

THE MONSTER'S CHARACTERISTICS IN FRANKENSTEIN NOVEL BY MARY SHELLEY VIEWED FROM PERSONALITY TRAITS THEORY

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ABSTRACT

This study aimed to analyze the character and characterization of monster in *Frankenstein* through theory of characterization by Boggs and Petrie. It was classified into characterization through appearance, action, dialogue, reactions of other characters, and choice of name of the character. The characteristics of monster were classified into the Big Five Theory by McCrae and Costa. They were openness, conscientiousness, agreeableness, extraversion, and neuroticism. The used of the theory aimed to reveal the personality of monster that had similarities with human personality. To know what the character and characterization of monster, the researcher applied descriptive-qualitative method. The result showed that monster had a terrible appearance. Through the dialogue, he was an ambitious creature. Through the action he was very interest in new things. The other characters felt frightened to see his horrible appearance. The monster was called 'monster' because of his terrible appearance. Based on the Big Five, monster was classified into conscientiousness because of his ambition. He was an agreeableness because of his kindness. He was classified into openness because he interested in new things. He was also categorized into neuroticism because he was very vengeful. The last type of the Big Five named extraversion was not found in this study because he was not a sociable creature. Thus, the monster who looked very terrible had many positiveness rather than the negative characteristics.

Keywords: character and characterization, personality, monster

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis karakter dan karakterisasi monster dalam Frankenstein melalui teori karakterisasi oleh Boggs dan Petrie. Teori tersebut diklasifikasikan ke dalam karakterisasi melalui penampilan, aksi, dialog, reaksi dari karakter lain, dan pemilihan nama karakter. Karakteristik-karakteristik monster diklasifikasikan ke dalam Teori Big Five oleh McCrae dan Costa. Mereka adalah openness, conscientiousness, agreeableness, extraversion, and neuroticism. Penggunaan teori tersebut bertujuan untuk mengungkapkan kepribadian monster yang memiliki kesamaan dengan kepribadian manusia. Untuk mengetahui karakter dan karakterisasi monster, peneliti menerapkan metode deskriptif-kualitatif. Hasilnya menunjukkan bahwa monster memiliki penampilan yang mengerikan. Melalui dialog, dia adalah makhluk yang ambisius. Melalui aksi, ia sangat tertarik

pada hal-hal baru. Karakter lain merasa takut melihat penampilannya yang mengerikan. Monster disebut 'monster' karena penampilannya yang mengerikan. Berdasarkan Big Five, monster diklasifikasikan ke dalam conscientiousness karena ambisinya. Dia seorang agreeableness karena kebajikannya. Dia digolongkan ke dalam openness karena dia tertarik pada hal-hal baru. Dia juga dikategorikan ke dalam neuroticism karena dia sangat pendendam. Tipe terakhir dari Big Five yaitu extraversion tidak ditemukan dalam penelitian ini karena dia bukan makhluk yang mudah bergaul. Dengan demikian, monster yang terlihat sangat mengerikan memiliki banyak sifat positif daripada karakteristik negatifnya.

Kata kunci: karakter dan karakterisasi, kepribadian, monster

A. INTRODUCTION

Gothic is a part or variety of Romanticism that is sometimes characterized as the larger movement. The term of "Gothic" is basically referred to art and literature. One of the most famous Gothic novels is *Frankenstein or the Modern Prometheus* written by Mary Shelley.

The researcher uses theory of characterization and personality traits to analyze the character of monster because the theory is used to analyze human while, in this study, the researcher analyzes monster that are not fully human. The researcher wants to prove that the theory not only can be used to analyze human's character but also can be applied to other characters that have characteristics like humans. Understanding personality of characters is an important thing because it can help people to be more emphatic, sympathetic, or appreciate someone's change.

B. RELATED LITERATURE

1. Character and characterization

According to Gill, in his book *Mastering English Literature* character as a figure in a literary text who has some sort of identity, an identity is formed by appearance, conversation, action, name, and thoughts going on in the head (127).

According to Boggs and Petrie, characterization is a process in which the author created characters that can be influence people's responses (60). There are the classifications of characterization, as follow:

a. Characterization through appearance

Boggs and Petrie mention that when we see the characters, "We make certain assumption about them because of their facial features, dress, physical build, and mannerisms and the way they move. Our first visual impression may be proven erroneous as a story progress, but it is certainly an important means of establishing characters" (60).

b. Characterization through action

In the novel, the character always do movements or actions that could shape his or her characteristics. In the other hand, people can guess how the characteristics of character is through the actions he or she performs on every occasion in the story and the actions are more important in revealing character and characteristics.

c. Characterization through dialogue

Characters in a novel reveal a great deal about themselves by what they say and how they say it. "Their true thoughts, attitudes, and emotions can be revealed in subtle ways through word choice of their speech and the use of grammar, sentence structure, vocabulary, and particular dialects (if any) reveals a great deal about their characters' social and economic level, educational background, and mental processes" (61).

d. Characterization through reactions of other characters

The way other characters see someone often serves as an excellent tool in characterization. There are several stories at the first display information about character through this way before the character first appears (64).

e. Characterization through choice of name

The choice of name become an important way to identify the character in the novel. One important method of characterization is the use of names possessing appropriate meaning or connotation (66).

2. Personality Traits Theory

a. Openness to Experience

Openness to experience is the first factor of the Big Five Theory that focuses on human's experience. McCrae and Costa measure the openness to experience into six distinct facets. They were openness in *Fantasy*, openness in *Aesthetics*, openness in *Feelings*, openness to *Actions*, openness to *ideas*, openness to *Values* (49)

b. Conscientiousness

Conscientiousness is the second factor of the Big Five Theory that focuses on the organization, self-control, and the diligence of a person in reaching goals. According to McCrae and Costa, conscientious people assume that they are high in reaching the achievement, try to be excellent in everything they do and they have high self-discipline to make their goals come true and they are making plans in advance and thinking carefully before acting (51).

c. Extraversion

McCrae and Costa classified it into three interpersonal or three temperamental traits. First, warmth or attachment. Second, gregarious people like many people in general or sometimes called sociability. Third, assertive people are natural leaders, easily taking charge, making up their own minds, and readily expressing their feelings and desires. Assertiveness is the tendency to lead and dominate social situations (249).

d. Agreeableness

Agreeableness is the fourth phase of the Big Five Theory. According to McCrae and Costa, agreeable people are humble, showing modesty in their assessment of their own abilities and importance (50). Low scorers on this facet might be considered narcissistic.

e. Neuroticism

Anxiety and anger-hostility are the main points of Neuroticism. Individuals who have a high level of anxiety tend to be easily nervous, tense and worried. Individuals who are hostile to each other will experience anger, "They tend to be irritable and angry, and may be proven hard to get along" (McCrae and Costa 47).

3. Previous Studies

a. Monster and Monstrosity in Mary Shelley's Frankenstein by Zaneta Skalasova

The thesis was divided into two parts, the first part discussed various interpretations of the monster in literary history and dealt with several features defining *monstrosity* such as murder, fear, threat, hatred, misery and sorrow. The second part of the thesis defined what kind of *monstrosity* in the characters and author in the novel represented.

The researcher found out that the character of the monster in the novel was the real monster based on theories. The monster's monstrosity showed from his appearance, evoked fear from the first sight of him and drew attention to his large and deformed body. Since he was abandoned early after his birth, he experienced hate and prejudice, which influences his bad behavior and negative attitude towards people.

b. Analysis of Main Character in Bruce Almighty Movie Viewed from Personality Traits Theory by Costa and McCrae by Faisal

This study discussed character and characterization of the main character in *Bruce Almighty* movie using Personality Traits Theory by Costa and McCrae's commonly known as Big Five theory to analyze Bruce's character.

Bruce categorized into protagonist, main or major, dynamic, and round character. From the theory used, Faisal found conscientiousness of Bruce characteristic was ambitious and neuroticism of Bruce was irritable, selfish, jealous, complaining and blaming person.

C. RESEARCH METHOD

This study is descriptive qualitative study. Qualitative method used this study because this study dealt with the problems experienced by character in the novel and the process carried out in this study by collecting data, then analyzing data inductively, and interpreting the meaning of the data obtained.

The source of data in this study was a novel entitled *Frankenstein* written by Marry Shelley. The data that were used in this study contained the form of dialogues, actions, and narrations. The instrument of this study was the researcher herself whose role was to obtain information that is relevant to her work. The researcher

directly collects and analyzes the data of *Frankenstein or the Modern Prometheus* novel.

The data collection process took two steps, first, reading and understanding the novel. In this step, the researcher read *Frankenstein* novel carefully and repeatedly and also tried to understand the content of the story. Second, choosing the data that contained the form of dialogues, narrations, and actions of the character. In this step, the researcher tried to observe the data in the novel and highlighted the related data with problem of the study. After the data were collected, the researcher started to analysis the data. The first step was specified the data into system of codes. Second, constructing the categories of analysis. Third, the researcher drew summaries and conclusions after the data have been analyzed.

The researcher also used theory triangulation. According to Denzin, theory refers to the use multiple perspectives or theories to interpret the data (294). To get validity data, the researcher used more than one theory in the study.

D. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

1. Character and characterization

Character and characterization are two important elements in literary works. The analysis of character and characterization is conducted to give the descriptions of the monster in *Frankenstein*. He is portrayed based on the five classifications of characterization.

Further explanation of the monster's appearance was described by the monster himself. At first he did not believe what he saw in a transparent pool. He reacted to see his own shadow in clear water. It was reflected with the reality.

"I viewed myself in a transparent pool! At first I started back, unable to believe that it was indeed I who was reflected in the mirror; and when I became fully convinced that **I was in reality the monster that I am**, I was filled with the bitterest sensations of despondence and mortification (Shelley 88).

The monster thought himself as a horrible creature when he saw his shadow in a transparent pool. He felt excessive sadness and ashamed that he is really looked like a monster.

The monster was faced with new situations that made him had to know many things in his life. Slowly he learned the most familiar object that he saw and heard. He learned and applied several new words such as fire, milk, bread, and wood. He also remembered the name of the cottagers who life besides his cage:

"By great application, however, and after having remained during the space of several revolutions of the moon in my hovel, I discovered the names that were given to some of the most familiar objects of discourse; **I learned and applied the words, 'fire,' 'milk,' 'bread,' and 'wood.'** I learned also the names of the cottagers themselves (Shelley 87).

The explanation above showed that the monster was a creature that did not just stay in place. He moved to learn new words that he never knew before. Based on the habits, he knew the meaning of the words he learned and the familiar objects that he knew had different names.

In a short time, the knowledge of the monster was increasing, especially in language. He said that his language skills had progressed very rapidly. Within two months he was able to understand most of the words uttered by the residents of the hut he referred to as friends:

‘The days now passed as peaceably as before, with the sole alteration that joy had taken place of sadness in the countenances of my friends. Safie was always gay and happy; she and **I improved rapidly in the knowledge of language, so that in two months I began to comprehend most of the words uttered by my protectors**’ (Shelley 91).

It can be said that the monster was creature who was diligent in learning various things, especially in the field of language. Two months, was fairly short time to understand a language that he had never heard before. So could be said that he was a creature that was very strong in achieving his own goals.

In one incident, the monster saved a girl who almost drowned. Unfortunately he did not get good treatment from a man who knew her. The first time the man saw a monster, he immediately raided him and forcibly seized the woman who had been helped by the monster. The man brought the woman into the forest and the monster followed them. When the man knew that the monster was following them, he quickly shot the monster to make him injured. The man took the opportunity by running fast when he saw the monster collapsing on the ground:

On seeing me, he darted towards me, and tearing the girl from my arms, hastened towards the deeper parts of the wood. I followed speedily, I hardly knew why; but when the man saw me draw near, **he aimed a gun**, which he carried, at my body and fired. I sank to the ground, and my injurer, with increased swiftness, escaped into the wood (Shelley 108).

In this study, the researcher analyzes the naming of the monster seen from the other characters in the novel named him, especially how his own creator called him. The creature that created by Victor, in fact did not has a name. In the story, Victor repeatedly called his creature as the monster. Spontaneously, Victor called his creature as a monster because of his ugly appearance and his bad behaviour.

‘Abhorred **monster!** Fiend that thou art! The tortures of hell are too mild a vengeance for thy crimes. Wretched devil! You reproach me with your creation, come on, then, that I may extinguish the spark which I so negligently bestowed’ (Shelley 77).

Based on the utterance above, showed that Victor emotionally called his creature with different names. The monster called as ‘monster’ because of his appearance was very terrible. He also called as devil because of the crimes he did.

2. Personality Traits Theory

From the monster’s words below, it was clearly explained how he learned to speak human speech. At first, he did not know what the family did at the cottage. He only saw from their faces that there was sadness in their lives. The family used method of communication to interact each other. But for long time the monster only saw what they were doing. Finally he knew that every words had meaning. He

studied and spelled the words that he collected every day and understood the meaning of the words:

By degrees I made a discovery of still greater moment. **I found that these people possessed a method of communicating their experience and feelings to one another by articulate sounds.** I perceived that the words they spoke sometimes produced pleasure or pain, smiles or sadness, in the minds and countenances of the hearers (Shelley 86)

With the mind of a newborn, the monster can be categorized into openness to experience because he tries to learn about new things that he does not know before and he proves it with his actions. For a long time, he spends his time to learn about anything that he finds in his life. He finds out the way to collect his food, he learns the name of the object around him, and how to speak using the language he just hears. It shows that monster runs into the phase of development of knowledge and experience. As most human who experience the learning process, the monster also experiences it. Through interest, he learns new things which then add his experience.

The monsters had a strong desire to achieve what he want to achieve. It made him grow into an ambitious creature. So, he quickly mastered the language of the cottagers. In fact, he said that he developed more rapidly than the Arabian who also learned their language. The girl only understood several vocabulary and mentioned it with a bad accent, while the monster were able to understand and imitate every word very well. It showed that the monster studied in earnest. So he was able to achieve his goals very well:

My days were spent in close attention, that I might more speedily master the language; and I may boast that I improved more rapidly than the Arabian, who understood very little and conversed in broken accents, whilst **I comprehended and could imitate almost every word that was spoken** (Shelley 92).

From the evidence above, it can be said that the monster was an organized creature, he thinks first before acting. He devised a plan after plan so that his wishes can be realized according to his expectations. He was also an ambitious type where he would try hard to achieve what he was aiming for.

Based on the personality of the monster, he is classified in conscientiousness. It is because he is a deliberate creature. He prepares and thinks anything carefully so as not to cause unintended events such as he chooses to stay in his hovel to observe his environment before he comes out. He also an ambitious creature because he does not give up to achieving his goal, becomes master of the cottagers' language so he can interact with them. He is very competent; it is proved when he has an ability to deal with the hardship and life challenges. In this case, the monster also experiences what human experience. He runs into a phase where he controls himself to do whatever he thinks it is good.

The other side of the monster that he could not see other people in trouble. He tried to help the difficulties of others with hard efforts. When hearing the sound of people approaching, the monster quickly hid behind a lush tree. In hiding, the monster saw a woman running along the river. Suddenly the girl slipped to make

her fall into the river where the current was very heavy. Spontaneously, the the monster came out of his hiding place, plunged into the river to save the girl. With all his might he brought the girl to the edge. When the girl didn't realize he kept trying to make her regain consciousness:

'She continued her course along the precipitous sides of the river, when suddenly her foot slipped, and she fell into the rapid stream. **I rushed from my hiding-place and with extreme labour, from the force of the current, saved her and dragged her to shore. She was senseless, and I endeavoured by every means in my power to restore animation,** (Shelley 108).

The narration above explained that the monster had an easy-to-help personality, as evidenced when he saw someone who was in trouble; he immediately helped him, regardless of his fear of humans which was the reason for hiding behind a tree. After saving the girl from the swift currents, the monster did not leave her just as he tried to make the girl regain consciousness. He was categorized into tender-minded in agreeableness because he was very sympathetic and caring attitude towards others.

Based on the Big Five Theory, the monster categorizes into agreeableness because of his personality. He is tender-minded creature. He has high sympathy and care when he helps the woman who falls into the river and tries to resuscitate her. He also trusts with other that they are honest and well-meaning it proves when he believes that the boy he meet will not have any prejudice on him because of that he wants to take the child and make him as a friend. In this discussion shows the other side of the monster that his personality naturally also has by human being such as trust, straightforwardness, and altruism.

Monster was determined to avenge Victor for the suffering he had felt so far. He promised to cause fear of Victor who he considered as his enemy was no longer a glorified creator. Until he vowed to hate Victor forever and threatened him that he would be the cause of the destruction of his life until he regretted being born into the world.

I will revenge my injuries; if I cannot inspire love, I will cause fear, and chiefly towards you my archenemy, because my creator, do I swear inextinguishable hatred. Have a care; **I will work at your destruction, nor finish until I desolate your heart, so that you shall curse the hour of your birth"** (Shelley 111).

The monster is classified into neuroticism because of the negative emotions he is experienced. He is a blame and regretful creature, he blames Victor who creates him and regrets his life which is full of suffering. He becomes an angry and vengeful creature. He is angry at people who cannot accept his existence and he always wants to avenge Victor for giving him an unfair life. The revenge make him becomes a murder. He kills the people who are loved by Victor in order to make him feel suffer.

3. Discussion

In this discussion part, the researcher discussed about the theory of

characterization from Boggs and Petrie as it has been explain in the second chapter. The characteristics of the monster was found based on characterization through appearance, action, dialogue, reactions of other characters, and choice of the name of the monster.

The monster is described as a horrible creature through his appearance. He is very ambitious in achieving his goals, it is found through his action. He is very interested in new things, it is found based on dialogue. His horrible appearance caused other characters to be afraid to see him. He is called a 'monster' because it is representing his bad physical form and behavior.

The writer compares with the others previous studies, it can be acquired the differences with the finding from Faisal in his thesis entitled *Analysis of Main Character in Bruce Almighty Movie vied from Personality Traits Theory* in 2011. To find out the characteristics of Bruce, the researcher used Robert Di Yani's theory that analyzed character through the action, words, physical attribute, and responses of other characters. He found that Bruce is an ambitious, irritable, selfish, jealous, blaming and complaining man.

In contrast to previous study that analyzed a real human's characteristics by using Robert Di Yani's theory, in this study, the researcher analyzes the characteristics of the monster. In attempt to find out how the monster is portrayed in the novel; the researcher applies Boggs and Petrie's theory. The theory makes this analysis more complete because Boggs and Petrie form choice of name as an important element in analyzing character. As it is known that, almost all name has meaning, so it can be used to determine the characteristics of character.

The second previous study entitled *Monster and Monstrosity in Mary Shelley's Frankenstein* by Zaneta Skalasova in 2005 analyzed monster and monstrosity in some characters and include the author of the novel. To find monster and monstrosity in the characters, the researcher combined the theories with the conditions that existed in the era of the novel written. As it was known that *Frankenstein* was a Gothic novel. The characteristics that emerged in that era were related to murder, fear, hatred, sadness, and misery.

It can be seen that there is no standard theory in analyzing characteristics of the character. The researchers who want to analyze characters in novels can use a variety of different ways. Characteristics of the character can be found through theory, character background, and novel era.

This study also discussed monster's characteristics viewed from Personality Traits Theory which is known as the Big Five formulated by McCrae and Costa. From the five factors of the Big Five Theory, the researcher finds four factors from monster's characteristics. He is categorized into openness to experience because he is very interested in new things around him. He is also classified into conscientiousness because of his ambition in achieving his goals. He is an agreeable creature because of his kindness. The negative factors of Big Five is neuroticism also exists in monster's characteristics such as anger and revenge.

The last factor of the Big Five that is not found in this discussion is extraversion. McCrae and Costa divide extraversion into three temperamental traits; they are friendly, sociable, and assertive (249). The three temperamental traits do not

appear in monster's characteristics. It is because the monster becomes an alienated creature. He tries to be affiliated with the society, but he always gets litigation because he is considered to threaten safety.

In this present study, the findings of Big Five in monster's character are more than the previous study that analyzed Bruce's character. This is because of the different background conditions of the characters. In Bruce's character mentioned that he is a character who always wants to appear dominant in the society. It makes the Big Five that appear in him does not vary because the focus of the character just wants to be recognized that he is more powerful than the others. This is inversely proportional to the condition of monster as alienated beings. So that in order to be accepted in the society he experienced many things that makes him have complex characteristics.

The Big Five Theory is used to express the condition of human psychology. Previous researcher analyzed human characteristics by using human as an object, while in this study the researcher analyzes the monster that is not creature created by God but the results of a failed human creation process. The problems rose by researchers in this study and previous research are different but have the same findings. Therefore, the Big Five theory not only can be used to find out the characteristics or human personality but also can analyze other characters that are not human but have a personality like humans.

E. CONCLUSION

After analyzing *Frankenstein* novel, the researcher finally come to the conclusion part. The researcher can conclude that the monster is described as a horrible creature through his appearance. The reaction of other characters who see him is fear and horror. He is always curious about new things, trusting people he meets, and vengeful creature, it is found through the action. He is also an ambitious creature discovered through his dialogue. He is also called as a monster because of his poor appearance and personality.

The researcher categorizes the characteristics of monster into the Big Five Theory by McCrae and Costa. The personality of the monster that is classified into, first, openness to experience is his curiosity about new things. Second, he is a conscientious creature because he is very ambitious in achieving his goals. Third, he belongs to agreeableness because he helps other characters without thinking about the effect on himself. Fourth, his personality is classified as neurotic is the negative emotions he has, such as anger, revenge, and hate. Fifth, extraversion is not found in this discussion. The type of extraversion that related with interaction between the character and the others such as assertive, sociable, and friendly is not visible in the monster's characteristics. It is because he is depicted as being rejected which makes him unable to interact with other characters.

The monster is a terrible creature who has human side although he is not completely human. He can act and think like human, beside that his personality does not increase perfectly. It is normal because he is created bu human.

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