when Seth Hubbard put his inheritance to his housekeeper who was an Afro-American. The racism case came again to this John Grisham's novel and the problem should be solved by Jake Brigance. The hero for minority people in Canton. Jake's self-confidence raised up when he knew that he could do what the late Seth Hubbard asked to handle the inheritance's problem to fight against the Late Seth Hubbard family [9].

As a member of the society in Clanton, Jake had been able to socialize, all people in Clanton admired him. It was proved when he came to Irish Road Christian Church to attend the burial ceremony of the late Seth Hubbard, that they tried to say 'hello' to Jake [10]. His perseverance of Jake was tested in this case. The late Seth Hubbard wrote a letter before his death to Jake. Unfortunately, Jake didn't know anything, so he had traced the late Seth Hubbard family and the family of Lettie Lang, the housekeeper who had been chosen by the late

Seth Hubbard to get 90% of his inheritance.

In the analysis of "A Time for Mercy" In this story, Jake again has to show his leadership attitude. He has to deal with the murder case of a drunken officer named Stuart who has been killed by the son of his girlfriend, Drew, a 16-year-old boy. Drew didn't really mean to kill Stuart, but he was just defending his mother who was abused by Stuart and worried about the safety of himself and his 14-year-old sister. Jake had to be so intelligent to protect Drew from the death punishment because of his criminal action. It was not easy because he had to find some juries who could defend Drew. His perseverance was needed to handle the case. Jake had to collect some data to support Drew's case and made him free. It was not so easy. Jake was an easy person to socialize with society. It made him easy to help people to support Drew's case. He went to some people who were the potential to be the jurors in Drew's case.

### IV. CONCLUSION

In the leadership, there are three approaches, but to analyze one of the characters from the three of John Grisham novels, they are "A Time to Kill," *Sycamore Row*, and "A Time for Mercy," the researchers have used the characteristics approach from Peter G. Northouse's book, titled "The Leadership: Theory and Practice." The research analyzed these characters whether they reflected to the one of the characters in the three novels, Jake Brigance or not. They used: 1. Intelligence, 2. Self-confidence, 3. Perseverance, 4. Integrity, 5. Ability to socialize. These characteristics reflected the characters that Jake Brigance had as a white liberal noble attorney.

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