



An Analysis of Characterization in Movie “Moana”

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ABSTRACT

This research focuses on “An Analysis of characterization in the movie Moana”. It aims to analyze the characterization of character in Moana movie. The data were taken from the characters in Moana movie and were analyzed to reveal what characterization used to describe the character and what types of character is found in the movie based on theory by Kenney (1966) and theory of characterization by Murphy (1972). The data source of this research was the movie “Moana”. The researcher collects the data using qualitative research method. Based on the result of the analysis, there are some characters that can be categorized into their characterization. The research concluded that there are three types of characters found in Moana movie such as main character, second character and supporting character. Moana being the main character, Maui is second character, and Villager, Heihei, Te Fiti, Tui, Sina, Gramma Tala and Tamatoa supporting characters. Besides that, to support this analysis about

characterization there are nine methods of characterization such as personal description, character as seen by another, speech, past lives, conversation of others, reactions, direct comment, thought, and mannerism. But not all of the characters use all methods of characterization.

1. INTRODUCTION

Literature is a human expression in the form of writing or oral work based on thought, experiences, feelings, and imagination that are packaged aesthetically through the medium of language. It is a guideline of meaningful “instruction”. Literature is a text that contains instructions or creates a writing that has a certain meaning or beauty. Literature is divided into two, namely writing and oral, where language is used as a vehicle to express certain experiences or thoughts that can be poured into prose, poetry, drama, and novels. Literature is a description of the theory obtained from the reference material to serve as a foundation for the activity to pour out one’s thoughts. Literature contains reviews, summaries, and author’s thoughts recorded in forms such as articles, books, slides, information from the internet, etc. about various topics. Good literature must be relevant, up-to-date, and adequate. Definitions of literature have variation from time to time which is culturally relative. Literature denotes all books and writing in “imaginative” writing.

There are characters that represent the story to make the movie more alive. Character is one important aspect because characters are built by the writer that has a function as a medium to introduce the reader to various characteristics of human beings, including negative characteristics as well (Kenney, 1983; 45). Character is mostly valued by the people who watch the movie from their characterization. It is revealed by how a character responds to conflicts, by their dialogue, and through description. In the initial stage in the researcher introduces the character with noticeable emergence. After introducing the character, the researcher often talks about his behavior, and then as the story progresses, also the thought-processes of the character. Meanwhile, characterization is a process of poking that reveals the personality of a character created by the author. A characterization can be revealed through direct characterization and indirectly characterization. Directly, characterization explain to the audience how the personality of the character is represented, while indirect characterization is done more by showing things that reveal the personality of the character itself.

Literature can be established in many forms, there are poetry, drama, movie, and prose, etc. There are many reasons why people are reading and watching movie, among others they do it for getting information, for pleasure or their hobby, just for enjoyment, for satisfying one’s need, and sometimes for doing homework from teacher. Based on that, actually human wants to get the advantages of information given from literature, particular the movie. It is similar with novels or short stories in that they tell a story.

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There are movie's genres such as romantic, historical, detective, thriller, adventure, horror, and science fiction. And likewise, movie can include sub-groups as well such as action, comedy, tragedy, and war.

Movie is a visual as well as language communication which uses moving pictures and sound to tell stories or explain something to the audience. People choose to watch a movie as entertainment or an activity at leisure. Fun movies mean movies that can make the people laugh, while others can be movies that incite cry, or feeling afraid. The researcher will analyze specifically the element of characterization in literary work, which is the movie "Moana". The researcher will analyze the characterization in this study because, Moana is a new movie. It presents interesting characters to analyze, and the method that researcher uses is compatible with the movie story.

2. METHODS

The data in this study is taken from the movie entitle "Moana". Moana was a 3D computer-animated music adventure film produced by Walt Disney Animation Studios that was released on 23rd November 2016 by Ron Clemest and John Musker. A movie can have such genres as fantasy, adventure, and comedy. Moana was described as a young girl who had an interest in the ocean. Born and raised as a potential successor to the chieftain on the island of Motonui, Moana's destiny has actually been written as a leader. The villagers have not sailed long distances for a long time because a lot of bad things happened behind the reef. Even Moana was also always forbidden to approach the sea, but she feels something inside herself that always pushes her to set involved there. This movie was started by Auli'i Cravalho as the main character Moana, Dwayne Johnson as Maui, Rachel House as Gramma Tala, Temuera Morrison as father of Moana (Chief Tui), Jemaine Clement as Tamatoa (a Giant Crab), Nicole Scherzinger as mother of Moana (Sina), Alan Tudyk as Heihei (Chicken), Oscar Kightley as Fisherman. The researcher chooses this movie as the object of the study because this movie could provide the data needed in analyzing character and characterization.

In doing this study the data was collected by using qualitative method. The data of this study was collected from Moana Movie. There are several steps in the collection of the data: First, searching and seeing carefully moana films to be analyzed. And downloading the movie or script of Moana movie to support the analysis. Re-watching Moana's movie carefully and understanding the faithfulness of the action in the film. Taking notes pause by pause in every scene performed by the characters. And last, verifying the data that have been chosen.

Finding presentation is the method used by the researcher in describing the result of data analysis. The result of data analysis was presented by using informal method because the data is described narratively based on theories adopted from several experts to define the types of character and characterization in Moana movie. The data has been classified from the data source for easier analysis before its presentation as the finding of the research.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

This chapter present the Finding and Discussion about the analysis of Characterization in the movie "Moana". The finding and discussion are related to the two problems. The first problem deals with types of character in Moana movie, and the second one is related to the characterization used to present the character in Moana movie.

[Kenney \(1966\)](#) states there are three types of character based on frequency of involvement such as main character, second character, supporting character. In addition, there are two types of characters based on the function such as protagonist and antagonist. Meanwhile, according to [Murphy \(1972\)](#), there are nine types of characterization that can be used to shape the character in Moana movie such as personal description, character as seen by another, speech, past lives, conversation of others, reaction, direct comment, thoughts, mannerism. After observing the data source, it was found that there are six types of characterization of the characters in the movie. Each character can be categorized into one or some types of characterization based on different roles or positions they assume in the movie. Those types of characterization were presented in the form of [Table 1](#).

Table 1. Characters and Characterizations in The Movie Moana

Name of Characters	Types of Character (Kenney,1966)	Types of Characterization (Murphy,1972)
MOANA	- Main Character - Protagonist	- Character as seen by another - Speech - Thought
MAUI	- Second Character	- Direct comment

Name of Characters	Types of Character (Kenney,1966)	Types of Characterization (Murphy,1972)
	- Round	- Character as seen by another
TAMATOA (GIANT GRAB)	- Supporting Character	- Past lives
TUI (CHIEF OF MOTUNUI)	- Antagonist	- Personal description
	- Supporting Character	- Conversation of other
	- Flat	- Speech
TALA (GRANDMOTHER)	- Supporting Character	- Personal description
	- Protagonist	

In the Table 1 it is stated that Moana is the main character in Moana movie. She is a teenager girl who is very smart and has a protagonist character. The daughter of the head of the Motunui village, is very much loved by her family and all the villagers. Even she will be the successor of her father (Tui). The second one is Maui. He is someone who was born of human but he was thrown into the sea by his parents. The ancestors called it the demigod of wind and sea. He has a transformable power because of the power of his hook. A powerful hook was given by the gods to him. but having a powerful hook does not give him a sense of satisfaction. With the powerful hook, he steals the heart of Te Fiti (*a life-giving Island Goddess*) to gain affection, love and care from humans. He has a round character because what he does has a reason. At the end of the story, he helps Moana restore the heart to Te Fiti. The third one is Tamatoa, he is categorized as a supporting character and has antagonist character. He is a giant crab living under the sea of Lalotai. Crabs are crazy treasures. He is called "evil-eyed" because of his madness with something sparkling. The others character are Tui and Tala. Tui is a son of Tala and chief of Motunui island. Tui is known as a character who has a flat character. He loved the people and his family very much. Therefore, he strictly forbids anyone to pass through the reef while sailing. Moana (his daughter) is also forbidden to approach the beach or to sail. because he believed, it would be bad if it passed through the barrier reef. Meanwhile, the grandmother (Tala) is categorized as protagonist character. She is often called a crazy village woman because of her activities that often dance with stingrays. Tala is very supportive of her granddaughter (Moana) in every way. Even Tala told Moana the origin of the Motunui people before being attacked by darkness. She also stated that there would be someone who would save the world, she was "Moana".

Besides that, in Table 1 can be seen the types of characterizations in each character. Main character (Moana) has three types of characterization such as character as seen by another, by own speech and thought. Second character (Maui) has three types as well such as past lives, direct comment and character as seen by another. The last one is supporting character. This type is divided into three characters, first one is Tamatoa (giant crab) who has two types of characterization such as personal description and conversation by other. Tui (chief of Motunui) has one type of characterization namely that by own speech/speech and Tala (grandmother of Moana) has one also is personal description. There are two parts that answer the two problems in this thesis. The first, deals with types of character based on the theories from Kenney (1966). And the second, deals with characterization used to describe the character based on the theories by Murphy (1972).

Types of Character found in Movie Moana

Character is just a product in a story whose actions drive the plot. According to the theories that is used to analyze the character, there were several types of character. Each character is explained based on the theory proposed by Kenney (1966) concerning three types of character based on frequency of involvement such as main character, second character and supporting character. These types of characters are discussed below.

Main Character

According to the theory by Kenney (1966), the main character is the central character in the whole story that has the most important role in developing the story. Moana can be categorized as the main character because of the role played from the beginning to the end of the story, which tells the story of a brave girl's journey to save the world from darkness. Moana was born on the island village of Motunui, she is the daughter of Chief Tui and Sina, with an inherited love for the seas and voyaging. When her island becomes endangered by a life-killing darkness, Moana is chosen by the ocean to journey across the sea and save the world with the help of the shape-shifting demigod Maui. The following dialogue of Gramma Tala and Moana in the movie shows the central role assumed by Moana:

Gramma Tala : But one day, **someone will journey beyond our reef, find Maui, deliver him across the great ocean to restore the heart of Te Fiti.**
 Moana : I thought it was dream.
 Gramma Tala : Nope!
 (Moana: 0.26.55)

From the dialogue above between gramma Tala and Moana, gramma Tala says that Someone will journey beyond our reef, find Maui, deliver him across the great ocean to restore the heart of Te Fiti. By "Someone" referred to by gramma is Moana because she loved the ocean very much but her father strictly forbade it. Ocean chose Moana for this mission. Where gramma gives Moana a mission to find Maui to restore Te Fiti's heart and restore the island back to its former state and also restore the adventurous spirit of the villagers who stopped their activity her gramma believed that Moana could save the world from darkness. According [Kenney \(1966\)](#), Moana can be categories as the main character because of the role played from the beginning to the end of the story.

Second Character

According [Kenney \(1966\)](#), the second character has a position in a story and gives much influence to the main character. In this study Maui is a second character in Moana movie because he is Demigod of wind and sea. He steals Te Fiti's heart to get love and affection from those around him. Maui was born of human but was banished by his parents to the sea and therefore he felt a lack of love and affection, and he was given a powerful hook by the gods. Maui must return Te Fiti's heart through the cruel sea with Moana. The following dialogue states that Maui is the second character in this movie:

Moana : But, put this back. Save the world. You would be everyone's hero. Maui... Maui... Maui... you are so amaziiiiing!
 Maui : Ah, we would never make it without my hook. Not past Te Ka.
 Moana : Then we get your hook. We get your hook. Take out Te Ka. Restore the heart. Unless you don't want to be "Maui, Demigod of the wind and sea, Hero to... all."
 (Moana: 0.50.34)

From the conversation between Moana and Maui, Maui exerts a big influence for Moana to get her aims. "You would be everyone's hero. Maui... Maui... Maui... you are so amaziiiiing! Moana attempts to persuade Maui to help her restore Te Fiti's heart. Maui must join Moana's adventure because he stole Te Fiti's heart that caused darkness and destroyed the world and her island. He stole it just because he wanted to be loved by people. Based on [Kenney \(1966\)](#), Maui could be categorized as the second character because Maui was influential in helping Moana in the mission of restoring Te Fiti's heart.

Supporting Character

In this part supporting character is the character with no important role because their existence is just to complete, serve, and support the main character ([Kenney, 1966](#)). In this study, Tamatoa, Chief Tui and Gramma Tala can be categories as supporting characters. Tamatoa is a gargantuan coconut crab that hails from Lalotai, a realm inhabited by monsters. Living in a giant seashell within the realm's depths, Tamatoa is known as a "beady-eyed bottom feeder". He covers his shell in gold, rare artifacts and treasures as a means to elevate his status, and became a crazed love for all things shiny. Shiny shell isn't enough for Tamatoa, however. For centuries he has plotted to steal and control the heart of the island goddess Te Fiti. In doing so, Tamatoa would possess the ultimate power. The following dialogue of Tamatoa, Maui and Moana in the movie shows the perception of Tamatoa.

Tamatoa : I'd rather be shiny like a treasure from a sunken pirate wreck...Scrub the deck and make it look shiny...I will sparkle like a wealthy woman's neck.
 Moana : No!
 Maui : Hey! Crab cakes. I'm back. It's Maui time.
 (Moana: 1.01.55)

In Utterance *I'd rather be shiny like a treasure from a sunken pirate wreck* shows that Tamatoa was crazy about something shiny, in which Tamatoa was just a very boring crab. He was a giant crab of deep underwater inhabitants who was very arrogant and crazy treasure and something shiny. Tamatoa also targeted Te Fiti's heart to gain great power.

Characterization Used to Shape Character in Moana Movie

Characterization is the process of shaping characters through dialogue, action, and what the author tells us about the characters in the movie. Based on theory of [Murphy \(1972\)](#) there were nine types of characterization. However not all characters use the nine methods of characterizations. Following is the analysis of characterization:

Moana

As told previous Moana was a brave girl and also smart. She was able not to give up on carrying out her mission of saving the world. In Moana movie, Moana was chosen by the ocean to restore Te Fiti's heart and save her island. The character as seen by another is when the character of someone describes by other people.

Villager	:	It is the harvest. This morning I was husking the coconuts and...
Moana	:	Well... We should clear the diseased trees. And we will start a new grove... there.
Villager	:	Thanks, Moana. She is doing great.
Chief Tui	:	This suits you.

(Moana: 0.13.19)

Based on the above conversation, the villagers showed their failed coconut harvest. They do not realize that the island was threatened with destruction by darkness. But Moana provides solutions to repair the damaged coconut trees and replant them in different places. The statement of appreciation "*She is doing great*" shows the villagers were very proud to have a future village leader like Moana. This characterization could be categorized as a character as seen by another of characterization because in this part the villager as a human saying "*She is doing great*" assess Moana as being very smart when trying a solution. It seems that Moana deserves being the leader/ the future chief.

Maui

Maui is a very strong man. He is stranded on a small island hundreds of years after fighting Te Ka (lava monster). Maui is the cause of the darkness, and he must return Te Fiti's heart with Moana. Maui is the second character in Moana movie. Direct Comment is the method in which the author gives a comment on a person's characteristic directly.

Maui	:	Boat! A boat! The Gods have given me a...
Moana	:	Maui, shapeshifter, demigod of the wind and sea. I am Moana...
Maui	:	Hero of Man.
Moana	:	Wh... What?
Maui	:	It's actually Maui, shapeshifter, demigod of the wind and sea, hero of man. I interrupted, from the top, hero of man. Go.

(Moana: 0.36.45)

After being confronted by a storm in the middle of the sea, Moana was stranded on a small island where Maui lives. He was dubbed as the god of wind and sea because he has a powerful hook that can transform himself into various forms of animals. Maui was very confident in saying that he was a Hero, "*Hero of Man*". Because of his powerful hook he has deforming powers. Without hook he was nothing.

Tamatoa

Tamatoa is a giant crab that's crazy about treasure. His body is full of diamonds, sparkling gold. He is nicknamed the Evil Eye Monster by Maui for liking something shiny, full of glamour. He is an underwater resident of Lalutai, the place where the monsters live. Besides, he is also looking for Te Fiti's heart. Personal Description is the method of characterization where the author describes the character's appearances and clothes directly.

Tamatoa	:	Huhuhuhuuu...What have we here? It's a sparkly, shiny -wait a minute...It's a human! What are you doing down here in the realms of the monst- Just pick an eye, babe. I can't- I can't concentrate on what I saying if you keep -Yep, pick one! pick one! You're a funny looking little thing, aren't you? Oooh what's this?
Moana	:	Don't, it's my grandma's!
Tamatoa	:	It's my grandma's. I ate my grandma!!! And it took a week because she was absolutely humongous. Why are you here?

Moana : Cause you're amazing! And we mortals have heard...the tales about the crab... Who became a legend? And I got to know. How did you get so crab...ulous?

Tamatoa : Tamatoa hasn't always been this glam/I was a drab little crab once... /Now I know; I can be happy as a clam/Because I'm beautiful, baby. /Did your granny say "listen to your heart"/Be who you are on the inside/I need three words to tear her argument apart/Your granny lied/I'd rather be shiny like a treasure from a sunken pirate wreck/ (Moana: 1.00.25)

Tamatoa was an evil-eyed giant crab who loves treasure. In the utterance "*because I'm beautiful*" shows how beautiful he is with a body full of gold and sparkling treasures. The sentence can be categorized as personal description because the sentence was stated by Tamatoa. He describes herself as beautiful and wealthy, and he prefers something shiny because previously he was just a boring crab.

4. CONCLUSION

Character is just a product of imaginative creation in a story whose actions drive the plot. According to the analyzed above, there are one main character, one second character, and three supporting characters in Moana movie. There were four people of protagonist character and one person antagonist character. The characterization of each character was different. The supporting character do not use all methods of characterization, because their action is just to support other character which is not really important in the story. Meanwhile, characterization is the process of shaping characters through dialogue, action, and what the author tells us about the building of characters in the movie. In the analysis above Moana has three characteristics, Maui has three of characteristics, Tamatoa has two of characteristics, Chief Tui and Gramma Tala only has one characteristic.

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