



A Study on Development of Main Character and Characterization in “Bohemian Rhapsody” Movie

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Abstract

The title of this research is A Study on Development of Main character and Characterization in “Bohemian Rhapsody” Movie. The story of the movie is about the life of singer Freddie Mercury, culminating in Queen's appearance at the Live Aid concert at Wembley Stadium in 1985. There are two objectives of the study the first one is to identify the main character development in the “Bohemian Rhapsody” movie. the second is to analyze characterization of the main character in “Bohemian Rhapsody” movie. The data of this study were taken from the movie entitled Bohemian Rhapsody. The data source in this study was take from the movie in the movie was analyzed descriptively based on the theory How To Analyze Fiction proposed by William Kenney (1956). The main character development was analyzed into two categorizes which is simple(flat) character and complex(round) characters. The characterization of the main character was analyzed into three categorize which is physiological, sociological, and psychological dimension of the main characterization. The characterization of Freddie Mercury over all is that he is a kind person, humble, gentle and romantic person but in the middle of the story he changed into a bad person, ego and unfriendly person which make him a complex (round) character.

Keywords: *main character, development, characterization.*

Abstrak

Judul penelitian ini adalah Kajian Perkembangan Tokoh Utama dan Penokohan dalam Film “Bohemian Rhapsody”. Kisah film ini tentang kehidupan penyanyi Freddie Mercury, yang berpuncak pada penampilan Queen di konser Live Aid di Stadion Wembley pada tahun 1985. Ada dua tujuan penelitian yang pertama adalah untuk mengidentifikasi perkembangan karakter utama dalam film “Bohemian film Rhapsody”. kedua adalah menganalisis penokohan tokoh utama dalam film “Bohemian Rhapsody”. Data penelitian ini diambil dari film berjudul Bohemian Rhapsody. Sumber data dalam penelitian ini diambil dari film yang dianalisis secara deskriptif berdasarkan teori How To Analyze Fiction yang dikemukakan oleh William Kenney (1956). Perkembangan tokoh utama dianalisis menjadi dua kategori yaitu tokoh sederhana (datar) dan tokoh kompleks (bulat). Penokohan tokoh utama dianalisis menjadi tiga kategori yaitu dimensi fisiologis, sosiologis, dan psikologis tokoh utama. Penokohan Freddie Mercury secara keseluruhan adalah ia adalah seorang yang baik hati, rendah hati, lemah lembut dan romantis, namun di tengah cerita ia berubah menjadi seorang yang jahat, egois dan tidak ramah sehingga membuatnya menjadi sosok yang kompleks (bulat).

Kata kunci: *karakter utama, perkembangan, penokohan*

Introduction

Nowadays, there are many entertainments that provides us knowledge and inspiration. Entertainment allows us to experience and enjoy the artist's work of art. One of them is literature, according to Wallek & Warrant (1956) literature is a product of the author's imagination. Studying literature can help us better understand environmental, cultural, and value life because literature represents life, which may occur in social reality. There are many kinds of literature which people can enjoy such as song, novel, poem, and Film. Film is a medium that is in great demand by all circles. If a film presents a visual form with good music illustrations and has positive messages, then the film can help us in thinking, feeling, and cultivating our hearts. There are several types of films such as action, adventure, comedy, animation, drama, tragedy, fantasy, romantic, horror, documentary acting. There is an interesting element in the film which is the character. The characters in the movie have a big role in giving the movie message, and the plot itself can build situations and important events in the movie.

The movie is a visual work that is very powerful in conveying the creator's imagination. (Effendy, 1986: 134) state, the message of the film on mass communication can be anything depending on the film's mission. However, in general, the film is visual media communication that can contain various kinds of messages as follows; moral messages and other information. The message in the movie has a purpose to use the mechanism of symbols that exist in the human mind in the form of message content, sound, speech, conversation, and so on.

Character is one of the important elements in a narrative. They are very influential in the development of the story plot. however, the main character can be 2-3 people, and also the character is not only people but also animals as well. There are several types of characters based on roles, development, and characterization as follows; main characters, secondary characters, supporting characters, statistical characters, flat characters, dynamic characters, round characters, the protagonist, and antagonistic characters. In the movie, the main character itself has an important role to develop the message of the movie and also it can be fully developed with complex conflict and has high intensity to build a story. According to Kenney (1966:24), a fictional character must be other things besides lifelike, and the standard of the lifelikeness doesn't help us to understand very much about how the character is presented in fiction. Main character development can be shown in the types of the character based on the development whether it is flat, static, dynamic, or round character.

Character development is the process of building unique three-dimensional characters with clear depth, personality, and motivation. Character development can also refer to the changes that characters experience during a story as a result of their actions and experiences. According to Jannidis (2013), the characterization process is a process in which characters are named and categorized so that they become a property in the world narrative. The term characterization can be used to describe the character of a property on a property as well as to the entire process and the results attribute to that character. This process can be done directly if a characteristic form comes from these characters, or indirectly when the result comes from the text-based on knowledge of the world and various kinds of information about that character. This

research focuses on the analysis of the development of the main characters found in the movie "Bohemian Rhapsody". In analyzing the development and characterization of the main character. The reason this research chooses to analyze a movie because according to the researcher besides, this movie provides variation data to analyze, this movie is very interesting. The researcher can enjoy the movie while doing the analysis it also attracts the researcher to gain more inspiration for the analysis. On the other hand, “Bohemian Rhapsody” is a biographical movie about Freddie Mercury which is the researcher's favorite singer, and analyzing this movie will be exciting also interesting for the researcher.

In examining the research topic regarding the Development and Characterization of Main Character, the researcher refers to previous Development and Characterization of Main Character, research that can be a reference and help researchers in carrying out this research. The first review is a thesis written by Pramana (2019) entitle “The Analysis of Main Character Development and Characterization in “The Fate and Furious” movie. This thesis is focused on identifying the development of the main character in “The Fate and The Furious” movie and determining the characterization of the main character in the movie. Researcher using the theories of how to analyze fiction books presented by Kenney (1966) which mention characters and plot. Meanwhile, Morner (1991) about the types of characters and Wellek & Warren (1991) about the dimensional character. These theories have supported the analysis to answer the research problems of the study. The data sources of this research are taken from the movie entitled “The Fate and Furious”. Research data collection is based on a literature study. This research was analyzed using qualitative methods in "The Fate and The Furious" ' movie. Based on the research problem, the development of the main character and the characterization of the main character is a concern in this study. From the finding of the research, the main character development was a complex (round) character and there are three dimensions of characterization of the main character in the movie “Fate and Furious” physiological, sociological, and psychological dimensions. This research has a similarity and difference. The similarity is the research of Pramana (2019) study use theory by Kenney’s to Analyze the character development. The difference between this research and the previous study is the data source of Pramana studies was the “Fate and Furious” movie. On the other hand, this study analyzed “Bohemian Rhapsody” movie.

The second review is a thesis written by Jamal (2018) entitled “A Study of Character Development Thought the Characterization of the Main Character in the Movie the Age of Adaline”. This study aims to find out the character development of the main character in the movie “The Age of Adaline”. Second, to find out the character development of the main character in the movie “The Age of Adaline”. There are two theories used in this study, first, Literary Theory (1956) purpose by Wellek and Warren. Second, character development in the Dictionary of Literary book. Terms (1991) purpose by Kathleen Morner and Ralph Rausch. Characterization of the main character is analyzed into three categories, namely the physiological, sociological, and psychological dimensions of characterization. The development of the main character is analyze into two categories, namely static and dynamic characters. From the research results, three dimensions of the characterization of the main character in the movie “The Age of Adaline” were obtained, namely the physiological, sociological,

and psychological dimensions. The character development found in this study is a static character. Both studies between this study and Jamal (2018), both studies analyze the development of the main character and characterizations in the movie. The difference between this study and previous research was the source of research data, previous studies analyzed the “The Fate and Furious” movie, but in this study, the data source was taken in “The Age of Adeline” movie.

The third review is a journal written by Forno (2015) with the title "Depiction of the Main Character in “Maleficent” movie. The concept to be examined in this study is the depiction of characters through narrative. This journal focuses on seeing the depiction of the main character in the “Maleficent” movie and finding out the depiction of the main character in the “Maleficent” movie. Researchers use the theory of Vladimir Propp to analyze the data. which discuss about identify eight types of characters that often appear in stories. This theory supports the analysis to answer the research problems of the study. Data sources of Forno's (2015) research from the movie “Maleficent”. This study uses a qualitative approach that aims to find a deep understanding of a symptom, fact, or reality. Based on the research problem, the depiction of the main character is of concern in this study. Based on the analysis conducted, Forno (2015) found that “Maleficent” experienced three times character changes. His study found that the character changes that occur are influenced by a dynamic storyline. The similarity and difference between this research and Forno (2015) are, his research analyzed the main character in the movie and analyzed the character development of the main character. The difference between this research and previous study was the problem of studies and the data source of the studies. The previous study analyzed the “Maleficent” movie, but in this study, the data source was taken from the “Bohemian Rhapsody” movie.

The four review entitled The Characterization of main character in “Safe Haven” Novel by Nicholas Sparks” written by Putra (2017). In his thesis, the researcher has two aim of the study which are to find out the types of the main character in the story “Safe Haven” by Nicholas Sparks. In this research, the researcher analyze the characterization of the main character by using theory of Literature proposed by Kenney (1966). The source of data in this research is “Safe Haven” novel by Nicholas Sparks, this research was collected through the observation method an the data of the research wa analyzed bu qualitative method. There are six types of main character in this research as follow; simple (flat) and complex (round), static an dynamic characters and also protagonist and antagonist character. There are three aspect of characterization that analyzed by the researcher, first is physiological aspect, second is sociological aspect and the las tis psychological aspect. This research has differences with Putu Eka Putra’s research. The similarities namely, first, the previous research and this research wa same to analyze main character, second, this thesis was used the theory of character theory based on the book How o Analyze Fiction proposed by William Kenney, it was the same theory used by the previous research an this research. The different of this research and the previous research was on the object of the analysis, the previous research was analyzed novel entitle “safe Haven” but in this research, the researcher was analyzed movie entitle “Bohemian Rhapsody” Movie

The last review entitle :An Analysis of Plot in the Novel American Sniper by Chris Kyle” written by Wardika (2016). The aim of this research were to identify the

types of plot and element of plot of the novel American Sniper and to analyzing the types of plot an element of plot. There were two theories used as the main theory of the research. The first in analyzing the plot was *Teori Pengkajian Fiksi* purposed by Nurgiyantoro (2007) an second theory was How To analyze Fiction purpose by William Kenney (1966). The data of this research taken in the novel American Sniper. The novel described about Chris Kyle was that a man, a master sniper. From the finding in the research, the type of plot was used in American Sniper based on time order that was progressive plot and based om content that are plot of fortune, and plot of character. Then the elements of plot divided into; beginning (exposition), middle (conflict, complication) and end (denouement). Both researches have a similarity and difference. The similarity was the theory that used was How To Analyze Fiction proposed by William Kenney. The differences between this research and the previous research was the object of the study, this research wa analyzed main character development toward plot in “Bohemian Rhapsody” movie while the previous research is analyzed Plot in the novel American Sniper written by Chris Kyle.

Method

The data in this research analyze by a qualitative method in “Bohemian Rhapsody” movies. There are several steps to analyze the data of this research. First, determining the type of main character development in the movie by using character theory propose by Kenney (1966). Second, the data was analyzed by using the character theory propose by Morner & Rausch (1991:31) about protagonist and antagonist characters. Third, the character development classified by the theory from William Kenney from his book entitled How to Analyzed Fiction (1966) to their types, whether the flat character or complex character. This theory also supported by the theory from the book “Theory of Literature” proposed by Wallek and Warren. Fourth, the analysis of the characterization of main character development in the movie by using dimensions of characterization theory purpose by Wallek & Warren in the book of “Theory of Literature”. Finally, draw the conclusion base on the data analysis and the theories used in this research.

The data source of this study from the movie and the script entitled “Bohemian Rhapsody” the movie release in the United Kingdom (2018). This film tells of the life of singer Freddie Mercury, culminating in Queen's appearance at the Live Aid concert at Wembley Stadium in 1985. “Bohemian Rhapsody” is a musical biographical movie that bestseller all of the time. “Bohemian Rhapsody” won Best Film-Drama at the 75th Golden Globe Awards and was nominated for Best British Film BAFTA Award, while Rami Malek won the Golden Globe Award, Screen Actors Guild, and BAFTA for Best Actor. This film also won several Oscar awards such as nominations for Best Mixing Sound, Best Editing Sound, best actor, and Best Film Editing. The first award went to John Warhurst and Nina Hartsrone and their team for the Best Editing Sound nomination, the sound processing brought “Bohemian Rhapsody” won the Best Mixing Sound nomination and Actor Freddie Mercury in the “Bohemian Rhapsody film”, Rami Malek won the Best Actor category. So, it is very interesting to analyze or become research material because there are many moral messages and inspirational

stories also character development from all the characters contained in this movie's story, especially the main character Freddie Mercury.

Result and Discussion

The Main Character as Protagonist Character

According to Morner & Rausch (1991:31), at the center of the plot is the hero or protagonist. The hero is usually an admirable figure. An exception is an antihero, an inept or otherwise ridiculous character who is presented sympathetically. The plot follows what happened to the hero and is determined by the hero's characteristics and choices as well as by circumstance. An example of the protagonist character in the movie is the person who always does a good job like being a nice person, also a helpful person. There are some data that showed the main character as a protagonist character can be seen in the situation below:

Data 1:



Figures 1 Freddie finding the band

Conversation 1

Freddie : Enjoy the show
Roger : Thankyou
Freddie : I study design here, and also, I write songs. Might be of interest to you
Roger : Well, you are five minutes too late
Brian : Our lead singer just quit
Freddie : Well, you will need someone new
Brian : Any recommendations?
Freddie : What about me?
Roger : Oh, not with those teeth mate
(Bohemian Rhapsody, 08:45)

From Figure 1, The moment he met Brian May and Roger was after a gig when those two were in the band Smile and their bassist/vocalist left to join another band.

Freddie, the awkward self he was presented with, said to them that he has been following them around for some time. And Freddie said to Roger “Smile, huh? Makes sense since you’re studying to be a dentist”. One of them, did say that they are out of a singer and Freddie said “I can sing” and Roger said “Oh, not with them teeth mate” “not with those teeth” and Freddie proved them wrong and also said that his extra four teeth in the back of his mouth helps him out with his singing. Figure 1 above shows Freddie Mercury as the protagonist in “What about me”. shows that he is a friendly person, good at making friends by looking for biodata of band personnel. Freddie also offered himself to be their vocalist because the band leader had just decided to leave the band and was rejected but Freddie tried to convince them by singing in front of them. From the two pieces of evidence, Freddie looks like the Protagonist Character. In Figure 1 Freddie Mercury's good intentions show that he is a gentle person and a nice guy, because he wants to help the band as a vocalist. Conversation 1 shows that Freddie Mercury had a good attitude because he didn't get emotional when he was harassed with the phrase “Oh, not with them teeth mate”, instead he ventured to sing for Brian and Roger.

Freddie Mercury's first characterization of the physiological dimension mistook his appearance for a grown man with crooked teeth. His natural appearance was that he was a handsome man. Freddie Mercury had a thin face, a sharp nose, slanted eyes and a thin body, had black eyes, and thin lips. The second is about the sociological dimension of the main character, in this data the sociological dimension can be seen from the sentence "What about me?", this sentence was uttered by Freddie Mercury and this shows that he is a singer. The third about the psychological dimension in this data can be seen from the attitude of the main character. He has a good attitude too because he helps the band, in conversation 1 from the way he talks with other characters shows the main character is a polite person. Because he met the band even the band didn't know him.

The Main Character Change into Antagonist Character

According to Morner & Rausch (1991:31), the antagonist is a character in conflict with the hero and is usually less admirable than the hero. The antagonist character in the movie usually is a troublemaker, they are a very bad person and always contrast with the protagonist character in the movie. Antagonist characters can be seen from their attitude, usually, the protagonist character will make the plot is going to be in rising conflict and climax.

In this part of the analysis, there was some data that showed that the main character changed into the antagonist character and also showed the characterization of the main character. The data was taken from the pictures and conversations of the movie in order to prove the main character as a protagonist and the characterization of the main character in the “Bohemian Rhapsody” movie.

Data 2:



Figures 2 Freddie kissing Paul

Conversation 2

- Freddie : Don't misunderstand, Paul.
Paul : Mary knows me in a way that no one else ever will. I know you, Freddie Mercury.
Freddie : Is that what you think? You just see what you want to see. We work together. That's all. (Bohemian Rhapsody 37:02)

This is the beginning of the change in Freddie Mercury characteristics. When at the beginning of the story, he showed as a protagonist character who is a good guy, gentlemen, romantic and kind person, he helped an almost disbanded band to bounce back and he became a leader who had a big vision to bring the band to fame and he is a gentleman man but in this part, Queen band manager suspected from the start that Freddie Mercury was a guy, but unexpectedly the Queen band manager kissed Freddie to confirm the truth. The sentence “I know you Freddie Mercury” in conversation 2, this sentence shows that Freddie Mercury is going to be a bad person or troublemaker.

The development of the main character is also shown in his personality, in the previous data, he has a good personality like he loves his girlfriend very much and is a leader in the band Queen. He is a wise person and always solves the problem in every problem experienced by the Queen band which makes him a kind person, helpful, wise, caring, and loving person. But in this scene, he looks different. He didn't care about his girlfriend and his band. This scene is the beginning of the change of the main character from the protagonist to the antagonist character.

The physiological dimension in this data is seen from the 4.5, the main character makes a song while playing the piano. His face looks pale with a glare from his eyes, and he wore a t-shirt and necklace. The sociological dimension of the main character also changes in the data. In the previous data he has a social activity to help the band but, in this data, he makes a problem because he tries to cheat merry. The psychological dimension can be seen in conversation 2 shows that the main character is an ego person, he doesn't care about his girlfriend Mary, he just does what he wants. In this data, he has a high ego. He changed into a bad person and a troublemaker.

The Main Character Return To Protagonist Character

This part of the analysis shows Freddie Mercury or the main character in the “Bohemian Rhapsody” movie returned as a protagonist character. The reason why the main character changed from antagonist to protagonist character after Freddie Mercury experienced many bad things after leaving Mary and the band, Queen. There is some data that shows the main character back to the protagonist character.

Data 3:



Figures 3 Freddie meets with Mary

Conversation 3

- Mary : Freddie. What about Queen? Jim told me he's been trying to contact you about Live Aid... and you won't take his calls.
- Freddie : What is Live Aid?
- Mary : You haven't heard? Freddie, it's the biggest concert there's ever been or ever will be. It's for the famine in Africa,
- Freddie : Well, perhaps Paul thought it wasn't a good idea. A distraction from my work. That's what's important, that I finish this album. Stay with me, darling, and III be all right.
- Mary : Freddie, I can't stay with you.
- Freddie : Of course, you can. I need you, Mary.
- Mary : Freddie, I'm pregnant.
- Freddie : Wait. Mary, wait. Don't go. You told me you had a dream. What was it?
- Mary : I was trying to talk to you, but. it was like talking to my father. You needed to tell me something... but you couldn't say it. Because you had no voice.
- Paul : Freddie, come and say hello to our new guests. They're dying to meet you... He'll be one second.
- Freddie : Mary, I'm happy for you Mary. Truly, I'm. It's just. I'm frightened.
- Mary : Freddie, you don't need to be. Because no matter what you are loved. By me, by Brian, Deacy, Roger... your family. It's enough. And these people... they don't care about you. Paul doesn't care about you. You don't belong here, Freddie. Come home.
- Freddie : Home... (he started to realize)
(Bohemian Rhapsody 90:24)

This scene of the movie tells of his return to his band and his original characteristic. In Figure 3, the sentence “Freddie, you don't need to be. Because no matter what you are loved. By me, by Brian, Deacy, Roger, your family. It's enough. And these people” showed that Mary tried to tell Freddie to go home and stop doing bad things to him. That sentence shows that made Freddie Mercury realize that he was in the wrong way. And Freddie responded to Mary's words with the sentence "Home ...".

The physiological dimension of the main character is about appearance, Freddie wore a shirt, blue jeans, and sneakers in this scene, the Sociological dimension found in this data is about the environment. The environment the main character is a new house in Munich and a very dangerous environment because picture 4.12 show that there are, drunk, narcotics, and free sex. But at the end of the scene, his characteristics were changed, he realizes that he was in the wrong way and he also backs into the protagonist character.

Conclusion

The evolution of the main character in "Bohemian Rhapsody" presents a complex journey, showcasing a dynamic (round) character whose traits undergo significant transformation throughout the narrative. From the outset, the protagonist's persona demonstrates a blend of virtues and flaws, portraying him as both admirable and flawed. As the story progresses, the character undergoes a notable shift from being a protagonist, characterized by his altruism and leadership qualities, to temporarily assuming the role of an antagonist, marked by selfishness and moral ambiguity. However, pivotal moments, such as his reunion with Mary and realization of his misplaced priorities, prompt his return to the protagonist archetype, reaffirming his core values and redeeming his character arc. Thus, the main character's journey exemplifies a nuanced exploration of human nature and the complexities of personal growth amidst adversity.

The main character characterization presented in three aspect of characterization which are physiological dimension, sociological dimension and psychological dimension. The physiological dimension shows in the main character appearance in the story which is unique guy with long hair but at the middle of the story the main character changes his appearance with short hair and bearded. His natural appearance will always look eccentric, and fresh. The main character has thin face, bucktoothed, pointed nose, slanted eyes and thin body. The sociological dimension shows the main character social background about his social activity and environment in the story, in the beginning of the story, he is a immigrant from Indian and he work in airport as a porter, he also the leader of his band “Queen” at the middle of story he decide to solo career and the end of the story he back into his first social dimension as a leader in Queen. The psychological dimension shows the main character attitude. At the beginning of the story the main character has a good attitude as well because he helps the band to resolve the problem and bring the band famous. The main character also polite and kind person, humble, wise and romantic person but in the middle of the story he is change in to the bad person, unfriendly, insurgent and

troublemaker and the end of the story he is back into the first psychological dimension which is kind person, humble, wise and romantic person.

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