

The Analysis on Character Depiction of the Main Characters Found in the Huntsman: Winter's War Movie and Its Application in Teaching Reading

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Abstract. This research aims to identify the character depiction of the main characters found in The Huntsman: Winter's War movie and its application in teaching reading. This research used descriptive qualitative method. The objective of the study is to find out the characteristic of the main character in The Huntsman: Winter's War, and to describe the application of the movie character depiction in teaching reading. The researcher collected the data by watching the movie and collecting the utterances and body language or action of the main characters that describe the characteristic of the characters. The result of this study is Eric's character who is knighthood, brave, and strong. Meanwhile, Freya is selfish, manipulative, and cruel. This movie is worth applying in reading skills because the movie is interesting, attractive, and easy to understand so that it can increase students' interest in reading. The researchers hope the teachers will be able to develop teaching materials. One of the method is reading the summary of the movie.

Keywords: character depiction, movie, teaching reading

1. Introduction

Reading skills are essential for student success in various fields of study. Critical reading is a significant aspect of literature, and good reading skills enable one to analyze literary elements like writing style, figurative language, and narrative structure (Burn in [[1]). Literature, as a creative endeavor, reflects human existence and provides insight into emotions, thoughts, and perspectives [2]. Effective communication between the writer and the reader relies on the reader's ability to comprehend the intended message, and the creation of literary works involves research and the author's knowledge and experiences. Generally, there are three types of activities in relation to reading activities: pre-reading activities, during/while reading activities, and post-reading activities. According to [3], most of the activities are aimed at the reader's prior knowledge, especially at the construction and activating readers' schemas before reading. Greenwood in [4] mentions that reading involves (a) identifying the main idea, (b) finding details in a text, (c) following a sequence, (d) making inferences from the text, (e) recognising the patterns of discourse. According to [5], during the post-reading activities, students assimilate their prior knowledge with the new information obtained from the book.

Movies serve as a form of escapism or imagination, contributing to the interconnecting between movies and literature. They record visual details and combine a steady stream of images for entertainment, education, or other uses [6]. Literature can be adapted into movies, providing a platform for individuals to acquire valuable knowledge that can positively impact their future. Movies cater to various objectives, such as learning foreign languages, gaining cultural insights, broadening perspectives, and finding relaxation during free time [6]. With advancements in technology, the internet, and smartphones, movies can be watched anytime and anywhere.

Character analysis plays a vital role in the study of literature and can significantly enhance English education. Movies, as visual storytelling mediums, present a wealth of characters that can be analyzed to engage students and deepen their understanding of literary concepts. The Huntsman: Winter's War is an example of a movie that showcases the potential for character analysis in English education. Its diverse cast of characters with intricate motivations and interconnections can enhance students' ability to comprehend and think critically about literature. According to [7], the analysis of the character's depiction might commence by examining their introduction and the role they play throughout the story. Character depiction can be acquired via analyzing the character's dialogue and gathering insights from others' perspectives on the character. Students can develop skills in

recognizing and interpreting motivations, conflicts, and character qualities by dissecting these characters.

According to Nurgiyantoro in [8], a protagonist is a character who displays something in accordance with the expectations of the audience/reader. Usually, a protagonist characters are built through a series of positive characteristics like knighthood, brave, strong. Knighthood is the attitude of being attentive and trying to contribute to benefit and help the surrounding environment [9]. Brave nature describes someone who dares to face all problems and challenges [10]. Strong is a person's ability to persevere and cope with adversity [11]. According to [12], antagonists are characters who act as obstacles and problems for the protagonist. There is usually one antagonist and several characters who act as obstacles to the protagonist. Meanwhile, an antagonist characters are built through a series of negative characteristics like selfish, manipulative, cruel. Selfish is an attitude where a person feels he is the most righteous, no one can compete with him, and considers others inferior [13]. Manipulative is an attitude or behavior that contains a lot of bad sense, is good at deceiving, and is deceitful [14]. Therefore, someone who behaves dishonestly, cheats, is cruel and greedy is said to have a bad character [15]. In conclusion, understanding the personality traits provides a framework for comprehensively assessing and describing individual differences in personality. These traits play a significant role in shaping how individuals think, feel, and behave, ultimately influencing their interactions and adaptation to the world around them.

Teaching English to students through character analysis of movies like *The Huntsman: Winter's War* is a fun and interesting approach to help them become more proficient readers and critical thinkers. Students can grow personally and academically by learning critical skills and expanding their literary comprehension by delving into the complexity of characters in visual narratives. Character analysis can be incorporated into English classes through discussions, essays, character profiles, storyboards, or acting out situations [1]. This approach fosters creativity, empathy, and analytical abilities, ultimately enhancing the reading learning that already exists in high school English textbooks.

The purpose of this research is to enhance the reading learning that already exists in English textbooks at high school level. One of the methods is to use character depiction in movies. The researcher chose *The Huntsman: Winter's War* because it contains education that can be used to develop textbooks, especially for teaching reading.

2. Method

According to Creswell [16], qualitative research is an approach to explore and understand the meaning that individuals or groups attribute to a social or human problem. Furthermore, [17] states that qualitative methods are used to obtain in-depth data; the data contain meaning. The meaning contains the actual data, the data must be a value that appears behind the data. The aim of qualitative research itself is to obtain systematic description and accurate facts. Therefore, this research belongs to qualitative method.

According to [18], the unit of analysis is a specific unit that is measured as a research object. This research was conducted to analyse the movie entitled *The Huntsman: Winter's War* 2016. The unit of analysis of this research is the depiction of the main character in the movie through the action or body language and utterances of the characters.

According to [19], data is a reality or fact in the form of objects, events, writings or numbers that are intentionally collected or recorded through observation or interviews for the purpose of a particular research inference. In this study, the data source is the movie *The Huntsman: Winter's War* in 2016.

Sugiyono [17] states that the instrument in qualitative research is the researcher herself. According to Sugiyono [17], the technique of collecting data is very important in conducting research because the main objective of research is to get the data.

To analyze the data, the researchers take the following steps:

1. Watching the movie *The Huntsman: Winter's War* 2016 to understand the whole stories.
2. Searching the summary of the movie from the internet.
3. Reading the summary of the movie of *The Huntsman: Winter's War* 2016.
4. Collecting the utterances and body language or action of the main characters that describe the characteristic of the characters.

3. Findings

The purpose of this study is to find out the application of the depiction of the main character in the movie in teaching reading. The researchers will describe the main characters in the movie *The Hunstman: Winter's War*, namely Eric as the protagonist and Freya as the antagonist. The traits that Eric have are, superior in knighthood, brave, strong. Meanwhile, Freya's traits are selfish, manipulative, and cruel.

Table 1. Description of the Main Characters

No	Actors	Characteristics	Evidence	Minutes
1.	Eric	Knighthood Brave Strong	<p>Knighthood “The boy and the girl, who are they and what’s their names?” “Which one?” “The best twice” “Eric and Sara, my queen”</p> <p>“Two weeks ago, the queen ordered a detachment of soldiers to take the mirror to sanctuary. They never returned” “Wait, wait. I’m not your man” “You’re the best tracker we have in the kingdom”</p> <p>Brave “She’ ll catch us or she won’t. But either way, we shall be free. You do love me, don’t you?” “Aye I do. I give you my life and my death. Stand of fall, I’ll never leave your side, I swear it to you”</p> <p>Strong “You knew she’d betray you and you spared her still. Have you learnt my lesson at last?” “Harden your heart, Queen of Winter” “Bury the world in a tomb of ice. It matters not” “Love will endure”</p> <p>“Have you lost your mind? She betrayed us. Eric, she is not cupid” “I doubt that an arrow to the chest is an expression of her love”</p>	15.01 29.15 21.25 1.15.28 1.17.23
2.	Freya	Selfish Manipulative Cruel	<p>Selfish “Because in my kingdom, there is but one law”. “Do not love”. “It’s a sin, and I’ll not forgive it.”</p> <p>Manipulative “You abandoned her, Eric. But not I”</p>	12.13

			Cruel “Kill him”	1.14.11 1.15.57
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4. Discussion

1. Character Depiction of the Character Eric and Freya

In this section, researchers will discuss the portrayal of the main character in the movie [20]. The main characters consist of Eric and Freya. Eric is described as a character who is brave, tough, and has excellence in war strategy. This is explained as in minute 15.01, when Freya's character asks the bodyguard, "The boy and the girl, who are they and what's their names?", the bodyguard answers "Which one?", "The best twice" said Freya, the bodyguard again answered "Eric and Sara, my queen". From the dialog, it can be seen that Eric is one of the best soldiers in the kingdom led by Freya. Not only that Eric always gets the trust to lead the war, but also returns home always brings victory.

Another character is depicted at minute 29.15, there is a dialog between Eric and his best friend. When at that time his best friend needed Eric's help to find a magic mirror that was feared would be dangerous if it fell into the wrong hands. His best friend said that Eric was the right person because Eric was the best tracker in the kingdom.

Eric is also a brave character. Proven by the dialog at minute 21.25 who is talking with his lover. In the conversation Eric said he would always be by his lover's side whatever happened and whatever the risk. This dialog emphasizes Eric's brave character. He dared to take risks to fight for his love.

In addition to having a war strategy and courage, Eric is also a character with a tough character. Proven by the dialog at minute 1.15.28 and 1.17.23. Which tells about love that defeats everything including evil.

Then in the character of Freya here it is described that Freya has a selfish, manipulative, and cruel character. It is shown in minutes 12, 74, and 76. Starting from forbidding her soldiers to fall in love with each other only because Freya was traumatized by her romantic relationship that ended tragically. In addition, Freya provokes Eric and his lover to hate each other. And Freya's cruel character is depicted in the scene when Freya tells Eric's lover to kill Eric.

The researchers conclude that Eric is a protagonist, while Freya is an antagonist. Eric is called a protagonist because he has a brave, tough character, and excels in war strategy. On the other hand, Freya is called an antagonist because she is selfish, manipulative, and cruel.

2. Teaching Reading Using Character Depiction

In teaching reading, the teacher may apply the movie as the material source in the following steps:

- a. Select movies: Choose movies that are adaptations of literary works or movies with rich character development. Look for movies that are faithful to the source material and offer nuanced portrayals of characters.
- b. Preview activities: Before watching the movie, introduce students to the characters and setting of the story. Provide background information on the author, time period and themes of the movie. Encourage students to make predictions about how the characters will be portrayed in the movie based on their understanding of the text.
- c. Watch the movie: As students watch the movie, encourage them to pay close attention to how characters are portrayed visually and through dialogue and action. Provide viewing guides or graphic organisers to help students track key characteristics, relationships and character development throughout the movie.
- d. Comparative analysis: After watching the movie, facilitate discussions comparing the portrayal of characters in the movie with their portrayal in the original literary work. Encourage students to analyse differences and similarities in character traits, motivations and arcs.
- e. Visual analysis: Guide students in analysing visual elements such as costumes, facial expressions, body language and settings that contribute to the portrayal of character in the movie.

- f. Critical thinking activities: Engage students in critical thinking activities that require them to evaluate the interpretation of the characters and assign writing tasks on their understanding of the characters the movie.

5. Conclusion

In conclusion, by involving students and expanding their comprehension of literary themes, character depiction analysis in films can greatly improve English instruction. Through the examination of motivations, conflicts, and character traits, character analysis can promote empathy and critical thinking. Students can examine themes of power, dishonesty, and redemption by watching movies like *The Huntsman: Winter's War*, that presents a diverse array of characters with complex motivations and relationships. Through the use of character analysis in English lessons, students can improve their language proficiency as well as their analytical, creative, and empathetic skills. Examples of these activities include essays, storyboards, character profiles, and conversations. This method might be very useful for teaching reading skills because it promotes interaction with fictional characters and promotes critical thinking and interpretation of texts.

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