

## DECONSTRUCTION OF LEADING CHARACTERS IN *ZOOTOPIA* MOVIE SCRIPT

Aina Sa'adah Batubara<sup>1,\*</sup>, Siti Norma Nasution<sup>2</sup>, & Diah Rahayu Pratama<sup>3</sup>

Universitas Sumatera Utara, Medan, Indonesia

\* Pos-el: ainaaina8800@gmail.com

### ABSTRACT

This study entitled **Deconstruction of Leading Characters in *Zootopia* Movie Script**. This study discussed about Deconstruction of characters which aimed to deconstruct the opposition of major and minor characters in the movie script *Zootopia*, and also devalue the major and minor characters to be the new hierarchy. This research is based on the Deconstruction theory proposed by Jacques Derrida (Rodalphe Gasche : 1988), which systematize the steps in doing deconstruction analysis from the identifying the opposition hierarchy in the text that systematically privileged, then change or reverse that hierarchy, and the last was introduced a new term or idea, which apparently cannot be included in the page of old hierarchy category. The method used in this study was the descriptive qualitative method. The result of this research is uncovering the deeply complex foundation that is difficult to make sense, because there is no general truth or the permanent personality of each character, there will be the other side of character that can produced a new hierarchy.

**Keywords:** Deconstruction, Characters, *Zootopia* Script

### ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini berjudul **Deconstruction of Leading Characters in *Zootopia* Movie Script**. Penelitian ini membahas tentang Dekonstruksi Karakter yang bertujuan untuk mendekonstruksi oposisi karakter utama dan karakter pendukung dalam skrip film *Zootopia*, dan juga mendevaluasi karakter utama dan karakter pendukung menjadi hierarki baru. Penelitian tersebut didasarkan pada teori Dekonstruksi yang dikemukakan oleh Jacques Derrida (Rodalphe Gasche: 1988), yang mensistematisasikan langkah-langkah dalam melakukan analisis dekonstruksi dari pengidentifikasian hierarki oposisi dalam teks yang secara istimewa diistimewakan, kemudian mengubah atau membalikkan hierarki tersebut, dan yang terakhir adalah memperkenalkan istilah atau ide baru, yang tampaknya tidak dapat dimasukkan kedalam kategori hierarki lama. Metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah metode deskriptif kualitatif. Hasil dari penelitian ini adalah mengungkap fondasi yang sangat kompleks yang sulit untuk dipahami, karena tidak ada kebenaran umum atau karakter permanen dari setiap karakter utama dan pendukung, masih akan ada sisi lain dari karakter yang dapat menghasilkan hierarki baru.

**Kata Kunci:** Dekonstruksi, Karakter, Skrip Film *Zootopia*

## A. INTRODUCTION

Literature is an art of written works. Literature is writing that is considered to be an art form or any single writing deemed to have artistic or intellectual value. Wellek and Warren (1985:4) quoted "Literature as one of the imaginary works, literature performs various problem of human and humanity, and the life". Literature is not just a document of facts, it is not just the collection of real events thought it may happen in the real life. Literature can create its own world as a product of the unlimited imagination, and also it represents the life which may occur in the social reality.

Literature has many works such as novel, poetry, prose, movie script, and many more. In this study, the writer uses movie script as the subject of study. Schank&Abelson (1977) mentioned "Script is an autonomous literary work, or merely the translation into movie language of drama a pre-existent literary work (novel, story, play)". So, it means that, in literary work, movie script is the part of drama, because drama is a literary text represented a written or spoken text (dialogue) intended for reading or performing on the stage and subject to textual analysis.

Each works of literature above should has the characters. Character is the fictitious person portrayed in the work of literature. Character has the role to run the story from the beginning until the end of the story. According to Taylor (1981), "The simplest way to describe characterization in the story is by giving a name of figure. It means, character is the important part in built a story which has function to play a story and to convey the ideas, as the key point to understand the story and its conflict as a whole

The theory of deconstruction refers as post-structuralism because it built based on the concept of semiotic structuralism proposed by Ferdinand de Saussure by opposing and break the concept. Posmodernism is the cultural change (from the life style to mindset) which occurs because the development of science and information of technology. Through some philosopher, posmodernism demands the changes in scientific activities, subjectivity and objectivity aspects, social – history aspect, language paradigm, and also the conceptual framework. Posmodernism also critics the structuralism approach which use the objective meaning in the text or to analyse the text.

One of the most famous critics is Jacques Derrida. According to Derrida, Deconstruction is an alternative to reject all limitations of interpretation or standard conclusions. The Deconstruction concept (Christopher Norris : 2003), starts with the concept of demystification, the dismantling of rational thought products that believe in the purity of reality is basically intended to eliminate the structure of understanding the signs (signifier) through the formulation of a signified. In theory, he finds the conception never builds the meaning of signs in a pure way, because all signs always contain other articulations.

This study uses the method of qualitative descriptive because the source of data is direct from the *Zootopia* movie script or screenplay. Descriptive qualitative research is a method in researching the status of a group of people, an object with the aim of making descriptive, image or painting in a systematic, factual and accurate about the facts or phenomena that are investigated.

## B. LITERATURE REVIEW

### 1. Postmodernism

Postmodern literature is literature characterized by reliance on narrative techniques such as fragmentation, paradox, and the unreliable narrator, and it is also defines as a style or a trend which emerged in the post – Wolrd War II era. Postmodern works are seen as a response against dogmatic following of Enlightenment thinking and Modernist approaches to literature. Postmodern literature refers to postmodernism which tends to resist defenition of classification as a “movement”. However, works are considered postmodern tend to engage with various modes of critical theory, particularly reader – response and deconstructionist approaches, as well as ways of subverting the implicit contract between author, text and reader.

In postmodernism, language is seen not only as denotative, language is not only important with its logical functions, but also stands language at the center (linguistic turn). The discussion of language also relates to how the relationship between reasoning, meaning, truth, and language. Post-structuralism looks language as a dynamic sign system. Language and structure are the result of social construction, that’s why there is no similarity between language, mind, and reality

Postmodernism considers aspects of subjectivity, objectivity, socio-cultural aspects, aspects of language, paradigms, and conceptual frameworks (all of which play a role in developing science). Postmodernism also criticizes structuralism approaches that crave the objective meaning of text in text analysis. Therefore, postmodernism leaves the structuralism approach and replace it with a post-structuralism approach that provides freedom of interpretation. Because of the involvement of objects and subjects in the development of science, postmodernism recognizes the influence of socio-historical factors on the subject, namely the wealth of someone's vocabulary in understanding and interpreting the plurality of scientific paradigms. Then, the truth of science is no longer singular, not fixed, but plural and changing, and developing in line with the development of human culture.

### 2. Deconstruction

The term of Deconstruction came from the French "Deconstruire" which means to dismantle the machine, but unpack it to be reinstalled. Therefore, deconstruction means positive because it disassembles and overturns the meaning of the text, but not with the aim of just dismantling it, but dismantling the text or new discourse with new meanings that are different from the text that is deconstructed. (Akhyar Yusuf : 2014)

According to Norris (2003: 9 - 12) From the Saussure methodology, language can be seen from the structuralism because thesystem of differences, and the core of this system of differences is binary opposition. The content of this binary opposition is opposition between signified/signifier, speech/writing, and langue/parole.

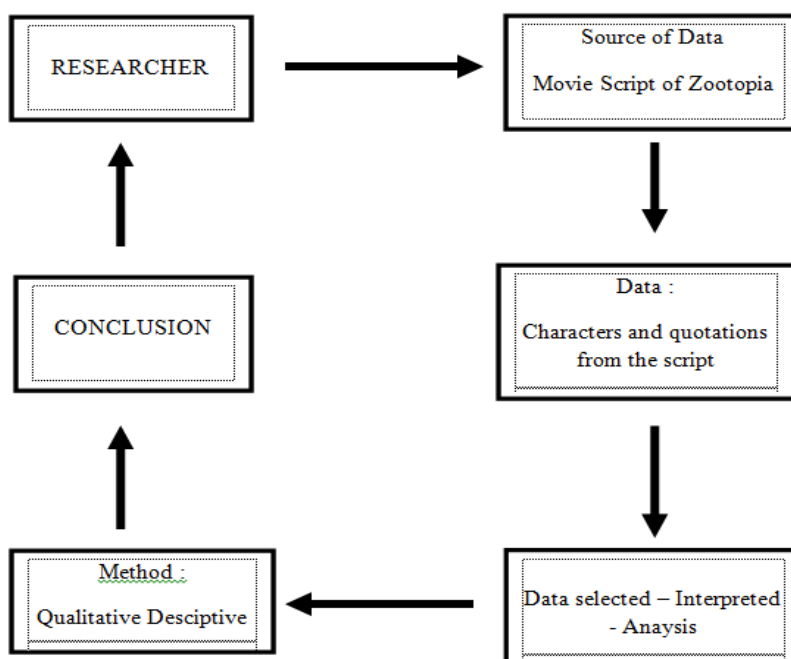
Deconstruction can be applied when it is dealing with the text. It can be found in the book *The Train of the Mirror : Derrida and the Philosophy of Reflection* by Rodalphe Gasche : 1988. He has tried to systematize the steps in doing deconstruction, as follows:

1. Identify the opposition of hierarchy in the text, where it is usually found which terminology is systematically privileged or not
2. Change or reverse the hierarchy in the text
3. Introduce a new term or idea, which apparently cannot be included in the page of old hierarchy category.

Indeed at the beginning, deconstruction is the method of reading text. But, with the steps of deconstruction above, the method of reading in deconstructive will be different from ordinary reading. The method of ordinary reading is always looking for the truth meaning of the text, but deconstructive readings only want to find the unknowing or failure of each text against a single truth, it just wants to subvert or reverse the hierarchical structure that structured the text.

### C. RESEARCH METHOD

This research uses the descriptive qualitative design as the method of study. Moleong (1995: 2) states that descriptive qualitative research is defined as the qualitative research, a type of research which does not include any calculation or enumerating. Miles & Huberman (1994: 10) add that with qualitative research, someone can preserve chronological flow and see precisely which events led to consequences and derive faithful explanation. Descriptive qualitative research is a method in researching the status of a group of people, an object with the aim of making descriptive, image or painting in a systematic, factual and accurate about the facts or phenomena that are investigated. The data will be analyzed based on the chart of method that can be summarized in the pattern below :



In the study of characters through deconstruction analysis in the movie script of *Zootopia*, an elaboration of research design should be arranged to support the statement that will be written in this research. By using descriptive qualitative method, the researcher will analyze the data based on the steps above.

#### D. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In this chapter, the writer will present findings and data analysis toward major and minor characters in the movie script *Zootopia*, where both of them will show the result of the research. There are two points that the writer wants to analyze. Firstly, how are the deconstruction of major and minor characters portrayed in the *Zootopia* movie script. Based on the script, the writer would like to analyze or identify the opposition hierarchy between major and minor characters in the script, where it is usually found which terminology is systematically privileged or not. Then, change or reverse all of the hierarchy in the text. Second is how are the deconstruction of major and minor characters devalued to be the new hierarchy. Although, the writer has found out each character at the beginning, but all of the characters are described in both major and minor characters are not permanent. They can still change or reverse in the last of story, then produce a new hierarchy or personality of character.

##### 1. Deconstruction Analysis of Major and Minor Character in *Zootopia* Movie Script

###### Major characters :

- a. Judy Hopps = Rabbit
- |                          |    |                    |
|--------------------------|----|--------------------|
| 1) Coward figure         | >< | Brave figure       |
| 2) Underestimated figure | >< | Reliable figure    |
| 3) Weak figure           | >< | Strong figure      |
| 4) Dumb figure           | >< | Intelligent figure |
| 5) Disappointing figure  | >< | Proud figure       |
- b. Nick Wilde = Fox
- |                    |    |                       |
|--------------------|----|-----------------------|
| 1) Liar figure     | >< | Trustworthy figure    |
| 2) Sly figure      | >< | Helpful figure        |
| 3) Betrayer figure | >< | Loyal figure          |
| 4) Rabbit Predator | >< | Get along with rabbit |

###### Minor characters :

- a. Bellwether = Sheep
- |                         |    |                 |
|-------------------------|----|-----------------|
| 1) Unappreciated figure | >< | Powerful figure |
| 2) Helpful figure       | >< | Betrayer figure |

##### Deconstruction Analysis of Judy Hoops as Major character

- a. Coward >< Brave

The personality of Judy at the beginning is identified in the *Zootopia* script as the coward animal, especially to the predator. It is described when Judy and her friends doing a show in Bunyburrow, it's called Carrot Days Talent Show

“A Bunny nervously walks through the dark, foreboding forest, frightened by every shadow and moving leaf. The timpanicrescendos. A Jaguar leaps out of the shadows, attacks the bunny”.[**SCENE 1 – Carrot Days Talent Show**].

Judy conveys that thousands of years ago, there were the forces that ruled their world. The world was divided into two, they were vicious predator and meek prey. That was a world where prey were scared of predators, and predators had an uncontrollable biological urge to hurt and persecute. So, Judy describes herself as the coward figure there. She runs when predator comes closer to kill her and her friend, a sheep. They are as the meek prey also afraid to the predators.

The deconstruction analysis of Judy Hopps shows the opposition of the hierarchy, that is opposition of Judy's character as the coward figure. It shows that Judy is a brave figure.

“You don't scare me Gideon”. Judy kicks Gideon in the face with her hind legs. He stumbles back, then checks his lip for blood. [**SCENE 2 : Judy Confront Gideon**].

I'm not leaving. This is a crime scene.[**SCENE 19 – Tundratown Limo Service**].

When Judy fights to Gideon Grey, she charges toward the danger, Judy dared to challenge Gideon. She did it because she saw her friend being intimidated by predators. In the other case, Judy finds the evidence in the Mr. Big car, the most feared crime boss in Tundratown

## **Deconstruction Analysis of Nick Wilde as Major character**

### **a. Lier >< Trustworthy**

The first personality of Nick Wilde is identified in the *Zootopia* script as the liar animal. A liar figure is supposedly common to all foxes. From the first time Nick comes and join in the story, the liar character is clearly visible in himself.

Well. I stood up for you, and you lied to me. You liar!”said Judy [**SCENE 10 – Judy Attempts to Arrest Nick**]

You think I'm gonna believe a fox?said Chief Bogo. [**SCENE 23 – [Nick's Childhood]**]

From those quotation, Judy realize that both of the fox have lied to her, and she regrets for defending them. Then, in other case, Chief Bogo does not believe to Nick, because a fox can't be trusted, that is the stereotype.

The character of Nick Wilde as a liar fox can be deconstructed to be the good character, that is a trustworthy figure.

“I, Nicholas Wilde, promise to be brave, loyal, helpful, and trustworthy!”, said Nick [**SCENE 23 – Nick's Childhood**]

When Nick was a kid, Nick had a dream of joining the local Junior Ranger Scouts. He wants to change the perception of others about a fox that is considered as a liar. He gives an oath and makes a promise to be a trustworthy fox.

## Deconstruction Analysis of Dawn Bellwether as Minor character

### a. Unappreciated >< Powerful

The personality of Dawn Bellwether as the Assistant of Mayor Zootopia can be identified in the Zootopia script as the unappreciated animal.

“Smellwether!that's a fun little name he likes to use. I called him Lionfart once, he did not care for that”, Lionheart calls his assistant's name like a joke [SCENE 24 – Assistance from Bellwether]

The quotations above show the personality of Dawn Bellwether. She always gets rude treatment from Lionheart, and also unappreciated. Although she has done everything for Lionheart, but Lionheart always ignore her, does not care about her.

The character of Bellwether can be deconstructed to be the powerful figure. Bellwether who is usually not recognized, has no power, and underestimated before. But now she becomes a figure who has power over everything, everything is in her control and commands. It is caused by Bellwether had replaced the position of Mayor Lionheart as the Mayor of Zootopia.

“So that's it? Prey fears predators and you stay in power?”, asked Judy [SCENE 37 – The True Villain].

The quotation above shows Judy wants to makes sure that the reason of Bellwether does all of this mess up because she wants to stay in power, so she makes every prey in fears. And predator can be eliminated.

## 2. Devaluation of Major and Minor Characters to be the New Hierarchy

After the deconstruction of Major and Minor characters have been founded in the script of Zootopia, then both of the characters have to be devaluated to be the new hierarchy. Because, as Jacque Derrida said in his theory, the search for absolute meaning is impossible to do. Because after the truth is found, there is still another trace of truth behind it. So, after the deconstruction from both of character has been founded, there are still other characters or a new hierarchy produced in major and minor characters related to the script of Zootopia.

Here are the devaluaton of major and minor characters

- a. Judy Hopps as Major Character
  - 1) Ambitious figure
  - 2) Hard working figure
  - 3) Helpful figure
  - 4) Leader figure
  - 5) Hero figure
  - 6) Responsible figure
  - 7) Inspiring figure
  - 8) Unselfish figure
  - 9) Cooperate with fox
- b. Nick Wilde as Major Character
  - 1) Hard working figure
  - 2) Intelligent figure
  - 3) Reliable figure
  - 4) Opinionated figure

- 5) Cooperate with rabbit
- c. Dawn Bellwether as Minor Character
  - 1) Two-faced figure
  - 2) Ruthless figure
  - 3) Despicable figure

## E. CONCLUSION

As the conclusion of this research, the researcher concluded, there are five characters that have been deconstructed. They are from the coward to brave, underestimated to reliable, weak to strong, dumb to intelligent, and dissapointing to proud figure. Then, Nick Wilde as the second major character, there are four characters that have been deconstructed. They are liar to trustworthy, sly to helpful, betrayer to loyal figure, and rabbit predator to a figure who get along with rabbit. And the last is Dawn Bellwether as the minor character, there are two characters that have been deconstructed. They are unappreciated to powerful, and also helpful to betrayer figure. The major character of this study has the previledge position in the story. It is proved when the both of major characters assumed as unimportant figure at the beginning, but they can be important figure in the last of story, although it does not make sense.

Other new hierarchy or devaluation of characters can be found in the text. In Judy hopps as the major character, there are nine characters. She is a rabbit which is described as the ambitious, hard working, helpful, leader, hero, responsible, inspiring, unselfish figure, and also figure who cooperates with a fox. Then, the second major character found five characters. He is a fox which is described as the hard working, intelligent, reliable, opinionated figure, and also figure who cooperates with a rabbit. And the last is Dawn Bellwether as the minor character described as a sheep who has the two-faced, ruthless, and despicable figure.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

My gratitude goes to the Rector of University of Sumatera Utara, Prof. Runtung Sitepu, S.H, M.Hum and the Dean of the Faculty Cultural Studies, Dr. Budi Agustono, M.S. Then, I would like to thank to the Head and the Secretary of English Department, Prof. Dra. T. Silvana Sinar, M.A., Ph.D. and Rahmadsyah Rangkuti, S.S, M.A, Ph.D. and all the lecturers and the staff of English Department for the facilities and opportunities given to me during my study in this faculty. I also would like to express my sincere gratitude to Dr. Siti Norma M. Hum., as my supervisor for her kindness, knowledge, patience, motivation and great advice for me to write and finish this thesis. Also, I would like to thank Mam Diah Rahayu Pratama, M. Pd., as my co-supervisor for her kindness, great, knowledge, and excellent advice to help me overcome problems I have encountered.



## REFERENCES

- Abrams, M.A, Geoffrey Harpham. (1999). *A Glossary of Literary Terms* : Fischer Verlag
- Ary, Donald et all. (2010). *Introduction to Research in Education*. Belmont : Wadsworth  
CENGANGE Learning
- Barry, Peter. (2002). *Beginning Theory : An Introduction to Literary and Cultural Theory*  
(2nd Edition). London and New York: Routledge
- Bush, Jared and Johnston Phil. (2016). *Zootopia : Original Screenplay*. Disney Presents
- Bush, Jared and Johnston Phil. (2016). *Zootopia/Transcript*. Disney Presents
- Derrida, Jacques.(1967). *Writing and Difference*. Trans. Alan Bass. London: Routledge
- Gasche, Rodalphe. (1988). *The Train of the Mirror : Derrida and the Philosophy of Reflection*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press
- Kellner, Douglas. (1963). *Cultural Studies and Ethnic*. London and New York: Routledge
- Kennedy, X.J. (1983). *Literature : An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry, and Drama*.  
Canada:Little Brown and Company LTD
- Klarer, Mario. (2014). *An Intoduction to Literary Studies*. New York: Routledge
- Longman, Pearson. (2014). *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English*.(6th  
Edition).Trans-Atlantic Publications, Inc
- Lubis, Akhyar Yusuf. (2014). *Posmodernisme :Teori dan Metode* . Jakarta : PT Raja  
Grafindo Persada.
- Miles, B. Mathew dan Michael Huberman. (1992). *Analisis Data Kualitatif (Buku Sumber  
tentang Metode-metode Baru*. Jakarta: UIP
- Moleong, Lexy J. (1995).*Metodologi Penelitian Kualitatif*. Bandung : PT Remaja  
Rosdakarya.
- Neuman, W. L. (1997). *Social Research Methods Qualitative and Quantitatives  
Approaches*.3rd Edition Boston : Pearson Education.Inc
- Norris, Christopher. (2002). *Deconstruction : Theory and Practice* (3rd Edition).  
LondonandNewYork : Roudledge.
- Norris, Christopher. (2003). *Membongkar Teori Dekonstruksi Jacques Derrida*.  
Jogjakarta : Ar-Ruzz Khazanah Pustaka Indonesia
- Nurgiyantoro, Burhan. (1995). *Teori Pengkajian Fiksi*. Yogyakarta: Gajah Mada  
University Press

Robert, Edgar. V and Jacobs, Henry. (1993). *Literature: An Introduction to Reading and Writing*. New Jersey : A Simon and Schuster, Comp

Schank, R.C. & Abelson, R. (1977). *Scripts, Plans, Goals, and Understanding*. Hillsdale, NJ: Earlbaum Assoc

Taylor, Richard. (1981). *Undertanding the Elements of Literature*. Hongkong : The MacmillanPress

Wellek, Rene and Austin Warren. (1956). *Theory of Literature* (3rd edition). New York :Hancourt Brace and World, inc