Analysis of Three Dimensional Aspects of the Main Character in Frances Ha Film

Ayu Fitri Hardiyanti [1*], I Gusti Agung Sri Rwa Jayantini [2], I Wayan Juniartha [3]

[1,2,3] Mahasaraswati Denpasar University, Indonesia

ayufitrihardi@gmail.com [1], srijayantini833@gmail.com [2], jjuniartha@gmail.com [3]

ABSTRACT

In literary works such as short stories, novels, dramas, and films, the characters in the film play a very important role in conveying the story. Having a character with a strong personality can make a good impression on the audience and readers. In this case, the role of the author is very important in creating characters that have strong personalities through character development so that they can create a realistic character. This study aims to determine how the author portrays the main character, Frances Halladay, in terms of three dimensions of characterization, by using the character dimensions theory of Egri (1960). This research uses descriptive qualitative research methods, and the object of study is the film Frances Ha, which was released in 2012 and directed by Noah Baumbach. Observation and documentation methods were used in this study by watching the film, reading the script, and taking notes. The results of the research can be concluded that the main character, Frances Halladay, in the film Frances Ha, shows three dimensions of characterization possessed by the main character, namely physiological, psychological, and sociological. In presenting this dimension, this study presents figures and/or dialogue from the film.

1. INTRODUCTION

Literature is an expression of feelings, desires, and emotions caused by the sensation of interest in life, which develops in the imaginary mind of the author (Wellek & Warren, 1954). Prose, poetry, and drama are the three types of literary work. As we all know, drama is a type of literary work that can be presented on stage, film, or radio. One of the literary works chosen in this research is film. As stated by Boggs & Petrie (2008:3), film is recognized as a unique and powerful art form on par with painting, sculpture, music, literature, and drama. Film is one of the communication media that conveys and represents messages to the audience. Films have a good influence in giving messages to the audience, which are displayed in the form of negative or positive messages, depending on the audience. This is because the film is shown through visualization (Putriwana & Yustisia, 2021).

Characters in films have a significant part in expressing the story in literary works such as short stories, novels, dramas, and films. A story usually has numerous characters, one or more of whom is the main character, and this character appears as the main character in one or more scenes (Patmarinanta & Ernawati, 2016). According to Nurgiyantoro (1998:176–177), the main character is an important character who always appears, or at least appears in almost the whole story, and that character is particularly crucial in determining the plot's direction. Characterization is a way of revealing the author's characters by creating and developing character details that bring the characters to life in the story (Pickering & Hoeper, 1981, pp. 27-28). Characters with strong personalities may make a positive impression on the audience and readers. In this case, the role of the author is very important in creating characters with strong personalities through character development so that they can create a realistic character.

With regards to the previous study, which used the same theory as Egri (1960) but with a different source of data, research has been conducted by Mulyawan (2015), Sangastu & Aryani (2018), Utama (2018), and Maharani (2020). The researchers focused on three-dimensional characters in the novels and short stories, whereas this research is focused on the three-dimensional characters in the film. The focus of this research is on how the three dimensions of the main character in the film *Frances Ha* are described. This film was chosen because the main character in it is so relatable to real life and the writer of the film created a character personality that the audience can relate to. So it's making this film fascinating to analyze.

The film, *Frances Ha*, was released in 2012 and directed by Noah Baumbach. The story is about a 27-year-old apprentice dancer, namely Frances Halladay. She has a dream of becoming a professional dancer. But the fact is, she must give up on her dream because she has financial problems. She is confronted with numerous challenges in her life, including issues with her best friend, rent, and employment. After facing many obstacles, she can find her own happiness and resolve all the problems in her life. As a result, the researcher explores against based on the background above under the title *The Analysis of Three Dimensional Aspects of the Main Character in Frances Ha Film.*

2. METHODS

The data for this research is taken from the film *Frances Ha*, directed by Noah Baumbach and released in 2012. *Frances Ha* is a comedy-drama film that tells the story of a 27-year-old woman named Frances Halladay who lives in New York City, struggling for her career, friendship, and rent. This research uses descriptive qualitative research, and the method used in collecting data in this study is observation and documentation. Observation and documentation methods were carried out using several steps. There are several steps to collecting data. Those are: 1) downloading and printing the *Frances Ha* film script; 2) watching the film *Frances Ha* again and again and matching it with the script; 3) reading the dialogue carefully to look for the behavior, personality, and habits of the main character and taking notes; 4) the collected data will be classified into characterization dimensions as viewed by Egri (1960) theory about character dimensions in his book, namely the The Art of Dramatic Writing. In presenting data findings, formal and informal methods are used. The data will be presented in figures and/or dialogues and then explained in narrative form.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

RESULTS

This section presents the findings of three dimensions of the main character, namely Frances Halladay in the film *Frances Ha*, which are physiological, psychological, and sociological, based on Egri (1960) in his book entitled The Art of Dramatic Writing. In this film, the writer found six data of characterization; three data of physiological, two data of psychological, and one data of sociological.

DISCUSSION

This section focused on the analysis of the data. The writer describes the data analysis that was obtained from the above findings of Frances Halladay about three dimensional aspects of the film *Frances Ha*; those are: physiological, psychological, and sociological.

Three Dimensions Aspects of Frances Halladay in the film *Frances Ha*

1. **Physiological Aspect**

   According to Egri (1960), physiology is the study of humans, specifically human appearance. Aspects of the physiological dimension are things related to physiology or body characteristics such as gender, age, height, weight, skin, eyes color, hair color, and other physical appearances such as birthmarks, appearances; clothes, bags, shoes, and others. Physical appearance can affect a

character's feelings about her or his environment or feelings of security or insecurity.

Data 1

Figure 1. Frances tries to call Lev

Source: *Frances Ha Movie* – 00:16:16

Analysis:

Based on the figure above, Frances Halladay, the main character in this film, just got out of the bank and tries to call Lev, her friend. She wants to ask Lev to go to dinner with her at the restaurant. In the figure, it shows she has dirty blonde hair and is thin. Even though the film is black and white, the color of her hair shows that blonde with the black-ish roots of her head. She is a woman who always brings her backpack and wears simple dresses with the outher of a jacket to go everywhere. Frances is 27 years old. It can be seen in the dialogue below:

Data 2

Dialogue:

Frances   : Do I look old to you?

Benji   : No. Yes. How old?

Frances   : Older than I am? Older than 27?

Benji   : No. Twenty-seven is old, though.

Analysis:

In the dialogue above, it shows that when Frances and Benji had a talk at their apartment, before she left the apartment, she asked Benji if she was kind of old for her age. She says that she is twenty-seven. Then, Benji tells Frances that she does not look older than twenty-seven, but twenty-seven is old for a human.

Data 3

Figure 2. Frances talks to Benji at her bedroom

Source: *Frances Ha Movie* – 00:38:24

Dialogue:

Benji   : You want to hear something hilarious?

Frances   : Yes.

Benji   : Lev thinks we're gonna end up married.

Frances   : I'm to tall to marry.

Benji   : You are.

Analysis:

The figure and dialogue above show that when Frances is busy cleaning her room, Benji comes to Frances's bedroom and talks to her. Benji asked Frances if she had a problem because she looked sad. Frances tells Benji that she has a problem with Sophie, her best friend. Here, Benji is trying to cheer up Frances by saying that Lev thinks they are going to end up married. After hearing Benji say that, Frances just laughs, and she tells Benji that she is too tall to marry. And Benji also just laughed and agreed with it.

From the above data, it can be concluded that Frances Halladay is a twenty-seven year old woman with dirty blonde hair. She is thin and tall. She always dressed in simple dresses with an outer jacket and always brought a backpack to go everywhere.

2. Psychological Aspect

According to Egri (1960), psychological is an aspect related to the author's research about the character that will be formed and displayed. This psychological aspect can be observed through their attitudes, feelings, thoughts, emotions, or desires of the characters.

Data 4

Dialogue:

Dan   : *I don't know. Maybe this isn't working.*

Frances   : *I'm sorry.*

Dan   : *Me too.*

Frances   : **Maybe.. No, never mind.**

Dan   : *What?*

Frances   : *I want to pay you for the cats.*

Dan   : *I'm not gonna take money from you but I am*

going to get the cats anyway.

Analysis:

From the above dialogue, it shows that when Frances comes to Dan's apartment to talk, Dan is her boyfriend. Dan tells Frances that he wants to get cats, and he asks Frances to live with him and his cats. But Frances tells Dan that she wants to live with him, but unfortunately, she had promised Sophie, her best friend and roommate, that she would live with her until the end of the

lease. After that, Frances got a phone call from Sophie. After she talks with Sophie, Dan tells Frances that this isn't working for them. He means that he and Frances cannot move together as he had suggested before, but Frances's response was different. She thought that Dan wanted to break up with her. She does not know how to respond. She looks so awkward and then she tells Dan that she wants to pay the cats, but Dan does not want it. From the above explanations, it is clear that Frances was clumsy. She is awkward in movement or when handling things.
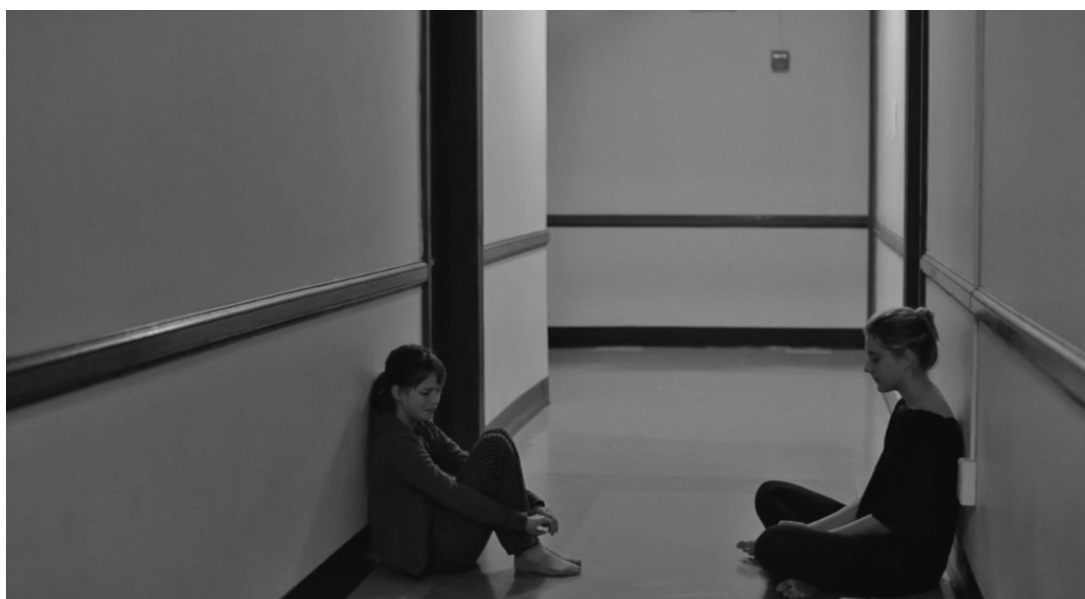
Data 5

Figure 3. Frances sits with the little girl at corridor

Source: *Frances Ha Movie* – 01:06:10

Dialogue:

Frances   : *Are you okay?*

The little girl   : *Yeah.*

Frances   : *I'm just gonna sit here, okay?*

The little girl   : *You don't have to do that.*

Frances   : *I'm just going to, though.*

Analysis:

Based on the figure and dialogue above, Frances had just finished taking a shower. Heading to her room, Frances saw a small child crying alone in the

corridor of the dorm. She asked the girl if she was fine. Then the girl nodded and said she was fine. Frances was silent for a moment, and then she sat in front of the little girl and told the girl that she just wanted to sit there. The little girl replied that Frances didn't need to do that. Then the little girl continued to cry, and Frances accompanied her there. Here it is seen that Frances is a kind person and cares for others. She is caring and kind to people she doesn't even know.

3. Sociological Aspect

According to Egri (1960), sociology is something related to social structures and social background, including social changes and social problems, which describe the environmental conditions of the characters. Sociological aspects can be analyzed from the social life of the character, e.g., home life or the house, occupation, class, religion, education, community, social background, or social status.

Data 6

Figure 4. Frances had a conversation with Benji

Source: *Frances Ha Movie* – 00:20:41

Dialogue:

Benji : *So do you do it professionally?*

Frances : **Yes. Well, I mean, I'm an apprentice but it is a professional dance company.**

Benji   : Oh. I love dance. I dated a dancer in high school and her teacher said I could've really had a future in it.

Analysis:

From the above dialogue, Frances and Benji had a talk since that was the first time they met. Benji asked Frances if she was a dancer as a professional dancer. Then, Frances told Benji that she was an apprentice dancer, but that the company that she worked with was a professional dance company. Benji told Frances that he loves dance and that he had dated a dancer in high school. Before Frances went back to her apartment, Lev and Benji told Frances to do a dance and she did it. It can be concluded that Frances's occupation is as an apprentice dancer for a dance company.

4. CONCLUSION

From the explanations in the previous chapters, the conclusion of this research is found in three dimensions of an aspect of characterization in Frances Halladay's character in the film *Frances Ha*. The three dimension aspects that were found consist of three data of physiological dimensions, two data of psychological dimensions, and one data of sociological dimensions. The analysis is based on the theory of Egri (1960). From the three dimensions that were analyzed, it can be concluded that Frances Halladay is a kind and clumsy 27-year-old woman who worked as an apprentice dancer at a professional dance company. From the analysis, it can be concluded that in presenting the characterization of Frances Halladay in the film *Frances Ha*, the author applied three dimensions to the character.

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