



THE CHARACTERIZATION OF "I" IN THE TELL TALE HEART **BY EDGAR ALLAN POE**

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ABSTRACT

The Tell Tale Heart is one of the world's most famous short story which has been the subject of literary analysis for many years. The characterization in this story is very prominent and becomes the focus of this research. This study aims to analyze the characterization of "I". The research method used is a descriptive qualitative. The data collected is from the short story The Tell Tale Heart. The results show several characterizations of "I" as the main character. The character "I" is described as unstable and obsessed with "eagle eyes".

This research shows that characterization in a story can help create a horror atmosphere and increase the suspense of a story which can provide more insight into how characterization can influence the reader and enhance the reading experience. This research is expected to provide additional information for future researchers who wish to examine the short story "The Tell-Tale Heart".

Keywords:

Characterization, Character I, The Tell Tale Heart

INTRODUCTION

Literary work is the process of perfecting a text with and, or without illustration. In supporting literary works, the author will always have a main character who will interpret the goals and messages which the author wants to convey. According to (Abram 1999), a character is a person who symbolizes a dramatic or narrative piece that interprets moral, intellectual, and emotional traits from their particular method of expressing conversation, and from what they do. The characters in the story can be divided into some categories based on the point of view taken; major and minor character, protagonist and antagonist character, round and flat character, dynamic and static character, typical and neutral character (Nurgiyontoro, 2007). In terms of role and importance in a story character is divided into two, the main character and additional character.

The main character is a character whose narrative is prioritized in the novel or film concerned and additional character is charactering whose appearance is usually ignored or at least gets attention (Nurgiyontoro, 2013: 259). Based on their roles the characters are divided into two, namely the protagonist and the antagonist (Nurgiyontoro, 2013: 261). A protagonist is a character the readers admire, one of which is popularly called a hero. A character who embodies the ideal values for us. An antagonist is a character who causes conflict. An antagonist is a character who is in opposition to the protagonist, directly or indirectly.

According to (Tarigan 1985: 74) categorizes the other type of character namely static and dynamic character. Static character is a static character whose state remains unchanged from beginning to end. Static character also known as a flat character. Dynamic character is a character who experiences development and a character that can change along the storyline (Tarigan 1985:74). In literary work, characters and characterization are essential elements in a story.

Characterization stated by (Jauhari 2013, p.161) that are the depictions of people or performers by the author. There are two characterization approaches, are as follow direct characterization and indirect characterization. Characterization is the process of creating a character in literature, including words, actions, thoughts, appearance, other people's thoughts and perceptions about the character. It is the means by which the writer brings a character to life. It is the process of creating a character from the point of view of his physical, mental, emotional, moral and social characteristics, revealed through his appearance, thoughts, speech, feelings and emotions, actions or behaviour. There are two characterization approaches, are as follow direct characterization and indirect characterization.

Direct characterization is the process by which an author tells the reader something about character's specific traits. In this case, the writer simply tells the reader what he or she wants the reader to know. Direct characterization is in contrast with indirect characterization, the latter being a process by which the author reveals information through the thoughts, words, or actions of the character. Direct characterization leaves less to the reader's imagination. It keeps the narrative short and increases its pace. Writers also use direct characterization to give some information about character's personality and later use indirect methods to reveal more about the character. In terms of description, direct characterization is often the easier thing to do for most writers. Many critics and teachers

also consider it to be more unimaginative and boring than indirect characterization. Still, the choice of the techniques often depends on an individual preference of the writer. It may also depend on the overall tone of the prose and what the author feels is most important to convey at that particular point.

“Indirect characterization used when the author shows things that reveal the personality of the character while it usually is used in film. There are four different methods of indirect characterization: 1) speech, 2) thoughts, 3) action, and 4) looks”. (Burroway, 2000:52).

The first method of indirect characterization is to use speech in a manner that adequately represents the character and reveals certain qualities about the individual. Traits and personality of characters are revealed to the reader through the use of dialogues. This speech may be presented by an individual character, revealing certain characteristics about him, or it may be the words spoken by another character about individual. Indirect characterization also requires that the author conveys certain personal and characteristic traits through the thoughts of the characters. The manner in which these feelings are expressed determines the difference between direct and indirect characterization. Based on the explanation above, the writer is interested in conducting research on characterization analysis of the character "I" in the short story "The Tale Tell Heart" by Edgar Allan Poe, which is also the focus of this research.

METHOD

Research design

This research is a qualitative descriptive study where the focus of this research is focused on the characterization of the character "I" in the short story "The Tale Tell Heart" by Edgar Allan Poe. Descriptive qualitative research is research that is packaged in words or actual situations without other additions such as symbols or numbers and in general the main goal of a research is to find and uncover an unknown problem in a systematic, orderly and accountable manner.

Data and Data Sources

The characterization of the character "I" is the main data of this study, where the data was obtained from the short story The Tale Tell Heart by Edgar Allan Poe. In this research, the writer analyzes the characterization of the character "I" in the short story The Tale Tell Heart by Edgar Allan Poe. The author uses several reference sources such as books, previous

research, and online journals which contain several theories related to the research topic to achieve research objectives.

Data collection

There are several steps taken by the author to collect the necessary data. The first step is to read the short story *The Tell-Tale Heart* by Edgar Allan Poe. Second, the writers identify the characterization of the character "I" contained in the short story *The Tell-Tale Heart* by Edgar Allan Poe. In the third step, the writer searches for and studies reference sources related to the characterization in short stories. The final step is to group the data based on the research topic and record the important parts related to the research.

Data analysis

After all the data is collected, the writer performs the following steps of analysis: first, the writer identifies and then studies the characterization of the character "I" contained in the short story *The Tell-Tale Heart* by Edgar Allan Poe. Second, the presentation of the data in this study is by describing and analyzing the data. The data displayed in this study is in the form of a description. Fourth, the data that has been selected is then analyzed based on theories related to the research topic. After the analysis, the writer concludes that after all the relevant data answers the research problem.

RESULTS

Direct characterization of "I" in *The Tell-Tale Heart* short story:

1. Love storge

"I loved the old man"

In the quote above, the narrator describes the character "I" who says or expresses his love directly in the story. The love referred to in this quote is storge love (love that refers to family). Character "I" in the short story *The Tell-Tale Heart* considers the old man to be his family. The Character "I" reveals that the old man was very kind and did nothing bad to him. It's just that the old man has eagle eyes which character "I" really hates. It can be concluded that the quote is part of a direct characterization, because character "I" appreciates the old man by expressing his feelings directly from his heart.

2. Nervous

"I am nervous"

From the quote above, the narrator characterizes the character "I" in expressing himself directly. Character "I" reveals that at that time he was in a nervous state after he

committed a crazy act against the old man. The situation was very gripping and terrorizing that night which made character "I" become anxious and uncontrollable. Then character "I" tries to be calm, silent and self-restraint. Based on the quote above, it can be concluded that the quote is a direct characterization, because directly character "I" expresses his expression spontaneously after he does crazy things to the old man.

Indirect characterization of "I" in The Tell-Tale Heart short story:

1. Vengeful

"Whenever it fell upon me, my blood ran cold; and so by degrees --very gradually --I made up my mind to take the life of the old man, and thus rid myself of the eye forever"

In the quote above, the narrator shows the character "I" who has a vengeful character. "I" felt hurt towards one of the old man's five senses, namely the five senses of the eye. According to character "I", the old man's eyes have a very sharp gaze that shows the evil from within the old man. Makes the character "I" really hate it. It can be explained that character "I" makes a plan to kill the old man, so that the old man dies as soon as possible and the grudge in his heart can escape from within him and character "I" gets better. This quote is part of the indirect characterization 'thoughts' because the character "I" thinks and feels what is in him and expresses it through the next action he will do for the old man.

2. Ambitious

"And every night, about midnight, I turned the latch of his door and opened it --oh so gently! And then, when I had made a sufficient opening for my head, I put in a dark lantern, all closed, closed, that no light shone out, and then I thrust it in my head."

The quote above shows character "I", namely ambitious. an ambitious character where he justifies any means or crazy actions to trick the old man every day. Behind it all, character "I" has a plan to kill him in the bedroom, so that the old man doesn't feel suspicious of the strange and crazy actions of character "I" himself. For seven days, character "I" tries to lurk and waits for an hour to make sure that the old man sleeps with his eyes open. The quote above is part of the indirect characterization 'action' because in that quote, character "I" takes crazy actions or actions to launch a plan that he wants to do next.

3. Cunning

"I had my head in, and was about to open the lantern, when my thumb slipped upon the tin fastening, and the old man sprang up in bed, crying out --"Who's there?" I kept quite still and said nothing. For a whole hour I did not move a muscle, and in the meantime I did not hear him lie down"

From the quote above, the narrator shows the next characteristic of character "I", which is cunning. The cunning nature in which character I tries not to be found out by the old man when character "I" does his crazy actions or actions. "I" hides and remains silent when the old man notices something strange while he sleeps. Character "I" slowly carries out these actions until he succeeds in carrying out his top plan, which is to kill the old man.

4. Cynical

"I then smiled gaily, to find the dead so far done"

A piece of the quote above, the narrator shows that character "I" has a cynical character. The character "I" in the quote expresses himself with a smile and is proud of what he did to someone he lives with, namely the old man. A character who has sharp eyes like an eagle, is evil and is hated by character "I", making the character feel uncomfortable and disturbed. Then, character I commits heinous things to the old man until he dies. Next, character "I" examines the old man's corpse whether his breath or heart has stopped or not. And character "I" hopes that with the death of the old man, the night that character "I" wanted all this time, he will get. The quote is an indirect characterization 'action' because the quote is an expression that aims to insult or give a look of disgust (dislike) to someone while doing what he feels what he is doing is right.

5. Easily nervous

"The night waned, and I worked hastily, but in silence"

From a piece of the quote above, the narrator shows the character "I", which is easily nervous. The trait that makes character "I" become anxious and afraid of losing control over what character "I" is doing and this is the action of character I, after he kills the old man character. Character "I" panicked and worried because the situation that night was so brief. At that time, character "I" didn't have much time, he immediately cut off every part of the old man's body, be it head, legs and arms. Character "I" does that to clean up and hide his actions against the old man. The quote is an indirect characterization of 'action' because in that quote character "I" performs a crazy action that makes character "I" rush and become restless.

6. Hard to Please

"I then took up three planks from the floor of the chamber, and deposited all between the scantlings"

Furthermore, from the quote above, the narrator shows the character "I", which is hard to please. This trait is almost the same as and related to perfectionism. This trait is the nature of a person where he does something he targets something with high expectations or

standards. In this quote, the character "I" closes and hides his evil and crazy actions neatly. Character "I" takes several planks and then assembles them, he does this after he cuts off each part of the old man's body so that the traces or marks he did are not detected by police officers during the inspection. The quote is part of the indirect characterization 'action', because in that quote the character "I" performs an action aimed at hiding his mistake or action.

7. Easy to panic

"I smiled, --for what had I to fear?"

In the above quote, the narrator shows character "I", which is easy to panic. This quote is a feeling or expression of character "I" that makes him smile when he is depressed, because at that time the examining officer came and knocked on the door. Character "I" convinces himself that he is not afraid and suspected by police officers. Character "I" hides his expression and his racing feelings when police officers start looking for evidence of the old man's murder. At that time the police officers didn't know yet, character "I" tried to convince them while his heart was beating fast and screams unfolded within character "I". From the above quote, it can be concluded that the quote is part of the indirect characterization 'thoughts'. Character "I" shows a panicked expression while wearing a depressed smile.

8. Anxious

"I felt myself getting pale and wished them gone"

In this quote, the narrator shows that the character "I" is a person who gets anxious easily. The nature that bothered him to make his face pale. Character "I" tries to hold back and hide his actions, with a happy, cheerful and relaxed facial expression, as if nothing had happened or what he was doing. In the quote above, it is explained that the police officers came, sat down and discussed the details and explanation of character "I" regarding this matter. Making character I's feelings more restless, disorganized and shaky. Then character "I" raised her voice to cover up her anxious heart at that moment. It can be concluded that this quote is part of the direct characterization 'thoughts', because this quote contains elements of expression or feelings of character "I" for what he does.

9. Easy to Worry

"I gasped for breath --and yet the officers heard it not"

In the quote, the narrator shows the feelings and expressions of character "I", that is, easy to worry. Character "I" did some action to cover this up. Character I is very scared and anxious. Character "I" feels uncomfortable and disturbed, because of this concern, character

“I” covers it up by arguing about trivial matters against police officers with a fast way of speaking, irregular gestures, and an increasingly elevated tone of voice. The character does this so that character “I” does not look suspicious or groggy. Based on the quote above, it can be concluded that the quote is part of the indirect characterization of 'action', because in the quote the character “I” performs an action that is panting. An action resulting from his sense of worry.

10. Restlessness

"I paced the floor to and fro with heavy strides, as if excited to fury by the observations of the men"

From the quote above, the narrator shows character “I” who is full of anxiety. An unease that made him pace back and forth here and there to mask his restlessness. Character “I” is afraid, if the police officer knows what he did. And attempted to get the police officer away without suspecting him. At that time the police officer, had begun to become suspicious because I's character was not calm and felt gelish. Then the police officers smiled as if they did not know that the culprit was character “I”. In the explanation above, it can be concluded that the quote is part of the indirect characterization of 'thoughts and action', because character “I” in the quote performs an action or action to keep him calm which makes him have to cover up his anxiety so as not to be discovered by the police officer.

11. Easy to give up

"I could bear those hypocritical smiles no longer! I feel that I must scream or die! and now --again!"

In the quote above, the narrator shows the feeling or expression of character “I”, who easily gives up. In the end, character “I” commits an act of admitting himself to a police officer. He thought and believed that the police officers already knew that the real perpetrator was Character “I” himself. Character “I” can't hold back his heart that keeps screaming, until finally character “I” screams very loudly and admits that character “I” was the culprit. Then character “I” tells the police officer where the body of the old man he killed is and character “I” feels relieved after doing it. It can be concluded that the quote is an indirect characterization of 'speech and thoughts', because in this quote character “I” thinks about and feels unbearable about things that make him depressed so he has to admit his actions by shouting and screaming at the police officers.

DISCUSSIONS

This research focuses on characteristics and characterizations in short story literary works. The characterization of character I in a story entitled "The Tell Tale Heart" is the work of Edgar Allan Poe. Jauhari's 2013 study, p.161 regarding characterizations expressed in the description of people or actors by the author. The character I in this short story is the main character in the short story which will be examined by researchers. The character I is very afraid and hates the eyes that belong to the old man's character, so that character I kill, tortures and gets rid of the old man. Based on this discussion, the researcher uses two characterization approaches, namely direct characterization and indirect characterization to see the various characteristics revealed through feelings, appearance, speech, thoughts, actions and emotions towards the character I. In indirect characterization, the researcher uses the analytical method of Burroway's theory, 2000:52 which explains that there are four methods of indirect characterization, namely 1) speech, 2) thought, 3) action, and 4) appearance. Through this method, researchers can analyze the various characteristics found in character I which are the main focus of this research. This research can also be a contribution to the reader in appreciating a literary work that is synonymous with characteristics and characterizations.

CONCLUSIONS

In the analysis of the story "The Tell Tale Heart", it can be concluded that there are two kinds of characters that are categorized, namely direct characterization and indirect characterization. According to Burroway 2000:52, indirect characterization has four methods which are categorized in the form of 1) speech, 2) action, 3) look, and 4) action. In describing and illustrating characters, indirect characterization components are used such as motives, interactions and actions. Almost all parts from the beginning to the end of "The Tell Tale Heart" show a description of the physical depiction through the actions, expressions and imagination of the narrator. Edgar Allan Poe uses the main character, namely the character "I" with various characteristics possessed by the character "I" himself in the story "The Tell Tale Heart". He is also adept at creating several traits that allow the reader to describe and identify the character "I" directly.

From the results of the discussion above, it can be concluded that the direct characterization of the character "I" includes a person who has a love storge and a person who is easy to get nervous. Indirect characterization of the character "I" includes vengeful,

ambitious, cunning, cynical, easily nervous, hard to please, easy to panic, anxious, easy to worry, restlessness, easy to give up. From these results, it can be seen that overall, the characterization of the character "I" in the story *The Tell Tale Heart* by Edgar Allan Poe mostly refers to characters with negative values.

It is hoped that this research can add insight to readers of the short story "The Tell Tale Heart" by Edgar Allan Poe as well as add information for future researchers who wish to examine the short story *The Tell Tale Heart*. Based on the research results obtained from existing data, basically this research went well. However, it is not a mistake if researchers want to put forward some suggestions that hopefully will be useful for the advancement of education in general. As for the suggestions that the researchers put forward are as follows: In future research, it should be possible to deepen the theories related to the characterization of the character "I", the results of this study have not fully provided a theoretical explanation regarding the characterization of a character. furthermore, future researchers should further develop the scope of the research, bearing in mind that this research has not been able to fully describe the characterization of the character "I" in the short story *The Tell Tale Heart*. In the process of collecting data, should use techniques that are estimated to be more optimal in obtaining the required data.

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