



## CHARACTERIZATION ANALYSIS OF THE MAIN CHARACTER IN “RAMBO 4” MOVIE

I Nyoman Arya Merta<sup>1</sup>, I Gusti Agung Sri Rwa Jayantini <sup>2</sup>, Ni Nyoman Deni Ariyaningsih<sup>3</sup>  
Mahasaraswati Denpasar University, Indonesia<sup>123</sup>

nyomanaryamerta98@gmail.com<sup>1</sup>, agung\_srijayantini@unmas.ac.id<sup>2</sup>,  
nym.deni@yahoo.com<sup>3</sup>

### ABSTRACT

---

#### Journal History

Submitted 10th January 2022  
Revised 2nd March 2022  
Accepted 14th April 2022  
Published 29th July 2022

---

---

#### Keywords:

Main Character, Movie,  
Characterisation

This article discusses the characterization in Rambo 4 movie entitled “An Analysis of Characterization of the Main Character in Rambo 4 Movie”. There are two objectives of this study; the first one is to identify the characterization of the main character in movie Rambo 4. The second one is to analyze the main character described in movie Rambo 4. Qualitative descriptive method was used in analyzing the data. The data source in this study was the movie and the movie script entitled Rambo 4. The data which had been collected were analyzed based on the theory Kenney (1966) and theory Wellek and Warren (1956). The main character is complex (round) character. The characterization of Jhon Rambo can be described as hard working, care, murderer, brave, religious, smart, and ignorant. Jhon Rambo can be described physically with long curly hair, panicked face, angry face, catcher snake, simple life, archer, and impolite.

### INTRODUCTION

Literature is a group of works of art made up of words. It refers to the written or printed words (Wikipedia, 2019). From the description above, it can be concluded that literature cannot be separated from daily life and literature is the art of writing that is full of expression and ideas. Thus, Literature is a product of imagination that comes from the author’s mind. So many definitions of literature and different perspectives. According to Ade and Okunoye (2008), literature is imaginative, literature expresses

thoughts and feelings, literature deals with life experiences, literature uses words in a powerful way.

The movie is maybe a fanciful story, which is one compose a related story. Movies can be entertaining and educating as a natural media of learning (Lestari, 2016). A movie could be a appear that contains a story and there's somebody as the most character in a story. Concurring to Henderson (2006), movie have served a number of purposes and accepted a number of roles in the improvement of twentieth century culture. Character is a vital center, because character brings play to life. First and last we become absorbed in the character: how they look and what their appearance tells us about them: what they say and what their manner of saying expresses; what they do and know how their actions reveal who they are. Robert DiYanni (1957). The other opinion is Character is all the mental or moral qualities that make a person, group, and nation. There are two types of character, flat and round characters. Flat character is a simple description of one character. The description of the character is either good or bad. Wellek and Austin said flat characterization present single trait. It is seen as a dominant or socially most obvious trait that makes one's attitude, behavior and utterance easily guessed by the readers. In contrast, round characterization requires space and emphasis, which means that to understand a round character readers must read the whole story carefully, not letting any incidents be left and trying to understand every causal relationship. Only by doing these, the roundness in a character is found by Wellek and Warren (1962). It means that a flat character has only one character, and the readers can easily know whether she or he has a good or bad character. Round character is a complicated character, the character may change over the times and the readers cannot easily guess whether she or he has a good or a bad character. to know the round character, the readers have to follow or read the story till the end.

After watching and studying this film the writer provides some information related to the film's story. Rambo is an Action film, this film released on january 25, 2008 in the United States . It was directed by Sylvester Stallone. The main cast in this film is Sylvester Stallone, Julie Benz and Matthew Marsden. But the researcher only focuses on analyzing the characteristics and description of the Slvester Stallone as the main character. The film's story tells about a mission to save Christian priests who are being held hostage by the Burmese army. In this story Rambo leads the mission to rescue the hostagesThe reason research interests is to analyze the characterization of the main character because this movie has remarkable characters, And the main character is a very important part in the movie, And also gives information about the main character in the *Rambo 4 Movie*.

Main Character, according to Morner & Rausch (1991), character may be an individual in scholarly work. Not at all like an individual in genuine

life, a scholarly character's individual qualities and activities are limited by his or her work within the story, whether the character appears outlined to fit the plot or the plot is determined from the character. The fundamental characters in a story drive plot, draw in perusers sympathy (or abhorring) and carry your story along. Primary character is a crucial ability for creators. A fundamental character is the center of the story about them. According to Morner & Rausch (1991:43), a fundamental character could be a central character within the entire story. Primary character contains a most imperative part within the characterization of the story and primary character portray of the story.

This study was conducted by reading and reviewing some relevant thesis concerned with characterization of the main character in the movie. The first thesis entitled "The Analysis of Maleficent's Characterization As the Main Character in Maleficent Movie by Robert Stromberg" written by Asminda (2018). The second thesis entitled "The Characterization of Main Character in Safe Haven Novel by Nicholas sparks" written by Putra (2017). And the third is an article journal from Yohanes Truman AM, Singgih Daru Kuncara, and Ririn Setyowati (2017) entitled "Analysis of The Main Character Needs In Life of Pi Movie Using Maslow's Theory".

## METHODS

The data of this research was taken from the movie and the movie script entitled *Rambo 4* the movie. This movie's release date is January 25,2008 in the United states. *Rambo 4* movie is action film directed and co-written by Sylvester Stallone and the script written by Sylvester Stallone. The main character in this movie was Sylvester Stallone played by Jhon Rambo. The duration of this movie is 1 hour and 39 minute. The story was very interesting to be discussed because the story told about cooperation and solidarity on a mission to rescue a hostage. This movie also carried some message by the author to our daily life in saving human lives. The main character himself has a remarkable character in this movie because he was very good at making strategies to defeat the Burmese army. The main character initially refuses to help the rescue mission and after that he finally helped and became the hero of the story. The data were collected by using an observation method. It was taken from the data source by selecting the movie to collect the data to find which one the movie was used by the researcher to be analyzed. First download the movie and then watch the movie carefully to analyze the characterization of the main character and the main character described in the *Rambo 4* movie. Read the movie script to help the writer know about the dialogue of the main character. Analyzed the movie with the theories about the main character. The data of this research was analyzed by qualitative methods and used theory from

Kenney (1966) and Wellek and Warren (1956). Data presentation was carried out by formal and informal methods.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### RESULTS

This part presented the result of the analysis. Based on the analysis, the main character in this story was a complex (round) character because the main character did not stand in one characterization in this story. In this analysis is the complex(round) character, because the main character characterization was changed from the beginning until the end of the story. In the beginning of the story, the main character was kind and friendly and helped another friend in the story but in the middle of the story the main character changed into ignorant, he did not care about friends. The change of the characterization not only happens until the middle of the story but when the story will end, the main character changes again into his general characterization, who was the hero of the movie and being helpful and caring to his friend. From all the data obtained in the film Rambo 4, there are 7 types of characterization and the main characters are described based on the theory of dimension of characterization from Wellek and Warren (1966)

Table 1 John Rambo Characterization as the main character

The table below is the result of the data in the characterization analysis of the main characters in the *Rambo 4* movie

N o	Characterization	Description
1.	Hard working	Rambo catch a snake and sell them
2.	Ignorant	Rambo doesn't care about Sarah and doesn't want to meet Sarah
3.	Murderer	Rambo kill the Robber
4.	Religious	Rambo believed in god, at that time Rambo told Arthur to pray for his friend
5.	Brave	Rambo fights with the Burmese army alone, while his friends are afraid and don't want to continue the rescue mission

6. Smart	Rambo was chased by the burmese army, when Rambo made a bomb trap for the burmese army
7. Care	Jeff tells Rambo to leave but Rambo can't leave the place because he has to rescue one more person

In the table above, there are 7 types of characters in the main character in Rambo 4. In the film, the main character is kind and friendly, ignorant, helpful, religious, brave, smart and cares about the data. The main character keeps changing, it can be categorized as a complex character.

## DISCUSSION

### **Data 1 : "Hard working" (Rambo and snake dealer – 1)**

The characters above show that Ramb is very hard working. The action that shows Rambo's character is when Rambo says he will look for pythons because the snake dealer says that he has enough cobras. The snake trader gave Rambo money for the snakes he got. From the dialogue, it can be seen that the main character works very hard for his own life.

According to the characterization theory proposed by Wellek and Warren (1962) this characterization is categorized as a sociological dimension because the main character described in his daily work is a snake catcher. The main character looks very hard to survive. John Rambo is very good at catching snakes and is trusted by snake traders. He looked for a snake by the river with his friend and then sold it.

### **Data 2 : "Murderer" (Rambo kill the Robber – 2)**

The character shows that he is a murderer, as evidenced by what Rambo did to the robbers. Rambo says to the robber take what you want but not that woman. The robber holds a gun and threatens Rambo. Rambo who felt threatened at that time immediately took out his gun and killed the robber, he did this to save the passengers on his ship because if he didn't kill the robber then he would be killed and from the main character seen as a killer in order to save the passengers on his ship, Rambo, trying to protect the woman from the robbers who tried to kidnap her.

According to the characterization theory proposed by Wellek and Warren (1962) this characterization is categorized as a physiological dimension because the main character is depicted with an angry face,

because Michael (his friend Sarah) does not want a murder, he is angry with Rambo for killing the robber, at that time Rambo also very angry with michael because he killed his aim to save them from the robbers. The main character looks angry at Michael and Rambo plans to go back and does not want to continue his journey but Sarah refuses.

**Data 3 : "Ignorant" (Sarah persuade Rambo - 3)**

At Rambo's house, Sarah comes to meet and asks Rambo to help deliver medicine and religious books to the island where the Karen people live, but the conversation above shows that Rambo really doesn't care. In the picture Rambo shows an attitude of indifference, by not seeing Sarah speak. John Rambo looks indifferent to others and does not want to interfere in these matters.

According to the theory of characterization proposed by wellek and warren (1962) this characterization is categorized as psychological dimension because the main character is described as a person who is not polite because when Sarah comes and talks to Rambo. Rambo answered but did not see Sarah, from the picture above, it can be seen that the character of the main character is not good to others, from this the main character is described as impolite.

**Data 4 : "Religious" (Rambo meets Arthur - 4)**

The dialogue between Arthur and Rambo above, shows that he wants to save Sarah, Michael Burnett and other friends. He says that he will send mercenaries to save him. Rambo says he will take him to the place. Before that Rambo told Arthur to pray to them. From the picture above, Arthur came at night holding an umbrella because it was raining, and conveyed a serious message to Rambo. The main character believes in God because only God can help them to return home safely.

According to the theory of characterization proposed by Wellek and Warren (1962) this characterization is categorized as a sociological dimension because the main character depicted above is the simple life of a John Rambo, seen from his house and the clothes he wears are very simple. simple life in a village by the river. Every day Rambo catches snakes and sells them and also rents out boats. It shows the simple life of rambo.

**Data 5 : "Brave"(Rambo a brave man which fight with soldier of Burma - 5)**

The character above informs me that Rambo is a brave figure. Rambo's statement will go against the Burmese army from what is said. The image above shows that Rambo wielding an arrow is aiming at a Burmese soldier and killing him with a serious face. The main character looks very

brave for fighting the Burmese army alone, while the mercenary is scared and doesn't want to continue the rescue mission.

According to the theory of characterization proposed by wellek and warren (1962) this characterization is categorized as sociological dimension because the main character described is an archer, John Rambo is very skilled at using arrows to kill his enemies, the picture shows Rambo holding an arrow. The main character only uses arrows to kill the Burmese soldiers.

**Data 6 : "Smart" (Rambo Trap a soldiers - 6)**

In the character, Rambo has a plan to trap the Burmese army. He made the soldiers follow him and then framed him by taking pieces of used cloth from Sarah's clothes, and also carrying a bomb, from this it seems that Rambo is very smart at making strategies, from the picture above Sarah's face looks panicked, but Rambo tries to calm down in thinking. The main character is very smart in thinking of a plan, from that plan the Burmese soldiers fall into a bomb trap and all of them are killed

According to the theory of characterization proposed by wellek and warren (1962) this characterization is categorized as physiological dimension because the main character described is a panicked face, it can be seen from Rambo's panicked face, because at that time they were being chased by the Burmese army, from that panicked face Rambo thought of a plan. The panic made Sarah frightened because she was being chased by the Burmese army.

**Data 7 : "Care" (Rambo cares with someone in the house - 7)**

From the Character above, Jeff told Rambo to leave the place immediately because he couldn't find anyone else, but Rambo saw one more person in a small house, Jeff didn't care about that person and chose to leave. From the picture they are seen hiding so as not to be seen by the Burmese army, Rambo waits for the right time to help him. The main character seems to really care about people who are kidnapped in a small house. Rambo was abandoned by his friend because he didn't want to help him, while Rambo still wanted to save him. From this it can be seen that the main character really cares about other people.

According to the theory of characterization proposed by wellek and warren (1962) this characterization is categorized as physiological dimension because the main character described is long curly hair and wears a headband, it becomes a rambo style when fighting. this can be seen in the picture above which is a characteristic of a jhon rambo. Rambo has a muscular body, Rambo's figure looks very strong and tough against every enemy. Rambo never gave up hope in saving a humanitarian mission he did when saving the Karen people who were killed by the ruthless Burmese soldiers.

## CONCLUSION

After analyzing the characterization of the main character in the movie *Rambo 4*, this conclusion is made. Based on the analysis of the findings and discussion above, this study discusses Sylvester Stallone as John Rambo in the movie *Rambo 4*. There are two conclusions discussed in this study. The first conclusion is what are the types of characterization of the main character in the *Rambo 4* Movie, the writer concludes that the characterization of the main character in the *Rambo 4* Movie are: Hard working, Brave, Helpful , Smart, Ignorant, Religious, and Care. This character is categorized as a round character because it changes from beginning to end.

The second conclusion is analyzing how the main character described in the movie *Rambo 4*, the writer concludes that the main character described in the movie *Rambo 4* is archer, angry face, long curly hair, catcher snake , impolite, serious face, simple life and panicked face and for the future research, The writer has make suggestions to the reader or to the next researcher who want to analyze *Rambo 4* movie. To the next literary researcher who wants to analyze characterization in the *Rambo 4* movie, you can analyze the other characters. For example, the analysis of Sarah's characterization in the *Rambo 4* movie , you also can analyze Michael Burnett and others. Hopefully, the next researchers have more theories which will support their study. It will make the sources more varied, interesting to the reader and easier to understand.

## REFERENCES

- Education of Character. Retrieved November 25, 2020 from:  
<http://gopellive.blogspot.com/2014/04/character.html>
- Henderson, Gloria Mason, et al ,The art movie, (2006),op. cit. p.1043.
- Lestari, D. 2016. Enhancing Listening Skill of Young Learners Through Video Magic English. *International Journal of Research in Social Sciences*, 6(2), 7-13.
- Lusi Fitri Asminda. 2018. "The Analysis of Maleficent's Characterization As the Main Character in Maleficent Movie by Robert Strombeng "
- Morner and Rousch, Meaning of Character and Type of Character, (1991), p.31
- Olaofe Isaac Ade, Professor and Oyeniyi Okunoye. 2008. ENG 111 An Introduction to Literature and Literary Criticism. National Open of Nigeria.

Putra. 2017 "The Characterization of Main Character in Safe haven Novel by Nicholas sparks"

Perrine Lawrence,Literature, Structure, Sound and Sense, (London: Harcourt Bruce Jovanovic,1984), 5th.p. 41

Rene Wellek and Austin Warren. Theory of Literature, (New York: Harcourt Brace, and World Inc, 1956), P. 219

Sudaryanto. 1993. Formal and Informal Method.

Wikipedia. 2019. Meaning of Literature. Retrieved from : <https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Literature>

Welleck and Warren. 1956. Theory of Literature. New York: Harcourt,Brace and Company.

William Kenney,How to Analyze Fiction, ( New York: Monarch Press,1966), P. 28

Yohanes Truman A. M., Singgih Daru Kuncara, Ririn Setyowati. 2017. "Analysis of The Main Character Needs In Life of Pi Movie Using Maslow's Theory". Jurnal Bahasa, Sastra, Dan Seni Budaya. University of Mulawarman.

Yanni Robert Di. (1957). Literature Reading Fiction, Poetry, Drama, and the Essay.New York: McGraw Hill.