Analysis of 'Mal' Female Character in *Descendant* Movie

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Abstract. This study analyzes a film entitled *Descendant* by using psychological theory, especially the psychology of behaviorism. The researcher aims to determine what factors can influence the formation of character characters, especially Mal as the female lead. In this case, the author uses the theory of 3 dimensions by Lajos Egri. This study uses a qualitative method, where the author provides several notes in the dialogues that address several reasons and factors for the formation of Mal's character. The results of this study indicate that the formation of a person's character is also due to environmental factors, family, friends, and society. When Mal lived with her mother on Island Lost, she had the evilest and most cunning character, but after she moved to Aurodon, she met a good environment and people so that his character turned into a good one.

Keywords: Psychological Behavior, Lajos Egri, Qualitative

Introduction

The word Literature usually is used to describe written and sometimes spoken material. Derived from the Latin word, Literature means writing formed with letters. Literature most commonly refers to works of the creative imaginations, including poetry, drama, fiction, nonfiction, and in some instances, journalism and song. However, nowadays, Literature is not only the written ones. Many people regarding that movies are also a kind of Literature. (Susilowati, 2021) According to Endaswara(2008) in the journal written by Susilowati (2018), Literary work is a psychological reflection of the author and, at the same time, has a psychological power on the reader. So literature is an expression of the author who describes his emotions and thoughts.

Movies are the most popular in literary works. That is because all people of many ages or statuses can enjoy it. Why can that be? It is because movies can be understood by kids until older people, without they should know about the literature to appreciate and understand it. Movies are also interesting literary works and are in great demand, especially by teenagers. By presenting audio-visual motions, the audience will not feel bored if they have to watch for one to two hours (Rahmawati, 2020).

Movies have many genres like romance, comedy, heroic, criminal, etc. Watching movies can also help students learn something they study in class, especially language class. From watching movies or authentic videos, students get closer to different accents, expressions, idiomatic phrases, slang, jargon, and other elements that they do not often find in language classrooms. The movie is not only to use as entertainment, but also it is one way to explain or show something important in our lives. Movies can teach people history, science, human behavior, and other subjects. From watching a movie, we can know and learn everything. Sometimes it may help us or plunge us into bad things if we couldn't be wise people in response to it. The role of a movie in society is enormous, so it has a share in the people's actions in their life. Besides, that movie can make people change their mindset (Rohmayutulloh, 2018).

Now a researcher wants to analyze *Descendant* movie from the psychological literature side, especially psychological behaviorism with the three dimension theory by Lajos Egri, which is about how the formation of characters of someone can happen. The researcher chose the Descendant movie to help analysis about it. In this film, the story of Mal who has an evil character turns into a good one caused by the surrounding environment.

Method

This research used the qualitative method Kirk & Miller (1986:9) define qualitative research as a tradition in social knowledge that is fundamentally dependent on observations of humans both in their area and in their terminology. It identifies things relevant to good meaning in various circumstances of the world, the diversity of people, the variety of actions, and the various beliefs and interests, focusing on the different forms of things that give rise to different meanings, qualitative research methods are used to examine the conditions of natural objects where the researcher is the key instrument

Literature psychology pays attention to the elements of psychology of fictional characters contained in literary works. There are various aspects included in them, especially humanity. In general, these human aspects are the main objects of literature psychology because only humans as characters are implanted with psychological aspects. The purpose of literature psychology is to understand the psychological aspects (Nisa' A'fifatul Azizah, 2019). Alwisol (2016), who is also in the book Understanding and Development of Literary Theory (2020), argues that behaviorism experts try to explain how human behavior can be formed, namely through the interactions that occur in humans with their environment. Human personality is considered the result of environmental formation that ignores intrinsic factors in the form of instincts and natural human instincts. Humans are products that come from their environment resulting in the interpretation that human behavior is a response that will appear if there is a specific stimulus in the background. So every human behavior is influenced by certain stimulus factors that trigger it.

In a literary work, characters and characterizations are one of the most vital elements. Character distinguishes one character from another. In *Descendant*, the main character is Mal. This character is most often present from the story's beginning to the end.

To explore and recognize the character of the actors and actresses in a literary work, we can use the three-dimensional theory of the personality of Lajos Egri (1960). With these three dimensions, we can identify the characteristics of the character's body and the character's mental personality. In addition, you can also find out something related to the sociological aspect of the character (Ahmadi, 2019).The three theories are:

a. Physiological Dimension

The physiological dimension is the most effortless dimension because the characters are shown in terms physically and clearly. Physical appearance is the main thing that can make a difference between one character and another. Physiological dimensions describe gender, age, weight, height, hair color, eye color, skin color, body posture, appearance, physical disability, and heredity (Alifia Nuralita Rezqiana, 2020). Based on a journal written by Prawira (2018), people who are lame, blind, deaf, ugly, beautiful, tall, or have different physical appearances, will have a different view of life. We can know their character through the way their dress.

b. Sociology Dimension

Sociology is something related to sociology, for example, about social structures, social processes, including social changes, and social problems (Ahmadi, 2019). This dimension is usually seen in the environment around a person. Who are the father and mother, is the person sick or healthy, how is his income, who are his friends, how does the person influence other people, how do others influence the person, what he likes and dislikes, and who he is (Prawira, 2018)

c. Psychology Dimension

Based on Prawira's (2018) journal, psychology, the third dimension combines Physiology and Sociology. That dimension refers to a person's ambition, frustration, temperament, and attitude. According to Sutiyem in the journal Ahmadi (2019), if we ignore one of these dimensions, the character's role in the literary work will tend to die.

Research Question are: 1. What factors can be related to the formation of the character of Mal in the movie? 2. What will happen if someone, especially Mal, lives in a horrible environment in that movie? Aim of the research are: 1. To find out what factors can be related to the formation of Mal"s characters in the movie. 2. To understand what will happen if someone, especially Mal, lives in a horrible environment

Result And Discussion
Factors can be related to the formation of Mal's characters in the movie

In the *Descendant* movie, Mal described as a 16-year-old teenage girl with a beautiful face, white skin, and purple hair. In the film *"Descendant,"* physically, she has no defects and no birthmarks on her body. Therefore, Mal also has a brave, uncompromising attitude, and she even becomes a leader in her group.

The environment in which humans live, develop, and interact is social. According to Dalyono (2005:132) in the journal, Suparno (2018) states that the social environment is all other people/humans who influence us. The influence of the social climate is received directly and indirectly. Direct influence includes daily interactions with other people, family, friends, school friends, work, Etc. Indirectly, through radio and television, by reading books, magazines, newspapers, and so on, and in various other ways. So her wrong attitude of Mal is also caused by her bad environment.

The environment can shape humans as a learning process. A person can do and is motivated to do harmful things in a bad environment. On the other hand, a good and conducive learning environment will provide good learning and encourage someone to do good. (Suparno, 2018)

The first human education is the family; even the responsibility of parents is not limited to formal education. Family as early education provides the fundamental character and noble values formed from an early age. The family environment consists of parents (father and mother) and children (Suparno, 2018). Children tend to imitate the behavior shown, and they pay attention. In the Descendant movie, Mal's character has an evil, cunning, and mischievous attitude. Those are undoubtedly the influence of Mal's mother, namely Maleficent, who is an evil character.

Maleficent as the mother of the Mal, always gives lousy guidance. She also demanded that her daughter, Mal, be like her and do whatever she wanted. In nurturing and raising Mal, she uses an authoritarian parenting style. The parenting style follows Hurlock's opinion in the journal (Rizky, 2018) that this authoritarian parenting pattern sets standards that must be obeyed, usually accompanied by threats. This type of parent tends to force, command, and punish. This type of parent is also uncompromising, and communication is usually one-way. This type of parent does not need feedback from their child to understand their child.

Communication is one form of attention parents can give to their children, which is also one factor that shapes the child's personality. Children will grow well if parents can maintain good communication with their children. Communication is not only through speech but can also be in the form of action. Actions can help express love and care for the child to form a good personality. children who are not cared for by their parents and grow up in a family environment that is not harmonious have terrible personalities (Rahmah, 2018).

In the *Descendant* movie, Maleficent does not give attention or love to Mal. She only demands Mal to be like her, and she is never satisfied with what Mal has done. Due to the lack of love from her mother, and the desire to be recognized by Maleficent, Mal always tries to do whatever her mother tells her to do. She does not care if it is good or bad.

School also has a vital role in Forming character. School is a means of education and a meeting place for a group of people that causes social relationships or interactions, both between fellow teachers, teachers with students, and students with students. A student can imitate or be influenced by her peer environment through this association. The school will greatly influence children as individuals and social beings. School regulations, teacher authority, work discipline, learning methods, social habits, and various kinds of guidance and pleasure in learning for children. For example, children can learn systematically, get along with their peers, play together, conduct experiments, compete, have fun, Etc. (Nila Pratiwi1, 2020).

Peers also have a significant role and influence in terms of moral formation in a student. Social relationships with peers are essential for personality development. Friendship is special in peer interaction because it involves feelings, acceptance, closeness, and openness. Familiarity with peers has many benefits and becomes a compliment in the history of life's journey. The change in Mal's character in the *Descendant* movie began to appear little by little. In a good school environment that teaches and introduces her to kindness. Moreover, she meets Ben, who shows his true love for Mal.

The Influence of a Bad Environment on Character Formation

Character does not appear suddenly but must go through habituation and exemplary education. Character education fostered from an early age is an essential foundation for forming a life order for children in the future. For this reason, environmental influences are significant for character formation—the environment, which includes the family, school, and community environment.

The family environment is the main foundation for children if the environment shown to children, from parenting to family harmony, plays a vital role in character formation, including parenting patterns. Children tend to imitate their parents or what their parents teach. If parents' behavior is terrible, then children's behavior will also be wrong.

In the journal Shofiyatuz (2020), it was written that Wellaman and Husen have proven through their research that schools have a dominant role in children's growth and development, especially in intelligence development. But not only that, but the school also develops other aspects such as forming attitudes, and habits, studying with groups, learning to hold back, and so on. That's why education is essential in character formation. Someone who gets an education at school has a good character compared to someone who has never received an education at school.

In addition, the community environment is also crucial for character formation. If there is someone grows up in a bad environment, evil characters will be formed. Some harmful habit that often occurs in society is labeling. Labeling is giving a stamp or nickname to someone who has specific behavioral symptoms. In a social environment, labeling is usually given to someone who behaves defiantly, such as the nickname drunkard, cheater, thief, and so on. According to Jon Gunnar Bernburg in the Katoningsih Journal (2022), labeling theory focuses on problems that arise after the social environment is defined or symbolizes deviant individuals.

Labeling is often given to people who behave defiantly and violate the values and norms in society. As a result, individuals who have been labeled experience a change in roles and tend to act like the label given to them (Anggraeni 2018). In general, there are two types of labeling, namely positive labels and negative labels. But what is given more to a person is a negative label. Over time, labeling will make the child feel that the title conveyed is true.

In the *Descendant* movie, apart from Mal got a lousy upbringing from her parents. She and her friends also grew up in a bad environment where they were also given a label in a society where that is what they are, which makes Mal and her friends act up according to what is labeled to them.

Conclusions

Based on the analysis above, the writer gets two conclusions. 1. Mal has a bad character because he grew up in a bad environment starting from the community and family. However, Mal's character gradually changes as he moves to a place with a good environment which introduces him to kindness and love. 2. The character of someone who lives in the wrong place or environment will form a bad personality. Vice versa, if one's environment grows and develops well, it will produce good character.

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