

HEROINE CHARACTERISTICS AS REFLECTED THROUGH MAIN CHARACTER IN HALTER'S *VIRGIN MARY*

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Abstract

One of the subjects that are most common in the literature of all times is about the hero and his heroic deeds. Many times we call a hero a person who is known to have done some exceptional deeds while showing physical power, great courage, overcoming enormous obstacles and saving people's lives. This thesis then analyzes about heroine characteristics through main character in *Virgin Mary* novel by Halter's. Since the analysis focuses on characteristics of heroine in main character, the gender role stereotype is applied to answer the problem of formulation. The gender role stereotype aims to view a literary work as a reflection of gender role of the character in the literary work, scoping the characteristics of heroine reflected through main character in Halter's *Virgin Mary*. In addition, this approach is applicable to give the answer of the problem formulated regarding to the issue of heroine characteristics through the main character in Halter's *Virgin Mary*. The writer applied library research and descriptive qualitative research to support the analysis. Both methods are used by the writer to find out the data and information from some books that closely related to the analysis. The researcher brought this issue to explore how the characteristics of heroine is reflected in the main character in Halter's *Virgin Mary*, to gain a problem which is related to build heroine characteristics especially for woman is important. In this thesis the writer applied the theory from Stefanie Swarn and Steven Fulkersen to identify how the heroine characteristics are reflected through main character in Halter's *Virgin Mary* such as assortments of specific characteristics, facing conflict and challenge, forced to undertake tasks, and providing inspiration for many people.

Key words: Heroine Characteristics, Main Character, *Virgin Mary*

INTRODUCTION

One of the subjects most common in the literature of all times is that of the hero and his heroic deeds (Suryono et al., 2019), (Rido, Kuswoyo, & Nuansa, 2020), (Al Falaq et al., 2021), (Rido et al., 2021). It seems that heroes have been there for ever and ever, and they appear in all known forms of literature (Ferdiana, 2020), (Rido, Kuswoyo, & Ayu, 2020), (Amelia, 2016). Hero a person of distinguished courage or ability, admired for his or her brave deeds and noble qualities (Kardiansyah, 2016). Heroes firstly appear in various kinds, and in many cases the course of their life seems to represent daily or seasonal changes, in such cases they either symbolize the sun, or the growth and power (Pratomo & Gumantan, 2020), (Nugroho et al., 2021).

In side, heroes represent the people lead, historical events of wanderings and wars. Other kinds of heroes actions symbolize changes in the ideas and social conditions of the societies they belong to (Schrape, 2018), (Tuhuteru & Iriani, 2018), (Choi et al., 2015), (Wantoro et al., 2021), (Nurkholis & Sitanggang, 2019). There are real heroes or historical

heroes, who have actually lived such as; there are mythical heroes who have been nothing but symbols and there are clearly fictional heroes who feature only in literature of later days (Amelia & Daud, 2020). The question is what makes a hero.

Many times we call a hero a person who is known to have done some exceptional deeds while showing physical power, great courage, overcoming enormous obstacles and saving people's lives. Many times such heroism is a one-time event, after which called hero goes back to a quiet, unassuming way of life. Is a hero, then, always made, not born? But then, why would one person does suddenly what seems to be out of character, and why would others not do the same thing in the same conditions? There seem to be some questions about the subject that are not easily answered.

Heroism is the qualities or attributes of a hero or heroine, all these national heroes possessed the three main characteristics of heroism: they distinguished courage or ability, dominant performance, noble qualities, performed outstanding deeds, they take a risk for the sake of others rather than for their own glory, and they were all victims, even though one of them had managed to save himself. That last feature, which is a remnant of the life, death and resurrection of the seasonal, is most important for the sake of identifying a true hero.

To see how characteristics of heroine can built the writer apply gender roles stereotype to identify how the characteristics of heroine can be seen from character Mary in *Virgin Mary* novel. Gender role stereotype play an important role in shaping the way we think in the society. Typically, the characterization of women as being 'weak' has prevailed in many different facets of women's lives. Culturally, they are depicted as being passive and domesticated, all oriented towards submission and weakness (KENDRA, 2015).

Women cannot be themselves and they are born to meet men's aesthetic standard. Love, marriage and family are the priority for women. Women have been brainwashed into thinking that they should just be a human with female features without any other desires". Women know that those who possess authentic female features wouldn't have desire for career, higher education or politic rights. "The value of a woman would accrue to her from her maternal role and in addition, from her "femininity". But in fact that "femininity" is a role, an image, a value, imposed upon women by male systems of representation. All peoples have a choice about how we act and behave. We can behave like the stereotypes and act out gender roles in relationships, which can lead to avoid unhappiness and possibly violence.

Therefore, the writer is interested with this novel and brings it in the thesis that concern about heroine characteristics that things can took from "*Virgin Mary*" novel by Marek Halter. In order to avoid sticky problems of definition, and in order to attain a large and diverse sample, this study defines the term "heroine" through main character in *Virgin Mary* by Halter's.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Gender Role Stereotype

In addition, the writer uses gender role stereotype approach since the subject of the analysis is Mary's as a main character. A stereotype is a type of schema in which beliefs

about the characteristics of a specific group are applied to an individual (Sucipto & Bandung, 2016). A gender role is a set of social and behavioral norms that are generally considered appropriate for either a man or a woman in a social or interpersonal relationship (Novita et al., 2020), (Novita & Husna, 2020), (Kuswanto et al., 2020), (Sari & Sukmasari, 2018), (Rido et al., 2014). There are differences of opinion as to which observed differences in behavior and personality between genders are entirely due to innate personality of the person and which are due to cultural or social factors, and are therefore the product of socialization, or to what extent gender differences are due to biological and physiological differences.

Character

Character is an extent verbal representation of human being. Speech and behavior, through dialog, action, and comment author captures come of the interactions of character and circumstance (Gulö, 2014), (Yulianti & Sulistiyawati, 2020), (Kardiansyah, n.d.), (Amelia & Dintasi, 2019), (Amelia, 2021). Therefore character is something that can be known by other people from outside or can be seen by others from our physical appearance by social interaction in our environment. Another meaning of characters is an objects of our curiosity and fascination, affection and dislike, admiration and condemnation.

Even Characteristics is something that cannot seen by other people directly but from their manner and behavior related to the actions that someone done, characteristic of someone can change, because characteristics of someone depended on his or her experiences in the past and on his or her environment. Everyone has so many experiences in their life they are different each other. They stay from one place and another place. There are some experiences that can make someone become stronger in their life and some experiences that can make them become weaker than before. We can know what kind of experiences it is, but experience of someone can give influence to the one who experience it. There are some kinds of experiences. It can be happy experience, sad experience, or the scariest one. Probably, these things bring so many memories and affect the characteristics and personalities of someone. To conduct this research, the writer limits only in main character in the novel *Virgin Mary* by Halter's.

Heroine

Swarn (2003: 13) says hero or heroine is a person of distinguished courage or ability, admired for his or her brave deeds and noble qualities. From that statement means there are such kind of specific characteristics that must own by someone to categorize as a hero or heroine the existence of hero in the literature never fail to inspire, and a constant source of hope to their followers, who aspire to follow in their footsteps, one needs to have certain characteristics to be called as a heroine.

Woman typically encompasses the qualities of nobility, courage, bravery, glaring, independence and strength. According that statement the writer can conclude heroine as the great women whose achievements provide inspiration for many people come with an assortments of specific characteristics, they can customize their existence based on the circumstances that exist, a formidable woman has leadership skill, able to do something that other people can not do for example in the battlefield fighting for the rights and interests of the society. Heroine was never scared by all the risk that he would face because leadership and great courage encourage him to do the right thing even though it can harm him (Andrian, 2021).

Heroine Characteristics

In a fictional work, a heroine is a strong female character. She possesses many good characteristics, and tends to have few negative qualities. Swarn says about heroine as the great women whose achievements provide inspiration for many people come with assortments of specific characteristics. A heroine always faces conflict and challenge; she embraces it for the good of her loved ones or her people. Typically, a heroine is someone of privilege who is forced to undertake tasks that are considered to be below her station, yet she does so with little or no complaint. Heroines are strong and noble. Hero or heroine must have special characteristics that make them different from common people (Liu et al., 2020).

METHOD

Applying qualitative research, thus arranging this study, the writer does not use statistics but uses sentences or words to express the research and the data may come from narrations, dialogue or other information described in the novel. In this research, the data source was a novel entitled *Virgin Mary* by Marek Halter. While the data were taken from written texts such as narrations and dialogues taken from Halter's *Virgin Mary* related to the issues about heroine characteristics through character.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Assortments of Specific Characteristics

To categorize someone as the heroine of course there are some characteristics of them that make them different from ordinary people. Characteristics of someone distinguishing feature or attribute of an item, person, phenomenon, etc. In this analysis the writer only focuses on the main character. Mary as a main character in *Virgin Mary* novel becomes an object of analysis. To determine Mary as a heroine she must have specific characteristics that will indicate her as a heroine based on theory from Stefanie Swarn and Steven Fulkerson.

From the quotation above indicates that Mary has different properties with another girl in her age. She has high morale and motivation to move forward, a good personality, softly and courageous. It makes her have strong principles. It is not easily influenced by surroundings, so that she is able to deal with any situation, good or bad. Circumstances that forced her to be more sensitive to see and read the situation that would occur even make it accustomed to resolve problems that occur. The describing characteristics of Mary still continues. See in the data below.

In another part, it still describes in detail figure of a Mary. Mary is described as assertive and opinionated woman. As a form of devotion to the people in Nazareth, especially her father Joachim, other characteristics of Mary can be seen from the data below.

I'll come with you father went to Gaul to save Hilda from their captivity."Mary was determined. Joachim justify. Her daughter is different from the others. She tends to be stronger and more mature, also brave and have a desire to rebel. (Halter, 2008: 27)

In the quotation, Mary's father, Joachim is not put up with what is happening to them and the Nazareth community every day. They cannot sleep, even all the things that they have must be given to people who do not deserve it. When Joachim hears the news, many people become captive and prisoners in Safuria. Joachim decides to go there and Mary decides to

accompany her father. What they have, it is very influential to the society of Nazareth. Joachim allows Mary to participate because he believes the courage and loyalty of Mary. Mary is not afraid of all the risks that exist in plain sight. She does not deter her determination to uphold justice and truth. Her desire is to protect her family and the people of Nazareth.

Facing Conflict and Challenge

In life is not free from problems and conflicts, problems may be caused by social, economic and personal, even conflict divide into two categories they are internal and external conflict. A struggle that takes place in a character's mind is called internal conflict it can be seen from a visual or tangible opposition, character dealing with his or her own mixed feelings or emotions. For example a character may have to decide between right and wrong or between two solutions to a problem, even a struggle between a character and an outside force is an external conflict For example characters may face several types of outside forces; the outside force may be another character. It may be the character and the community. It happened to Mary who lived in the colonial era in the 7th BC in the time he has to face a variety of conflicts, challenges and obstacles in his life and especially Nazareth and the surrounding communities are still in occupation of Herod the king led a cruel and greedy, which always cause problems in the neighborhood of Jerusalem. What are the issues, challenges and conflicts faced by Mary and how does she respond this?

In the illustration above describes the depiction of Mary's family economic circumstances, they only mentioned a small family consisting of Joachim (Mary's father), Hannah (Mother Mary), and Mary. His father's job as a carpenter and his mother a seamstress describe their lives in simplicity. As a woman who lives with her parents Joachim and Hannah, Mary used to live on their own to help the family economy, the situation of Nazareth as described in appalling conditions. They live in the colonial army threat Herod (Herod, the king who led Safuria name in the 7th BC at the time). It made Mary had to live under threat every day, the arrival of Herod's army suddenly make Nazareth residents should be prepared to face the inherent risks such as looting, rape and murder.

*Every time Herod soldiers spread terror and havoc in the village. Somehow they always come at night. There are times when they dragged prisoner's entourage. Men, women, children all prisoners.
(Halter: 11)*

Depiction illustration above describes the treatment of Herod's soldiers in the Nazareth community. They are always permitted to terrorize the people of Nazareth. They will make them as prisoners when their fighting and do not follow what they want, don't look men, women, even children will they were made prisoners. This was done continuously without stopping.

Forced to Undertake Tasks

Encountered many events in the life of the event may be good, bad and even major events that had never happened. Social, environmental, cultural affects a person's life. Similarly, in Mary as the main characters encounter many important events in his life. Starting from an ordinary woman who lived in a village in Nazareth, a small town in Jerusalem. Mary tries to face conflicts and problems such as looting, robbery, murder in her neighborhood. Seeing what happens does not make Mary just shut up and accept oppression experienced

by families and people. Forms of devotion to her homeland to make her strong to face any risk that will probably happen. What are the actions of Mary in completing his mission to save the people of Israel?, it can be seen from the data that the writer found relating to Mary as the main character is instrumental in action rescue.

"I was there because I had to help you! Entire contents of our house and our neighbors were destroyed. I had to take action to stop this! We could not stay, Herod will continue to slaughter, rape and rob, because it makes him and her children can live. They are so rich and powerful because our poverty. Nobody can find me. "(Halter, 2008: 26)

From illustration above explain that Mary cannot be silent about oppression in the lives of the people of Nazareth, to stop it she decides to step down immediately persecution that happening. She sees such as robbery and oppression continues happen if no one is willing to take an action. She realizes the great power of King Herod and his soldiers, but she can make up for it all, despite the large darting through struggle and perhaps risk to endanger her life. Those are supported from the data found by the writer. It deals with the struggle and the actions taken in the rescue mission.

CONCLUSION

Based on data analysis that has been done, it can be concluded that Mary as the main character who becomes the object of analysis has the characteristics of a heroine. The conclusion is evidenced by the findings of the analysis, in the form of narration and dialogue related to issues in characteristic heroine the focus to the main character Mary, to determine what characteristics are indicated Mary as a heroine, the author using the theory of Stefanie Swarn and Steven Fulkerson about the characteristics of great heroine.

From the data analyzed, the writer conclude that characteristics of heroine can be seen from the role and actions were done by the character not only bring advantages for herself but also for the many peoples, a heroine described as a women who be a fighter, who live simply doing something selfless to reach success for many people in the journey of life, described have great courage and sacrificed her whole life, a heroine also determined from goodness, helpful, bravery, strength, humility, and courage, character of heroine also becomes dominant in such an event to save peoples life event the actions will threaten themselves, they performed outstanding deeds with contributions, they take a risk for the sake of others rather than for their own glory, they were all victims, even though one of them had managed to save herself.

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