



Exploring Characterization of Main Characters: Elizabeth and Darcy in *Pride and Prejudice*

Ni Made Padmawati¹, I Gusti Agung Sri Jayantini², I Wayan Resen³

English Study Program, Faculty of Foreign Language, Universitas Mahasaraswati Denpasar,
Bali Indonesia

Email : padmawati1999@gmail.com

Abstract

This research pays special attention to the character analysis in the novel *Pride and Prejudice*, especially the two main characters, namely Elizabeth Bennet and Fitzwilliam Darcy. In accordance with theories explaining types of character and characterization, the data were carefully analyzed. The analysis focuses on how the characterization of *Pride and Prejudice*'s two main characters is realized. The aim of this research is to explore characterization of the main characters that is expected to contribute to the study of literature, particularly the existence of characters in the novel. Qualitative method was applied in the analysis. There were two main characters involved in the story, and many data were found to support the analysis of their characterization. Dialogues and narration in the novel were used to introduce the characterization based on three dimensions of characterization. This study found that three dimensions of characterization, including psychological, sociological, and physiological aspects of characterization could be used to make complete and vivid description of the main characters to share the values and message of the story.

Keywords: *Characterization, characters, characterization.*

Abstrak

Penelitian ini memberikan perhatian khusus pada analisis karakter dalam novel Jane Austen *Pride and Prejudice*, khususnya dua tokoh utamanya, yaitu Elizabeth Bennet dan Fitzwilliam Darcy. Sesuai dengan teori yang menjelaskan jenis karakter dan penokohan, data dianalisis dengan cermat. Analisis lebih memfokuskan bagaimana penokohan karakter *Pride and Prejudice* direalisasikan. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengeksplorasi penokohan dari karakter utama yang diharapkan bisa memberikan kontribusi dalam studi sastra khususnya yang berkaitan dengan kehidupan tokoh dalam novel. Metode kualitatif diterapkan dalam analisis. Ada dua tokoh utama dalam cerita dan banyak data ditemukan untuk menganalisis penokohnya. Data dari novel, seperti dialog atau narasi digunakan dalam menggambarkan tokoh berdasarkan tiga dimensi penokohan. Penelitian ini menemukan bahwa tiga dimensi penokohan, meliputi aspek psikologis, sosiologis dan fisiologis bisa digunakan untuk membuat deskripsi tokoh utama yang lengkap dan jelas dalam membagikan nilai moral dan pesan dari cerita tersebut.

Kata kunci: *Penokohan, tokoh, penokohan.*

Introduction

Literature is an art product of creative activity (Wellek and Warren, 1954). The purpose of literature is essential to improve the quality of life and spread human values. But not programmatically, if literature and criticism become open and directly politicized, they must tend to propagate (Barry, 2002). These days, novel is popular as one of the most interesting works in literature, mainly by teenagers. It is a book with a fictional plot that typically depicts human experiences. We know that a lot of directors have made films based on famous novels. It shows that novels can get people to enjoy the imagination expressed in words of a certain story.

Novels as literary works were analyzed in this study because the novel has many values, messages, and high morality that can be obtained by readers. Then the reader will feel curious about the author's description in expressing his imagination which immerses the reader in a story. (Utama, Asty Senja Pratiwi, & Sena Darmasetiyawan, 2018). As a fiction works, novel needs a figure that is told in the story. We mostly know this figure as a character. Characters are represented in drama or narrative works. Readers interpret them as having special moral, intellectual, and emotional qualities based on the characters' words and their unique expressions and what they do (Abrams, 1999). There is one character in a book, or one character contributes to the whole plot. The main character of the novel fills this position. As we all know, the main characters are usually the main characters that appear most often in the story, and the story includes them when the plot is completely affected. In the plot, in addition to the main character, there is also secondary character. The different roles created by the author will bring the reader into the novel. The more interesting the characters, the more novel takes people's interests.

This research is to investigate the main characteristics of the novels written by Jane Austen. The title is "*Pride and Prejudice*". The reason to analyze this novel is because "*Pride and Prejudice*" novel is a development work of Jane Austen. Jane Austen is considered to be a British writer. She published a book based on her understanding of the people in daily life. This novel has distinctive modernity. Jane Austen used the title "*Pride and Prejudice*" as the representative to describe the characters, especially Elizabeth Bennet and Fitzwilliam Darcy. It is fascinating because she conveys the characters by giving the main characters similar personalities and it makes them hard to reconcile with each other as they choose to hold fast to their beliefs. That is why the conflict occurred. The characters in this novel are also closely related to our daily live, because this kind of personality is very common among people around us, so we can learn more after we have a deep understanding of these characters.

The purpose of this study is to analyze the characterization of the two main characters in the novel, Elizabeth Bennet and Fitzwilliam Darcy. There is a theory that used in analyzing this study. It is a theory by Warren and Wellek (1954) which dealt with characterization of the characters which consists of psychological aspect, sociological aspect, and physiological aspect.

Characterization as one of the building factors of fiction can be studied and analyzed its interconnection with other building factors (Nurgiyantoro, 1998). Characterization is the author's way of presenting the characters in the story so that the characters can be known by the readers. Character has three aspects as its structure.

They are psychological aspect, sociological aspect and physiological aspect. (Wellek & Warren, 1954).

a. Psychological Aspect

Literary psychology is about the type of psychology and literary works that study authors or creative processes or propose laws and their effects on readers (Wellek & Warren, 1954). It is about studying human characteristics, such as temperament, ability, motivation, learning, emotions, attitudes, dreams, and feelings.

b. Sociological Aspect

Sociology is about things in the social environment, including economic status, work, occupation, family relationships, and their relations. Literary works mainly come from society and its environment. The relationship between literature and society is reflected in the study of literary works as social documents, as a description of the hypotheses of social reality. Sociology can be related to social factors, such as social behaviour, religion, nationality, etc. The sociological dimension is related to the description of the role's environmental conditions. Sociological aspects such as house, work, education and social status can be effectively analyzed through the social life of the character.

c. Physiological Aspect

The physiological dimension is the description of the physiological aspects of the character, such as appearance and general health. Appearance may affect the character's feeling or sense of security in the surrounding environment. The physiological condition of the character can be observed by gender, age or body shape, the color of skin, and any other possible appearance. Physiological aspects include analysis based on psychological background. Psychological dimensions involve character characteristics, such as behaviour, emotions (Mulyawan, 2015).

When displaying the characters in the story, some methods are used to show and reveals the character's characterization (Seri & Sosiowati, 2017). There are five methods of characterization (Kenney, 1966), they are:

a. Discursive Method

This portrayal straightforwardly needs the technique for building up roles. The writer uncovers the character through expressive portrayal or direct remarks (the writer mentions to readers what the character is in a proper manner).

b. Dramatic Method

In this method, the depiction of characters is conveyed by what are they say and the way they expressing it, the conversation between one another, also the differences among their way to talk and discuss. This method more like giving one character through the character itself.

c. Character on Character Method

By this method, the character's portrayal is communicated by different characters who said about the other character. We can become related with one character, when the other character clarifies him/her through discourse, portrayal, or thinking.

d. Contextual Method

In this technique, the creator uncovers data about the character and their characterization through the setting around the character. The environment or surroundings of the character may make readers structure certain presumptions about the character.

e. Mixing Method

This strategy needs various techniques to address the characters in the story. For example, when the creator uses dramatic and character on character method, the author will utilize the dialogues of characters, the way they conversing, verbal cooperations with others, and the contrasts between their discourse and conduct to show the audience the role to find out different characters in the story.

Method

Research method can be defined as the process of collecting data and information for decision-making purposes. This is very important when interpreting the data in this study. In addition, the success of the evaluation study is critical. The effectiveness of writing often has a major impact on it. The data for this study comes from the novel "*Pride and Prejudice*" by Jane Austen (Austen, 2018). This novel is about a love story between upper-middle class families in England in the late 19th century. The story centred on the two main characters Elizabeth Bennett and Fitzwilliam Darcy, trying to be two people who love each other together.

The authors used observation method to analyse the data. The researcher not only read the novel, but also watched movie with the same title to expand their understanding of the plot and characters. Based on the theory applied in this research, the data were analysed systematically and accurately. The qualitative method aims to better understanding to the behaviour of the character. Firstly to find the character's type and personality, and secondly how the author of the story tells the character. In addition, the data is presented using informal methods. This article describe the data by using descriptive sentences to provide evidence and some explanation related with the used data.

Result and Discussion

This chapter discusses the findings and discussion of character analysis in the novel "*Pride and Prejudice*". The first part discusses the types of characters in "*Pride and Prejudice*" novels, and the second part discusses the characteristics of characters in "*Pride and Prejudice*" novels. Here, the two main characters in the novel are described in terms of psychology, sociology, and physiology.

First, is Elizabeth Bennet. She is a woman represented the *Prejudice* from the novel. This is based on her way who easily judging people even though she doesn't know what the truth is. According to data from the novel, her psychological aspects are observant, intelligent, quick-witted, and independent. While there is not much data that explained her sociological aspect, other than she is a twenty-one years old woman. And for the physiological aspect of her, the author describes her as a girl with dark eyes, light and pleasing features, a thin face, and a flat nose.

The other main character is namely Fitzwilliam Darcy. He is a man that represents the *Pride* of the novel. This is based on his behavior who over-proud about his social status, his family, and his funds. The author explained his psychological aspects as a full of pride man with an arrogant, anti-social, and intelligent mind. His sociological aspects, always related to his wealth as a high-class man from a reputable family. Besides, his perfect side that is adored by many people is his handsomeness with a tall figure and noble manner. A further explanation of each character will be explained below.

1. Elizabeth Bennet

Elizabeth is very cheerful and can laugh at unpleasant things that happen to her. For example, when he talked about an event at a party, Darcy refused to dance with him because he was not considered pretty (Asmarani, 2013). When analyzing the role of Elizabeth Bennet, the researchers listed her as the main character and protagonist. Elizabeth Bennet was categorized as the main character because she played an important role from the beginning to the end of the story. The story of the novel basically tells us Elizabeth Bennet's views on family, social status, friendship, romance and many other aspects. The whole story revolves around her and Darcy. Due to the many differences between them, the distance between them is getting farther and farther. For example, this is one of the reasons they try to understand each other. Elizabeth said this after listening to Mr. Darcy's confession.

Data 1

"I did not know before," continued Bingley immediately, "that you were a studier of character. It must be an amusing study."

(Austen, 2018: Page 38)

Based on the above data, the author described many characteristics of Elizabeth Bennett. Through Mr. Bingley's dialogue, the data indirectly explained Elizabeth's character. He thinks that Elizabeth Bennet's character is a person who likes to study about human character. In other words, Elizabeth is an observer.

When Mr. Darcy asked her to dance with him, another characteristic of Elizabeth Bennet was proved. She politely declined his invitation because she knew what

answers Mr. Darcy would get from her. She knew Mr. Darcy's intentions when he asked to dance, and she answered very well. This is one of the proofs of her intelligent mind to act and speak in the quick and proper way after thinking deeply about it. The author described her character in a dramatic way.

The researchers also classify her as a complex character because her way of thinking has changed at the end of the story. After encountering many problems with Mr. Darcy and other characters, she became a mindful person. Elizabeth Bennet did not only change her mind, but she also understood her surroundings better. This is why she is classified as a complicated figure. In one of the following scenes, she knows the truth about Mr. Darcy, she had made a mistake before. After reading the letter written by Mr. Darcy, Elizabeth Bennet also gave a monologue to herself. She regretted her behaviour because he judged Mr. Darcy before she knew the truth. After reading the letter, she immediately changed her opinion of Mr. Darcy. She is also classified as the protagonist because she is loyal to her family and allies. She has undergone changes and is also brave. She has excellent intelligence or power.

In the previous discussion, Elizabeth Bennet was categorized as the main character, complex character, and protagonist character. In order to know more about the character of her, here some data that classified her character in three aspects.

a. Psychological Aspect

As the protagonist, Elizabeth also has bad characteristics, which makes us realize that she is human after all. She judged someone's qualities as one of the reasons for her relationship with Mr. Darcy. The biggest conflict in the story is based on her prejudice against the mysterious side of Mr. Darcy. Through dialogue, this is the second time they have met, Mr. Darcy already knows her weakness.

Data 2

“To walk three miles, or four miles, or five miles, or whatever it is, above her ankles in dirt, and alone, quite alone! What could she mean by it? It seems to me to show an abominable sort of conceited independence, almost country-town indifference to decorum.”

(Austen, 2018: Page 32)

Elizabeth is also called the witty girl. This is one of the reasons why Elizabeth is Mr. Bennet's favourite daughter. Elizabeth has the ability to think fast, but it is certain. She is also an independent girl. The above conversation was conducted by Miss Bingley while Elizabeth was looking for her sister Jane Bennet in Netherfield Park. Elizabeth walked from Longbourn to Netherfield, which shocked everyone because they knew how far they needed to go. Therefore, Miss Bingley did not like her very much. But from this we can know that Elizabeth is not a spoiled woman, she is an independent person who does not rely on others when she can do it.

b. Sociological Aspect

From a sociological perspective, there are two data descriptions about her. There are not many descriptions of her social status because she has no job and focuses on family life. She is Bennet's second daughter and has four siblings. When Elizabeth, Charlotte and Mr. Collins visited her residence, Mrs. Catherine de Bogue talked to

her. This is how the author describes Elizabeth's family situation by describing characters in the character method.

Data 3

“With three younger sisters grown up,” replied Elizabeth, smiling, “your ladyship can hardly expect me to own it.”

(Austen, 2018: Page 151)

When Mrs. Catherine de Bourgh asked her age, Elizabeth did not answer directly. She avoided and talked about her sisters. Mrs. Catherine was so disappointed. In the end, Elizabeth answered the question about her age, although she still did not mention it directly. The author's method of describing the character is very ambiguous.

c. Physiological Aspect

In terms of physiology, the researchers analyzed Elizabeth Bennet according to her appearance and categories related to physiology. Three data were found in the novel below. The further explanation will be explain below.

Data 4

*“Lizzy is not a bit better than the others; and I am sure she is not **half so handsome as Jane...**”*

(Austen, 2018: Page 2)

From the above data, the woman Elizabeth described is not as beautiful as Jane Bennet. Jane Bennet is Bennet's the most beautiful daughter of Bennet's. Mrs. Bennet talked of this conversation when she was talking to her husband about their daughter. The author uses the character-to-character method to explain the characteristics of Elizabeth Bennet.

After Mr. Darcy had learned more about Elizabeth Bennet, he had more explanations for her appearance. He admitted that even though Elizabeth is not as beautiful as her sister, she has different charms in many ways. Mr. Darcy described her character very well, beautiful dark eyes. Mr. Darcy saw her light and lovely figure. Elizabeth is not fashionable to him, but she is lively and cheerful.

Miss Bingley described more explanations about Elizabeth Bennet's physic. As the author explains more about Elizabeth Bennet without missing a word. Miss Bingley described her with a thin face, her complexion with no radiance. Her nose is flat, which is different from Mr. Darcy. Miss Bingley did not find Elizabeth's eyes very charming, but she found that Elizabeth's eyes were sharp.

2. *Fitzwilliam Darcy*

Fitzwilliam Darcy is divided into main characters, complex characters and protagonists. Like Elizabeth Bennet, he plays an important role in the story. Because the story of the novel is based on these two characters and their struggle to understand each other. Not only Elizabeth Bennet, this story also tells us the life of Mr. Darcy, such as family, social status, friendship, family and so on. He has always remained proud, because he comes from an upper class family, which is one of the reasons why the problem between Elizabeth and Darcy has worsened. We can see from the following scene.

Data 6

“...these offenses might have been overlooked, had not your pride been hurt by my honest confession of the scruples that had long prevented my forming any serious design...”

(Austen, 2018: Page 176)

Through this dialogue, we can see that he is proud of himself and underestimate Elizabeth's social status, and he embarrassed her by accepting that he fell in love with Elizabeth. Therefore, he said these words because he was angry after being rejected by Elizabeth. He also has a complicated personality, and his traits finally become easier to understand after meeting Elizabeth. The development of his personality led researcher to classify him as a complex personality. He regretted what he had said before and said that he tried to change the bad characteristics based on Elizabeth's words.

He told Elizabeth Bennet because he was sorry for what he said to his family. This means that he understands his mistake, which is why researcher classified him as a complex character. Moreover, although his bad character makes people think of him as a bad person, he is actually kind and loves his family. Only those who close to him can see this side of him. People around him also said that he is definitely a nice person. This is why Fitzwilliam Darcy is the protagonist.

a. Psychological Aspect

According to description, Mr. Darcy is not a pleasant person. He is full of pride and arrogance, hard to please. He is compared with his friend Mr. Bingley, who is the opposite of him. Her first impression of people around her is not very good. This is directly described by the author using discursive methods in the data below.

Data 6

He was the proudest, most disagreeable man in the world, and everybody hoped that he would never come there again.

(Austen, 2018: Page 8)

When Mr. Bingley had already danced with many girls on the dance floor, he discovered that his best friend hadn't even danced with people he didn't know. This made Mr. Bingley complain about his picky character, because he wasted time just looking at the people around him. Through this dialogue, we can see that Mr. Darcy is an anti-social person. The author uses one character per character to describe the characters in this data.

Mr. Bingley is very dependent on him and believes all his opinions. Mr. Darcy is based on Mr. Bingley and is also a very knowledgeable person. Mr. Darcy is smart and arrogant, restrained and critical. In addition to impressing people, Mr. Bingley also admires many of his roles.

b. Sociological Aspect

The sociological aspects of Mr. Darcy were shown by the data below.

Data 7

“of conversing easily with those I have never seen before. I cannot catch their tone of conversation, or appear interested in their concerns, as I often see done.”

(Austen, 2018: Page 160)

The data dialogue shows Mr. Darcy's social life. He doesn't like to start a conversation with people he didn't know before. He is not a person who concentrates on building relationships with new people, and he doesn't like people who pretend to be interested in conversations he doesn't like. The reason why this data is used is a dramatic method because Mr. Darcy said the data himself.

c. Physiological Aspect

Data 8

The gentlemen pronounced him to be a fine figure of a man, the ladies declared he was much handsomer than Mr. Bingley, and he was looked at with great admiration for about half the evening,

(Austen, 2018: Page 8)

Mr. Darcy is called a handsome man, even surpassing his friend Mr. Bentley. He has a good posture and a noble demeanor. His handsomeness has been mentioned many times, other than that, there is no more explanation about his characteristics. The author described his character in used discursive method.

Conclusion

After analyzing the novel, the researchers found that there are 8 data that explain the main character in the movie. The data is analyzed according to character representation theory by Wellek and Warren (1954). Characterization involves three aspects, namely psychological, sociological and physiological. To support the analysis of characterization, the researchers also used Kenney's (1966) characterization method, which includes: discursive method, drama method, character-to-character method, contextual method and mixing method. Through the finding and discussion, the researchers know how the author presents the characters. In addition, the researchers realized that characters convey information through dialogue or actions. It is interesting to understand that the study of characters and their characterization are based on the three aspects of the theory used.

Reference

- Abrams, M. H. (1999). *A Glossary of Literary Terms*. Heinle & Heinle (Vol. 1). Earl McPeck.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.cirp.2016.06.001>
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.powtec.2016.12.055>
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijfatigue.2019.02.006>
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.matlet.2019.04.024>
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.matlet.2019.127252>

- Asmarani, R. (2013). Analisis Terhadap Tiga Pasangan Muda Dalam *Pride and Prejudice* Karya Jane Austen Dari Perspektif Psikoanalisis. *Analisis Terhadap Tiga Pasangan Muda Dalam Pride and Prejudice Karya Jane Austen Dari Perspektif Psikoanalisis*, 17(1), 168–190. <https://doi.org/10.14710/humanika.17.1>
- Austen, J. (2018). *Pride and Prejudice*. Global Grey Books.
- Barry, P. (2002). *An Introduction to Literary and Cultural Theory (2002)*.
- Kenney, W. P. (1966). *How To Analyze Fiction*. New York: Monarch Press.
- Mulyawan, I. W. (2015). Three Dimensional Aspect of the Major Character in Oscar Wilde's *Vera*. *Journal of Language and Literature*, 15Mulyawan(1), 7–13. <http://ejournal.usd.ac.id/index.php/JOLL/article/download/368/315>
- Nurdiyantoro, B. (1998). *Teori Pengkajian Fiksi*. Gadjah Mada University Press (Vol. 1). <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.cirp.2016.06.001><http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.powtec.2016.12.055><https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijfatigue.2019.02.006><https://doi.org/10.1016/j.matlet.2019.04.024><https://doi.org/10.1016/j.matlet.2019.127252><http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.matlet.2019.127252>
- Seri, N., & Sosiowati, G. (2017). *From Theories to Practices I*. Denpasar: Cakra Press.
- Utama, S., Asty Senja Pratiwi, P. A., & Sena Darmasetiyawan, I. M. (2018). Characterization and Three Dimensions of the Main Character in *Looking for Alaska*. *Humanis*, 22(2011), 102. <https://doi.org/10.24843/jh.2018.v22.i01.p15>
- Wellek, R., & Warren, A. (1954). *Rene Wellek, Austin Warren - Theory of Literature (1949, 1954, Jonathan Cape)*. London: Lowe & Brydone.