



Exploring Characterization of the Main Character in *Raya and the Last Dragon* Movie

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Abstract

This article focuses specifically on the character analysis in *Raya and the Last Dragon* movie, especially the main character, namely Raya. This research is aimed to finding out main character's characterization. The theory of characterization proposed by Warren and Wellek (1962) was applied in this study. The research data were collected from *Raya and the Last Dragon* movie by watching the main character's dialogue and action. Qualitative descriptive method was also used in conducting this research. There were 3 aspects of characterization that were found in this movie. Raya was psychologically portrayed as a clever, determined, cautious, empathic and an adaptable person. On the other hand, she was also socially described as Heart land's princess, Chief Benja's daughter, and dragon gem's guardian. Lastly, she was physiologically illustrated as having black hair with braided and ponytail, big and black eyes, black eyebrows, brown skin, flat nose, and small lips when she was a child. However, when she was growing adult, she was depicted to have average height, thick black eyebrows, and long wavy hair, slim and slightly muscular.

Keywords: *character, characterization, movie*

Abstrak

Artikel ini berfokus secara khusus pada analisis karakter dalam film *Raya and the Last Dragon*, khususnya karakter Utama, yaitu Raya. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui penokohan karakter utama. Teori tentang penokohan yang diusulkan oleh Warren dan Wellek (1962) diaplikasikan pada penelitian ini. Data penelitian dikumpulkan dari film *Raya and the Last Dragon* dengan menonton dialog dan aksi karakter utama. Metode kualitatif deskriptif juga digunakan dalam melakukan penelitian ini. Adapun 3 aspek penokohan yang ditemukan dalam film ini diantaranya, Raya digambarkan secara psikologis sebagai seseorang yang cerdas, bertekad, berhati-hati, empati dan mudah beradaptasi. Di sisi lain, dia juga dideskripsikan secara social sebagai putri dari negeri Hati, anak kepala suku Benja, dan penjaga permata naga. Terakhir, dia diilustrasikan secara fisiologis memiliki rambut berwarna hitam yang dikepang dan diikat, mata yang besar dan berwarna hitam, alis tipis berwarna hitam, kulit coklat, hidung pesek, dan bibir tipis saat dia masih kecil. Namun, ketika beranjak dewasa, dia digambarkan memiliki tinggi rata-rata, alis tebal berwarna hitam, rambut panjang bergelombang, langsing, sedikit berotot.

Kata kunci: *karakter, penokohan, film*

Introduction

Literature can be explained as written or spoken products expressing the creativity and imagination in the context of fiction and non-fiction. According to Klarer (2004:1), literature refers to a written art that can be consumed with the sense and expression. Moreover, an individual sometimes presents their thoughts, feelings, or experience in forming ideas for artworks including; drama, poetry, and novel. In addition, literary works have progressively developed into various forms such as movie. The concept of movie is began from the script development as a part of fiction or it may also be adapted from novels. Movie is a part of literary work that performs the artistic and visual image as the medium of consumption. This literary work has gotten bigger development since numerous and various types of film are produced recent days (AM, et. al, 2017). The story can be related to the reality, even though the characters are just fictional figures (Aeni, et.al, 2018).

Watching a movie is an activity that can be conducted routinely in entertaining ourselves during the spare time. A movie that is shown in a theatre on a television also usually tells a story (Cambridge Dictionary). A character has a significant contribution in explaining the details of the story. According to Gill (1995:127), a character can be described as individual who has personal identity. On the other hand, characterization is the individual's role and characteristic based on the way how the writer expresses themselves in a story (Mays, 2016:219).

In this research, "*Raya and the Last Dragon* movie" was chosen to be analyzed because this movie is representing the diverse Southeast Asia cultures, the impressive action of the characters, and the well-done voice casts of the characters. The goal of this research is to examine main character's characterization, namely Raya. This research is analyzed using the theory by Warren and Wellek (1962) that deals with characterization. Characters or people are one in every of the necessary parts in creating motion picture or film. It just as important as the plot, characterization, and setting. According to Safrudi (2014), characterization is used to explain the details of character in the story by an author in order the readers can get know them.

Based on its structure, characters are divided into three aspects namely, physiological sociological, and psychological aspects (Warren and Wellek, 1962).

a) Psychological aspect

Psychology in literature can be explained as the types and laws of psychology that may affect the readers. This human's nature involves attitudes, motivations, emotions, temperament, feelings, abilities, dreams, learning and so on.

b) Sociological aspect

This aspect covers economy, status, profession, family, and so on. It is also influenced by society and its environment (Warren and Wellek, 1962: 94). The relationship between the literary work and society that can be explained through the portrayal of social reality.

c) Physiological aspect

This aspect includes the human's appearance in term of eye colour, skin tone, body build, strength, age, and so on.

Method

Qualitative and descriptive method was applied in conducting this research. The data were also analyzed through Warren and Wellek's theory (1962) regarding to characterization. The research data were collected by following several steps they are; watching the movie frequently to reveal the characterization of the main character, observing the main character's dialogue and action, and take note the main character' events and scenes. The movie entitled *Raya and the Last Dragon* was chosen in this research as the data source. An adventure, action, comedy, and fantasy that produced by Disney Pictures. It released in the United States on March 5, 2021. It tells about the journey of female warrior named Raya who was looking for the last dragon in Kumandra Kingdom.

Result and Discussion

This section consists of the results and discussion based on the data collection from the selected movie entitled *Raya and the Last Dragon*. This part discusses the characterization of the main character. Raya is the main character, protagonist, and is categorized as round character since her personality was developed during the progress of the story. There were three aspects of characterization found in this movie. From Psychological aspect Raya represented as a clever, determined, cautious, emphatic and an adaptable person. Meanwhile, referred to Sociological aspect described as Heart land's princess, Chief Benja's daughter, and dragon gem's guardian. Finally, she was description stated from physiological aspect that she had black hair with braided and ponytail, big and black eyes, black eyebrows, brown skin, flat nose, and small lips when she was a child. However, when she was growing adult, she was

portraying to have average height, thick black eyebrows, and long wavy hair, slim and slightly muscular. The explanation would be discussed further below.

Raya's Characterization

Psychological Aspect

Psychologically, as the main character, protagonist and round character, the side of Raya is known as determined, clever, cautious, emphatic and an adaptable person. This aspect can be explained through the data below

a) Raya is a determined person

During her journey to find out the last dragon, she never gives up to achieve the goals. After six years of searching, finally she met Sisu.

Data 1

Raya: "I've searched every river to find you, and now I'm here at the very last one."



(Figure 1. Raya in the last river to find out Sisu)

In this scene, Raya after six years of searching she finally visited the last river to find out Sisu, she remembered Namaari's words when they were children, she said after destroyed the Druun, Sisu felled into the water and afloat into downstream. According to the legend she was in the last river, but was still unknown which river because there are hundreds of rivers. And she visited the last river which means she has gone around all the rivers. She hopes Sisu is

listening to her because she needs the help to bring her father back. Started when she entered an abandoned ship but in inside there is a flowing river. Even though she was accompanied by Tuk Tuk, only herself could enter, because Tuk Tuk has a large body, so it does not fit into to enter the ship.

The result of her hard work and determination to find out Sisu succeeded. It started when she took off her boots, kneeled while prepared the offered and chanted a spell. After that appear the water droplets evaporated to the top from the river, and it turned into Sisu. The effort of her hard work to find out Sisu because she made mistake in the past by trusted someone that she should not have which means the accident in the past when Namaari betrayed her in intention to take the dragon gem piece but is shattered into pieces and make Druun alive by turned people into stone including her father. Raya is safe because her father thrown her into the river. She felt guilty and want to fix it. Because, she really regretted after what she did in the past, and it made her really sad which lost her father that turned into stone. The dialogue above is telling Raya is a determined person.

b) Raya is a clever person

Even in a difficult situation, Raya still have an idea to solve the problem

Data 2

Raya: “If we get all the other gem pieces.”

Sisu: “I can reassemble it.”

Raya: “You can reassemble it.”

Sisu & Raya: “And boom the Druun away!”



(Figure 2. Raya and Sisu have plan)

This scene, when first Sisu thinks Druun is gone and her hard work with her brothers and sisters is successful. But, Raya told to her that she broke the dragon gem piece, and it make Sisu is panic. Additionally, the Druun is alive, her brother and sisters turn into stone. Raya said she still have dragon gem piece in order to make Sisu calm down and Raya thinks she can make another one, because she is the dragon. Sisu honestly said that she is not the best dragon, because that gem was not created by her, just handed it.

When Sisu touch the dragon gem from her little sister, namely Amba, it was glowing. Every dragon has their unique magic, and Sisu magic is the great swimmer. and Raya thinks Sisu can connect the gem's magic and can fix the world, because it gives the power and can save the world by reassemble all of the dragon gem pieces. She thinks it will bring her father back and Kumandra. Raya have an idea that they have to collect all the dragon gem pieces from four lands, there are, Talon, Fang, Tail and Spine. The dialogue above is telling Raya is a clever person.

c) Raya is a cautious person

Due to the experienced from the past, it made her to not trust people easily and became cautious.

Data 3

Sisu: "Uh, what are you doing?"

Raya: "We don't know him. It could be poison." Sisu: "Why would he poison us?"



(Figure3. Raya Sisu, and Tuk Tuk with Captain Boun)

This scene was when Raya, Sisu, and Tuk Tuk managed to escape from Namaari's troops. They can escape because Raya thinks Druun and cats have similarity, both of them are afraid of waters and it makes them jump into the river and end up in Captain Boun's boat. During the trip, Captain Boun serves dishes. But, Raya suspects that Captain Boun poisoned their food, because Raya is not trust people. She thinks Captain Boun will take her jade purse, purloin the sword, and kidnap Tuk Tuk. And before that, Raya also give Sisu warns to hide her identity as a dragon because she afraid people will see her.

Raya wants Sisu still in human shape after they can collect all the dragon gem pieces from the four nations. From her experience in the past, when her father is trusted people and turn into stone, also her when get betrayed by Namaari because snatch the dragon gem which make her not trust people. The dialogue above is telling Raya is a cautions person.

d) Raya is an empathic person

Have the same fate, that both of their parents turned into stone, Raya knew the feeling life without family.

Data 4

Raya: all right, where is your family? Baby:
mm...



(Figure 4. Raya, Baby, Ongis)

In this scene when Raya and the friends visit Talon place, is known as spot of thief and hustler. Raya suggest Sisu to stay in Captain Boat's place. During on the way, she hears baby crying, and ask that baby about her parents, but in other hand Tuk Tuk is lulled by the food

given from Ongis. She sees Ongis steal the dragon gem pieces, and the baby kick her and run away. Raya chases them 2 times failed and the 3 time succeeded with the help of Tuk Tuk.

Raya managed to get the dragon pieces again and give the advice to the baby Noi by using the enchantment to scam people is not good, and ask where they live, but one of the Ongis make symbol of stone. Raya suddenly feel empathy to them because her father become stone too, she knows how the feel without family. Raya offering job to them with the honest earning. They have to attract the attention of Guards in Dang Hai's home, so Raya can enter the house. The dialogue above is telling Raya is an empathy person.

e) Raya is an adaptable person

From the beginning of the trip when she was met Sisu, Captain Boun, Baby Noi, Ongis and Tong they became very close and good friends.

Data 5

Raya: "What's your name?"

Tong: "the moniker given me to me is Tong."



(Figure 5. Raya and Tong)

In this scene, Raya and her friends visit spine place, when they arrived in Tong's place. Sisu run away in order to show Raya by give trust to each other, but it was wrong. Both of them get trapped. He tries to scare them, but Raya is not afraid and suddenly Raya's friends come to save Raya and Sisu.

In that moment Namari troops come to Tong's place in order to get the dragon gem pieces and bring Raya to their place. Raya is tries to save their friends including Tong because he only one in their place meanwhile the others turn into stone. Raya asks about the shortcut.

During the moment when she first meets Captain Boun, Baby Noi, Ongis and the las Tong, she easily adaptable and become close and friends. The dialogue above is telling Raya an adaptable person.

Raya's Sociological Aspect

Sociologically, she was also socially described as Heart land's princess, Chief Benja's daughter, and dragon gem's guardian. It can be seen from the dialogue and picture below:

Data 6

Chief Benja: "Raya, princess of Heart, you are now the guardian of dragon gem."



(Figure 6. Chief Benja and Raya)

In this scene, it showed that Raya's family was responsible as the dragon gem's guardian. It also explained that Raya was continuing the guardian's legacy since she passed the test by had a fight with her father and her toes can touch the inner circle of dragon gem. Raya also the princess of Heart land and the daughter of Chief Benja.

Raya's Physiological Aspect

Physiologically, Raya's appearance is divided into two parts, they are, when she was a child and when she was growing adult. It can be seen from the pictures below:

Data 7



(Figure 7. Raya and Namaari)

This scene shows when Raya and Namaari introduce themselves. Her father gives an invitation to all nations such as Talon, Fang, Tail, and Spine to come to Heart place. Starting with her father giving the greetings by said they can be Kumandra again, and not become enemies but his speech was not welcomed. They think Heart land is prosperous because the dragon gem. and continued by Raya asking who was hungry. Namaari who is listening to her is laughs. Namaari's mother allowed Namaari to talk with Raya. Both of them are dragon nerd, she is very kind

The picture 5 above shows that Raya has black hair with braided and ponytail, big and black eyes, black eyebrows, brown skin, flat nose, and small lips when she was a child

Data 8



(Figure 8. When, Raya meet her old friend, Namaari)

This scene shows that Raya and Sisu get the dragon gem piece. Sisu who already changed into human shape meet Namaari in Chief Tail's place. Namaari and the troops appear

in front of them, the two old friends reunited back, in that moment Namaari know that Raya is steal the dragon gem pieces also she thinks Raya is still kids because she looking for Sisu. But she does not know that Sisu is real, precisely in front of in human shape.

The picture 6 above shows that Raya got a character's development. She was different with her appearance as a child. When she was growing adult, she was depicted to have average height, thick black eyebrows, and long wavy hair, slim and slightly muscular.

Conclusion

Based on the result and discussion above, it can be concluded that there were three aspects of characterization that found in this movie. Thereafter analysing Raya's characterization based on Psychological, Sociological, and Physiological Aspects based on theory by Warren and Wellek (1962). The researcher discovered 8 data which described characterization of Raya. Additionally, the story of this movie can attract an audience's attention because the interesting action of the characters.

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