CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT OF AGATHA PRENDERGHAST IN CODY KIMMEL's *PARANORMAN* NOVEL

Anisah Nur Hasanah, Muhammad Natsir, Setya Ariani

English Literature Department and Faculty of Cultural Sciences
Mulawarman University
Pos-el: anisah.nh21@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Character development is change or growth process of personality of character that represents particular attributes. In this research, the researcher focused on characteristics and character development of a female antagonist, Agatha Prenderghast, in *ParaNorman* Novel by Elizabeth Cody Kimmel. This research used qualitative content analysis as the research design. This research also used two theories, they are Kenan's Characterization Theory and Chatman's Structuralism Theory. The result of the research showed five characteristics of Agatha character, they were violent, strange, hot-tempered, innocent and loving. The researcher also found influence of intrinsic elements on Agatha's character development. First, plot showed her character development process that explains her condition from the beginning until the ending event. Second, setting showed her background where the places have the relation toward Agatha's character development. Third, point of view showed her character development through two perspectives of two characeters which give bad and good impact toward her character development.

Keywords: Character, character development, structuralism, intrinsic elements.

ABSTRAK

Perkembangan karakter adalah proses perubahan dari kepribadian dari karakter itu sendiri yang menunjukkan sifat khusus. Dalam penelitian ini, peneliti memfokuskan pada karakteristik dan proses perkembangan dari karakter wanita Agatha Prenderghast dalam ParaNorman novel. Penelitian ini menggunakan konten analisis kualitatif yang mana menggunakan dua teori, yaitu teori karakterisasi dari Kenan dan teori struktural dari Chatman. Dalam penelitian, penulis menemukan 5 karateristik dari Agatha, yaitu bengis, aneh, pemarah, lugu dan penyayang, yang mana ditemukan melalui 4 indikator dari teori Karakterisasi Kenan. Penulis juga menemukan tiga intrinsik element yang mempengaruhi perkembangan karakter Agatha. Pertama, alur menunjukkan proses perkembangan karakter yang menjelaskan kondisi Agatha dari peristiwa awal hingga akhir. Kedua, latar menunjukkan latar belakang Agatha dimana tempat-tempat tersebut mempunyai hubungan terhadap perubahan karakter Agatha. Ketiga, sudut pandang menunjukkan perkembangan karakter Agatha melalui dua perspektif dari dua karakter yang mana memberi pengaruh baik dan buruk terhadap perkembangan karakater Agatha.

Kata kunci: *karakter, perubahan karakter, struktural, unsur intrinsik*

A.   INTRODUCTION

ParaNorman is a novel adapted by Elizabeth Cody Kimmel from the movie *ParaNorman* by Chris Butler. It tells about a boy named Norman whose unique ability is able to defeat a witch named Agatha Prenderghast. Agatha is a female antagonist who give the curse and terror to put the revenge toward the people in the Blithe Hollow. This novel is chosen as the object research because *ParaNorman* has the unique characters, especially female antagonist, Agatha Prenderghast. Agatha Prenderghast is an unique character whose unique ability has the witchcraft inside her. She is described as the evil witch when she gives the curse and make the confusion in the Blithe Hollow. In the past, Agatha gets bullying from the people because she has the witchcraft and she is able to speak with the ghost.

Character development is the issue that is chosen by the researcher. This issue describes transformation of Agatha Prenderghast from bad character to good character. Bad character describes an evil witch with the witchcraft. Meanwhile, good character describes an innocent ghost girl. In this research, the researcher focused on Agatha's character development by using Chatman's structuralism theory. Based on the previous explanantion, the aim of the research was to explain Agatha's characteristics and Agatha's character development by using characterization's theory and structuralism's theory.

B.   THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

1.   Structuralism

Structuralism is developed by Ferdinand De Saussure which explains about language concept. Meanwhile, Pettit argued that structuralism concept is a concept to analyze subject-matter of the text such as the action, the character, the story, the theme and so on (42). Therefore, structuralism approach is used on the elements of the narrative such as plot development, character development and thematic development.

2.   Intrinsic Element

According to Wellek and Warren, intrinsic element is the starting point to interpret and analyze the content of literary work (139). It is part of the narrative elements that presents main contents of narrative, such as plot, character, setting, theme and point of view. In Chatman's book *Reading Narrative Fiction*, Chatman explained that narrative is built through two basic components, they are story and discourse (18). Story is structured through events and existents, they are plot, character setting and theme (18). Chatman explained that theme describes the specific story from nonfiction world experience to general life (274). Otherwise, the discourse is presentation of the story, such as point of view.

2.1.   Character

Chatman explained that character is the process to analyze human natures action, their action as well as manner by using these elements of narrative (108). Character is part of intrinsic elements which has relation between plot, setting and point of view. Character is product of plot which presents the development of the story, such as make a decision, action, reaction and relation to the other character (Disher 47). Meanwhile, character and setting have relation by giving information of the character through places, time and

condition (Disher 134). Likewise, character and point of view shows relation by giving influence character itself through the perspectives of the other characters.

a. Types of Character

Chatman divided two important aspects of the character, they are *round* and *flat character* (60). Round character is called as complex character that expresses multiple traits of character itself (Chatman 60). In addition, round character is like people in life, which it is very complicated and even, it cannot be expected (Chatman 60). Otherwise, Chatman says "flat character posses a single marked trait that can be captured in a word or phrase—the miser, the prostitute with the heart of gold, the mad doctor, the cop that cannot be bribed (60). In other words, flat character has only one trait that is represented in the text and it does not influence character development.

Meanwhile, Chatman also divided character based on their importance to the plot; they are *dynamic* and *static character*. Dynamic character is a character that is influenced by the plot, which present development in every event, from the beginning until the ending of the story (Chatman 60). Likewise, static character is a stable character which does not present changing trait of the character (Chatman 60).

b. Characterization

Chatman stated that characterization is the process to create characteristics a character in the narrative (60). Chatman categorized characterization devices into two types; they are *direct* and *implied* (*indirect*). Direct is a characterization process that is showed by the narrator through actual words and typical adjective (Chatman 61). Otherwise, implied (indirect) is a characterization process that is indicated through action, speech and thought of the characters (what they like) (Chatman 61).

According to Kenan, characterization is as a part within element of literature that describes traits of character (61). These traits are used to analyze how a character is described in a story. Kenan divided into characterization; they are *direct definition* and *indirect presentation*. Direct definition is a characterization process that presents naming of character's qualities through accurate voice in the text (Kenan 62). In addition, direct definition is characterization that presents monologue of the author directly. Otherwise, indirect presentation is a characterization to display the description of the character-trait (Kenan 63). Indirect presentation is one of indicators within characterization which shows the identity of the character. Kenan divided four indicators of indirect presentation; they are **action, speech, external appearance** and **environment.** Action is a trait that shows act of the character. These actions are added into one of three categories (Kenan 63): act of commission (something performed by the character), the act of omission (something which the character should, but does not do) and contemplated act (an unrealized plan or intention of the character)

Meanwhile, speech is indicator of indirect presentation in a conversation which can show the traits of character through content and form (Kenan 64). Style of speech is a way to show characterization in narrative text with accentuates of character's language that describes the character-trait (Kenan 64). Style is indicated through the origin, dwelling place, social class and even profession. Next, external appearance is indicator that is used to describe character-trait which describes traits through the physical appearance of character which includes bearing, dress and look

(Kenan 67). External appearance is indicator to express a trait of character what the reader looks. Clothes have the several functions in the novel (Gill 139-140):
1. Clothes as an expression of personality
2. Clothes are sometimes used to show social statue
3. Clothes can also help to create the atmosphere of a book
4. Clothes can sometimes be an essential element in the development in the plot
Likewise, environment is one of the characterization's indicators by describing the character trait through how the character's attitude toward her environment (Kenan 68). The environment has big influence in constructing character trait in a narrative text which it shows through social class and family.

c. Character Development

Chatman explained that character is the group of traits that present kinds of identity and personality (58). Otherwise, Taylor explained that character development is change or growth process of character personality that represents to particular attributes (66). In other words, character development is personality transformation process by the character, from bad to good character, or even good to bad character, which is influenced by psychological factors or intrinsic elements. Plot is one of factor that influences character development which needs combination of character development in the story (Taylor 66). Likewise, point of view of the readers also describes degree of character development of the character, where their perspectives give impact to the character (Taylor 66).

2.2　Plot

According to Chatman, plot is the events that are used to know how chronological a story (20). In the narrative, plot is consisting of the beginning, middle and ending, which it is called as anticipate (traditional narrative pattern) (Chatman 21). Anticipate is divided into different stages, they are *introduction, rising action (complication), climax (conflict), dénouement* and *conclusion*.

2.3　Setting

Setting is an intrinsic element that interprets place or background of the events which describe how the events are happened (Chatman 63). Chatman divided setting into three criteria, which are consisting of **biology, identity** and **importance**.

2.4　Point of View

Point of view is called as the narrators' mind, which they describe character and event in the story. Chatman divided two kinds of point of view. They are *character's filter* and *narrator slant*. Character's filter is presented as monologue of the author. In addition, filter has function to change character's consciousness into a kind of *screen* through the events of the story, which these events give impact to the character (Chatman 130). Otherwise, narrator's slant is also called as point of view that means attitude toward the event and character (Chatman 134). Filter is also called as *omniscient* that means knowing all. The omniscient narrator is the narrator's perspective through the other character to adjudge all knowledge of the character, such as action, though and feeling.

C.   RESEARCH METHOD

1.   Research Design

According to Fraenkel and Wallen (2009), qualitative research is research design used to analyze the problem such as relationship, activities, situation or material through describing or explanation (422). Therefore, the researcher used qualitative research to observe character development as data analysis object.

2. Research Instrument

The researcher used herself to analyze and find the problem of the data in *ParaNorman* novel.

3. Data and Data Sources

The data of this research were in the forms of narration and dialogue of Agatha Prenderghast which presented her charateristics and her character development. Otherwise, this research used *ParaNorman* novel by Elizabeth Cody Kimmel as the data sources.

4. Data Collection Technique

In collecting the data, the researcher did five steps. First, the researcher chose *ParaNorman* novel as the object. Second, rode the narration and the dialogue of Agatha Prenderghast. Third, the researcher made some notes and classified the data. Fourth, the researcher determined the problem. Fifth, the researcher identified the data by using theories.

5. Data Analysis

Yin introduced five phases to analyzing the data, which consists of compiling, disassembling, reassembling and arraying, interpreting, and concluding (177). First, the researcher compiled the data which related Agatha's character. Second, the researcher disassembled the data by classifying the narration and the dialogue of Agatha's character. Third, the researcher arrayed the data. Fourth, the researcher developed the data. Fifth, the researcher concluded the data.

6. Triangulation

According to Hales, triangulation is the method to analyze the problems through some point of view (12). In other words, the researcher used data triangulation to validity the data which could be find through the journal and previous studies that related with character development.

D. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

1. Characterization of Agatha Prenderghast *in ParaNorman* Novel

In Kenan's characterization theory, Agatha character is described within five characteristics; **violent, strange, innocent, hot-tempered** and **loving**. These characteristics are found through four indicators of indirect presentation, they are **action, speech, external appearance** *and* **environment**. Indirect presentation is used by the researcher because it shows the identity of the character which describes characteristics of

Agatha character. In ParaNorman novel, Agatha is described into two characters. She is as the human and she is as the witch (ghost). Two different characters present different traits toward Agatha personality.

> The hideous face in the clouds turned inside out, and from its center, **a tongue of lightning shot out toward Norman**, **knocking the book from his hands and sending him reeling backward onto the old timbers of the roof** (Kimmel 1, **Data 4**).

It is one of narration of Agatha's action which performed something by putting the witchcraft to the book in Norman's hand. Her action presented her feeling which is feeling annoyed toward Norman's exist. This narration above also showed that her character was violent by giving her power to Norman and made him falling down.

In indirect presentation, it is one of indicator of action which shows action of character through three kinds of action. They are act of commission, the act of omission and contemplated of act. The narration above shows act of commission which presents what she feels to the people. Meanwhile, Agatha feels annoyed when a boy tries to stop her curse. She is angry and gives her curse to a boy. It is an action that Agatha shows self-defense to herself.

In these indicators shows how Agatha character is described in the novel. First, action indicator shows violent character of Agatha when she destroyed the witch statue at Town Hall. She also used her power to shoot the book in Norman's hand. Second, speech shows strange character of Agatha by perspectives of the Judge Hopkins and Norman. They said that Agatha is a strange girl because she is able to speak with the dead people. In addition, she uses her witchcraft which is used to take revenge to the people. Third, external appearance indicator shows innocent and hot-tempered characters of Agatha character. She is described through two characters. Innocent characteristic describes Agatha is as the human. On the other hand, hot tempered characteristic described Agatha as the ghost. Fourth, environment indicator shows loving character of Agatha. She presents as a loving girl and she cries when she remembers about her mother. She is closed with her mother, where her mother always told her stories.

2. Influence of Intrinsic Elements on Agatha's Character Development

Based on the previous explanantion, Agatha has different characters which describes two characters on her personality. She is described as a cruel witch and she is described as a human. Intrinsic elements is the starting point which presents main contents of literary work, such as plot, setting and point of view, and they have important role toward character.

Agatha character is the character that has big influence in the story because her character development presents in each events in the story. The setting of place and condition also explain how her character development appears until her event is to be a history in the Blithe Hollow. She also presents symbol of places that has synchronization toward her character development, such as ***the oldest part of the wood, the graveyard, a long dead tree*** and ***town hall.*** These places explain background, identity and importance from Agatha's character development.

> And in the center of the clearing were the remains of **a long-dead tree**, its trunk and remaining limbs grotesquely twisted and bleached white as bone (Kimmel 199, **Data 14**).

In the narration above showed place where Agatha appeared. **A long dead tree** was the place has strong influence toward Agatha's character development. This place explained

that Agatha is buried in there. This place had good relation toward herself where her mother always was reading the stories in under this tree. It was reason Agatha always haunted this tree.

In this tree, Agatha and Norman met for the first time. As the main character, Norman asked to stop her curse. Agatha was aware what she did in the Blithe Hollow. Her anger disappeared slowly. This setting was the background place where Agatha changes. Norman tried to stop Agatha's curse. She also presented her character development where she changed from an evil witch to a girl. She changed her character because of Norman's advice.

Based on the explanation, the setting influences Agatha's character development by showing background of Agatha character through the place. Meanwhile, setting also describes biology of the character, which shows her as female antagonist in *ParaNorman* novel. These places were the witness of Agatha's character developmant by showing reason that her soul still haunted the tree. She has memories about her mother on that tree. So, this place had influence to biology of Agatha.

The explanation above shows that intrinsic elements influence Agatha's character development and they have a role important toward her character development.. Likewise, plot and point of view also influence her character development. Plot explains her transformation process, from the beginning to the ending of the story. It tells her condition from she is still to be an evil witch in the exposition to a girl in the falling action.

Otherwise, point of view shows her character development through different prespectives of the character. First, Judge Hopkins is a man who gives a punishment to her and he told that Agatha is dangerous. His perspective makes bad impact to Agatha character and changes her as an evil witch. Second, Norman is a boy who give advice to Agatha character that she have been given effect toward the people by her power. His perspective gives good impact to Agatha character development until she understands by Norman's advice to her.

E. CONCLUSION

In the conclusion, the researcher concluded two problems through two theories. First, the researcher found five characteristics of Agatha Prenderghast by using Kenan's characterization theory. They are violent, strange, hot-tempered and loving. These characteristics shows that Agatha has different characters which she is described as a cruel witch and a girl. These characteristic is found by using indirect presentation (action, speech, external appearance and environment).

Second, the researcher found the influence of intrinsic elements on Agatha's character development by using Chatman's structuralism theory. The intrinsic elements are plot, setting and point of view. These intrinsic elements influence Agatha's characte development based on content of the story. First, plot explains her transformation process which explains her character development from the beginning to the ending. In the beginning, Agatha is described as a cruel witch by putting the curse in the Blithe Hollow. She put her curse because she still saves revenge inside her. Second, setting shows background of Agatha through the places. Third, point of view shows her character development through two perspectives of the two characters, they are Judge Hopkins and Norman. Their perspectives give two impact that influence toward Agatha's character development. Bad impact makes Agatha as an evil witch. Otherwise, good impact makes her understand that she does bad to herself and to the people.

In this research, the researcher gave recommendation to the future researcher to analyze the extrinsic elements such as background of the author, environment and moral value that represents Agatha character.

WORKS CITED

Abrams, M.H,. *A Glossary of Literary Terms*. 7th ed. Australia: Earl McPeek, 1999. Pdf

Bonn, Julien. D. *A Comprehensive Dictionary of Literature*. Delhi: Abhisek Publication, 2010. Pdf

Chatman, Seymour. *Story and Discourse: Narrative Structure in Fiction and Film*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1978. Pdf

Chatman, Seymour. *Reading Narrative Fiction*. New York: Macmillan Publishing Company, 1993. Pdf

Disher, Garry. *Writing Fiction: An Introduction to the Craft*. Australia: Allen & Unwin, 2001. Pdf

Denzin, Norman K., and Yvonna S. Lincoln. *Handbook of Qualitative Research*. London: Sage Publication, 1994. Print

Fraenkel, Jack R., and Norman E Wallen. *How to Design and Evaluate Research in Education*. 7th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill Higher Education, 2009. Pdf

Hales, David. *An Introduction to Triangulation*. Geneva: UNAIDS. Pdf

Kenan, Sclomith Rimmon. *Narrative Fiction: Contemporary Poetics*. 2th ed. New York: Routledge Taylor and Francis Group, 2002. Pdf

Kimmel, Elizabeth Cody. *Paranorman A Novel*. New York: Little, Brown and Company, 2012. Print

Pettit, Philip. *The Concept of Structuralism: A Critical Analysis*. California: Universitas of California Press, 1977. Pdf

Yin, Robert K. *Qualitative Research from Start to Finish*. New York: The Guilford Press, 2011. Pdf