

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT OF PETER PAN IN J.M BARRIE *PETER AND WENDY* NOVEL

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ABSTRACT

Character development is the transformation process of the character from bad character to good character or the opposite influenced by intrinsic elements. That is why the researchers used the guide from intrinsic elements and the structuralism theory from Seymour Chatman. In this research, the researchers focused on the development of Peter, the main character. The researchers also used characterization theory from Rimmon Kenan to characterized Peter. This research used qualitative content analysis as the research design. The result of the research showed that even though many says that Peter is a flat character that impossible to change, the researchers found that the influence of Wendy towards Peter. She changed him into a better version of himself and appreciated the lost boys. Even though his thought about parents was not good, he still let the lost boys to leave and had their own parents. The researchers also found influence of intrinsic elements on Peter's character development. First, plot showed his condition from the beginning until the ending events. Second, setting showed his background in Neverland, the place where he lived.

Keywords: character development, structuralism, intrinsic elements.

ABSTRAK

Perkembangan karakter adalah sebuah proses perubahan dari suatu karakter yang biasanya perubahan tersebut terjadi dari karakter buruk menjadi karakter yang baik, atau bisa juga sebaliknya. Hal tersebut bisa terjadi karena adanya unsur intrinsik. Maka dari itu, peneliti menggunakan teori strukturalisme dari Seymour Chatman. Pada penelitian ini, peneliti lebih fokus kepada perkembangan Peter sebagai karakter utama. Peneliti juga menggunakan teori karakterisasi dari Rimmon Kenan untuk menganalisis karakter Peter. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode konten analisis kualitatif. Hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa ada perubahan dalam karakter Peter, dan peneliti menemukan bahwa karakter Peter berubah dan berkembang menjadi seorang lebih baik, baik bagi dirinya maupun untuk orang lain disekitarnya. Karakter Peter juga menjadi lebih menghargai sesama dan dapat mengurangi

sedikit sifat egois nya. Peneliti juga menemukan pengaruh dari unsur intrinsik dalam perkembangan karakter Peter. Pertama, alur cerita menunjukkan keadaannya Peter dari awal hingga akhir cerita. Kedua, latar menunjukkan tempat dia tinggal di Neverland, yang banyak mempengaruhi karakter Peter.

Kata kunci: perkembangan karakter, strukturalisme, unsur intrinsik.

A. INTRODUCTION

Character is one of the elements of literature that has an important role in the making of a story. Arp and Johnson explain that this element (character) is a highly important segment in the story or movie because the character depicts the person that the writer of the story made to convey the storyline to the audience (103). It emphasizes that character is the important element to the story because it is the one that livens up the story as the plot goes by.

As the story goes, the main character eventually will face some problems that provoke the character to go through some development. This phenomenon is called character development. According to Taylor, character development is a change or growth process of character personality that represents to particular attributes (66). In other words, character development is the upgrade that happened to the character that has been through some changing behavior whether the character becomes a good character or the opposite character.

Peter and Wendy novel was first written by James Matthew Barrie in 1911 with taking the fantasy genre. The researchers decided to choose *Peter and Wendy* novel by J.M. Barrie as an object of the research because there are signs of Peter slowly shifting his character from a selfish person to a considerate person. The researchers also find that Peter character is quite interesting because he is the main character that takes an important role in the story. In *Peter and Wendy* novel, the character of Peter has been through several experiences that develop his personality the throughout story.

The purpose of this study is to portray the character development of Peter Pan, the main character in *Peter and Wendy* novel by using Seymour Chatman and Arp and Johnson's theory in order to analyze and examine the personality based on the stages of character development.

B. RELATED LITERATURE

1. Plot

According to Diyanni, plot is the chronological of events that are arranged to make a whole story (42). This is how the author arranged the whole story. Therefore, it can be understood that plot is arranged to make the viewers or readers to understand the movie or story.

a. Exposition

Exposition is the beginning of the story in which the appearance of the characters and the setting for the first time appeared in the movie or story. It could be the introduction of the characters, setting of place and time. The exposition also introduces the point of view, the position from which the story is being told; it often used an objective from third person.

b. Rising Action

Rising Action is a gradual rising of the tension in the story using danger, hazard, conflict and etc. Rising action is often long and relatively slow, and may occur through several storylines which all act together to create the excitement in the story.

c. Climax

Rush states that climax is the major conflict or the biggest conflict when the protagonist faced the final problem and he/she had solved the problem in the movie or story (58).

d. Falling Action

Falling action is the event that is stable in the intensity of conflict. The problem of the event is solved in falling action part. Diyanni explains that falling action is the stage when the tensions of the story calm down (45).

e. Resolution

According to Arp and Johnson (49), most fiction has a happy ending, where the protagonist can be able to solve the problem, defeat enemies, and find the true love and live happily ever after. While Diyanni(45) has stated that resolution happened when the action falls off as the plot's complication are sorted out and resolved. This is the ending of the story which main character has already solved the problem.

2. Setting

According to Chatman, setting is an intrinsic element that interpret place or background of the events which describe how the events are happened (63). Chatman says that a "place" is called as *setting* and "object" is called as *props* (63).

a. Biology

Biology is the criteria of the setting that show how a place describes the background of the characters, which influences to the character development (139). Biology refers to a place which has relation to the character.

b. Identity

Identity is the criteria of the setting where the character–trait of the character appears and develops (139). It also refers to the condition how Peter’s character develops in the narrative story

c. Importance

Importance is the criteria where the place is an object that put condition a character in the narrative story (140). In this criterion, the setting has influence toward the characters which describes a character in the story (Gill 148):

1. The place in which character appear.
2. The social context of character, such as their families, friends and class.
3. The customs, beliefs and rules of behavior that give identity to a society.
4. The particular location of events.
5. The atmosphere, mood and feel that all the above elements create.

3. Character

Character is the role play in the story. This element is highly important segment in the story or movie, because the character is depict of a person that the writer of the story or the director of the movie made to convey the storyline to the audience (103).

4. Characterization

Chatman states that characterization is the process of character’s trait to create characteristic in a narrative (60). Characterization is the process to describe or explain the characteristics of characters which is to know how the personal nature of the character who presents within a story. It is the process which the narrators identify by naming of trait as in the list of adjectives (60).

a. Direct Presentation

Direct definition is characterization process that defines naming of characters qualities through accurate voice in the text (Kenan 62). It means that this characterization indicates the character trait based on the actual text in literary work.

b. Indirect Presentation

Indirect presentation is a characterization to display a description of the character – trait (Kenan 63). This characterization describes traits of character through the external appearance of character and character’s thought within the story.

5. Character Development

In structuralism, character development is part of reconstruction process in the narrative story. Chatman explains that character is a group of traits that present kind of identity and personality (58). All characters are not developed to the same degree or depth. Character development is the transformation process of the character that will draw the reader attention to inner conflict and psychological complexities. One particular plot and theme are usually requiring certain combinations of character development and degree of self-revelation or change.

C. RESEARCH METHOD

1. Research Design

In this research, the researchers used descriptive method which is a method of research that attempts to describe and interpret the objects in accordance with reality. The descriptive method was implemented because the data analysis is presented descriptively. In finding the problem, the researchers used structuralism by Seymour Chatman which explained the influence of narrative elements that build Peter Pan’s character development. Next, the researchers also used supporting theory by Rimmon Kenan which explained the relation of Peter Pan’s character development with the plot and setting through characterization theory.

2. Research Instrument

In this research, the researchers used themselves as the research instrument. The researchers contributed by giving their opinions within the research, typically chapter IV and V.

3. Data and Data Source

The data of this research are the content of J.M. Barrie’s novel. The data can be found by observation, interview, documentation, etc. Peter and Wendy novel was first published in 1911 and then Cambridge University Press republished it in 2013. The novel was written in English and it consists of 267 pages and 17 chapters. In this research, the researchers used the dialogues and the narrations that show the character development of Peter Pan in *Peter and Wendy* novel as the data.

4. Data Collection

The researchers used three steps to collect the data. First, the researchers chose to observe *Peter and Wendy* novel as the object. Second, the researchers read the narration and the dialogue that showed Peter character development. Third, the researchers wrote down some notes of the narration and the dialogue of Peter Pan's character.

5. Data Analysis

Data analysis is the process of systematically applying statistical and/or logical techniques to describe and illustrate, condense and recap, and evaluate data. According to Shamoo and Resnik, various analytic procedures "provide a way of drawing inductive inferences from data and distinguishing the signal (the phenomenon of interest) from the noise (statistical fluctuations) present in the data (128). Yin introduces five phases to analyze the data, which consists of compiling, disassembling, reassembling and arraying, interpreting, and concluding (177).

D. FINDINGS

In this section, the researchers present the analysis of the collected data to answer the research question using Chatman's theory that has the traits of character development.

1. Character Development of Peter (DATA 1, page 19)

"If you don't live in Kensington Gardens now-" (interrupted)

"Sometimes I do still."

"But where do you live mostly now?"

"With the lost boys"

"Who are they?"

"There are the children who fall out of their perambulators when the nurse is looking the other way. If they are not claimed in seven days they are sent far away to the **Neverland** to defray expenses. I'm captain."

The data above was narrated by Wendy and Peter when Wendy asked where does Peter lives. The word Neverland is also mentioned for the first time in this conversation. According to Chatman's theory, there are three criteria of setting: biology, identity and importance.

This data belongs to identity because Neverland is the place where Peter develops his character to be independent at such a young age. It is also the place where he builds his leadership towards the lost boys. For the records, Neverland is a pretty much wide land; a lot of creatures live there, with the jungle around them. Logically, it is nearly impossible that a little boy could survive in the jungle alone, but Peter managed to do that, with a little help from Tink, the fairy.

(DATA 2, page 4)

On the second data, the data are shown in a narration based on point of view of the third person. "Peter Pan who was said to **live with the fairies**. There were add stories about him; as that when children died he went part of the way with them, so that they should not be frightened."

From the data above, it can be explained that since the boys got lost (including him) and came to the Neverland, they lived together with the fairies, as well as their guardian since they were still a baby. This data was identified as an indirect presentation. According to Kenan, there are four aspects in indirect presentation, and this data is categorized in environment. This indicator has big influence in constructing the character, and Peter has been together with Tink, his fairy for such a long time. He can understand fairy languages, and he can blend in with the fairies easily as if they are one of a kind.

(DATA 3, Page 4)

"Oh no, he isn't grown up." Wendy assured her confidently, "and **he is just my size.**"

The data above discussed about Peter Pan, who has the same height as Wendy. Even though Peter was refused to growing up, but his body is not stop growing as he want it to be. His body is like an average thirteen years old boy. And from this dialog, it indicates one of the aspects from indirect presentation, which is external appearance. This indicator describes through physical appearance of character and it also includes how he dresses.

(DATA 10, Page 16)

"How clever I am," he crowed rapturously, "Oh, the cleverness of me!"

It described that his character was so full of himself, as if he is the main character of his own story. That is a common situation and also normal to happened to a kid. Since Peter is the captain for the lost boys, nobody could tell him otherwise, and the boys always supported and followed him in everything that he does. In this data, his character was explained in an indirect way. Speech is the sub categories in the indirect presentation. It indicates the character from a conversation.

(DATA 11, Page 17)

“I don’t want ever to be a man,” He said with passion. “I want always to be a little boy and to have fun. So I ran away to Kensington Gardens and lived a long long time among the fairies.”

This data belongs to importance, which is one of the elements of setting. Importance is the criteria where the place is an object that put condition a character in the native story. Kensington Garden is the place where Peter live along with the lost boys, and also the place that influences Peter.

(DATA 14, Page 45)

This data is shown in the narration; the difference between him and the other boys at such a time was that they knew it was make-believe; while to him make-believe and true were exactly the same thing. This sometimes troubled them, as when they had to make-believe that they had had their dinners.

From the data above, it is a trait of habitual action. Habitual action is an unchangeable trait of character. Peter has lived in Neverland as long as he can remember, and with the appearance of the lost boys, he gets to have a role that he enjoys doing it so much as a leader. With that power, he can make every single of them to follow him. Even though it says that it is a unchangeable trait of character, it is not impossible to Peter finally realized that sometimes reality does not works that way. It has to begin with himself.

E. CONCLUSION

After the researchers present findings and discussion, in this chapter, the researchers can finally draw the conclusion according to the research questions and the purposes of the study. The purposes are to examine the character development that happened to Peter as the main character in *Peter and Wendy* novel using the theory from Seymour Chatman and also examine how the character develops his personality according to characterization theory. The characterization is divided into two categories, direct and indirect presentation. Each of it contains sub categories that refer to the traits of the character. Even though at the end Peter still did not want to come home with Wendy, but he got some experiences to become an adult, and Wendy influenced him a lot to be like that. However, it was found that Peter was just too afraid to face the reality ahead, and he used the shield to protect him because he actually hurt but he was still in denial. He just needed an extra push and it took a lot of time. The conclusion is that Peter's character was not totally changed but he was slowly changing into a better version of himself.

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