



The Role of Severus Snape in The Harry Potter Series by J. K. Rowling: Deconstruction Perspective

Hayyu Afifah Melliandhini¹, Neni Kurniawati^{2*}

English Department, Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Dian Nuswantoro, Semarang, Indonesia

English Department, Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Dian Nuswantoro, Semarang, Indonesia

melliandhini.mellin@gmail.com, neni.kurniawati@dsn.dinus.ac.id*

Article History:

Submission
February 1st, 2024

Accepted
April 9th, 2024

Published
July 31st, 2024

ABSTRACT

This paper aims to discover the real role of Severus Snape in the Harry Potter book series by J. K. Rowling. This research is also intended to describe Severus Snape's efforts in defeating Lord Voldemort and to figure out the characterization and description of the actions taken by Snape; the writer uses a deconstruction analysis proposed by Jacques Derrida. The deconstruction analysis identifies the image of Severus Snape's character and the relationship between the character's image and the forms of deconstruction. The method used in this research is the descriptive qualitative method. This research tried to examine the elements of deconstruction of the character Severus Snape in the Harry Potter series of novels, interpreting the new meanings contained implicitly in the novels. The research results showed that Severus Snape is described as a rude, arrogant, and cruel character. Through the perspective of deconstruction, it was found that Snape has characteristics that are paradoxical to what appears on the surface. He is a caring, helpful, and brave character. In addition, it was found that the nine actions of Severus Snape were intended to protect Harry Potter and to defeat Lord Voldemort. The analysis results suggested that Severus Snape has a significant role in moving the story. Harry Potter can defeat the antagonist or villain in the Harry Potter Series through his role in the story.

Keywords: characterization; deconstruction; Harry Potter; Jacques Derrida; Severus Snape

INTRODUCTION

Joanne Kathleen Rowling, or J. K. Rowling, is one of the authors of this century who has become the focus of attention by literary critics as her three Harry Potter series of youth novels took over the top three positions on the New York Times bestseller list (<http://www.jkrowling.com>). The series became the best-selling book in history. Harry Potter is the main character in the novel series by J. K. Rowling. Therefore, many writers use Harry Potter as their research object. This makes the roles of other characters who build the storyline blur, such as Severus Snape. He is one of the teachers at Hogwarts School of Wizards. He only had one friend, Lily Evans, Harry Potter's mother. As the head of Slytherin House and potion master at Hogwarts, Snape has an important role in the story. One of the

This is an open access article under the [CC-BY-SA](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/) license



characters attached to Snape is his hatred of Harry Potter and his friends. He is also known as a cruel character, especially in Harry Potter. This representation of Severus Snape is depicted through his behavior and speech and also the descriptions given by other characters to him. However, several parts of the story illustrate the paradoxicality of Snape's attitude or character. He sometimes acts in a different direction or purpose from the other characters appearing or assumed. This depiction shows something that needs to be explored further related to Snape's actual purpose or role in the story.

Mahmud (2017) researched Severus Snape in terms of his character build and development. The conclusion from his research that Snape is a helpful supporting character is still not accurate. From various evidence of his actions in the story, it can be concluded that Snape is not only helpful but also the most significant. One of the reasons is because the information about Voldemort's weakness is crucial for Harry Potter as the main character. This plot is the resolution of the Harry Potter story until in the denouement part Harry wins the battle against his greatest enemy, Lord Voldemort. However, when he takes a risky action, for example, it indicates that a certain objective is at play. Therefore, it can be assumed that his life is full of mysteries and secrets. And this makes readers have a different understanding of Snape. The depiction of Severus Snape's character, especially as a master of potions and black magic at Hogwarts, is unique and interesting to study further even though he is not the main character of the story. This is what underlies the analysis using deconstruction theory. Deconstructing a literary work means rejecting the general meaning contained in the work itself.

Deconstruction means "aborting" or "destroying" boundaries (Nurgiyantoro, 1998). In simple terms, deconstruction is a theory that reveals things that are disguised by something conspicuous, such as something good becomes bad; the protagonist becomes an antagonist, and vice versa. Furthermore, deconstructive analysis has removed the boundaries that have been drawn between protagonists and additional main characters. Deconstruction is essentially a way of reading a text that subverts the notion (even if it is only written implicitly) that a text has a basis, in the language system that applies to reinforce the structure, integrity, and meaning that has been determined (Nurgiyantoro, 1998). In this case, deconstruction holds that there is no absolute truth in a text.

Silverman (2004) defines deconstruction as reading a text based on its margins, limits, or framework, and within self-limitation as a text. Derrida's concept of "deconstruction" is hidden behind the method of reading the text to find and reveal binary oppositions. For this purpose, the core binary oppositions that play a role in the construction of the text must be discovered. Likewise, categories in the binary become the basis for truth claims, and secondary categories. Deconstruction of a text does not occur through random doubt or arbitrary subversion but through a careful effort to eliminate conflicting forces of significance within the text (Derrida in Mendie, 2020). According to Derrida, one way to deconstruct a text is to look for important or neglected parts of the text and examine them from various sides to create new interpretations. Deconstructing opposition means overturning hierarchies at any given moment. Derrida's approach to literary interpretation is based on the premise that all texts, literary or otherwise, can be deconstructed. He explains that each element in the structure is a dynamic part so that elements that are minor in a text can become dominant or central in a text (Derrida, 1981).

In deconstructing a text, the dominant element does not always dominate other elements. Minor, considered low, and marginal elements such as minorities, weak groups, women, complementary figures, slums, pedestrians, and so on can be given adequate attention, even in a balanced and proportional manner (Ratna, 2010). The ultimate goal to achieve in this method is to

rearrange the existing structure into a more significant order and level, according to the nature of the object so that the aspects being analyzed can be utilized as much as possible (Ratna, 2010). Deconstruction is an attempt to give meaning to weak groups, which have so far been poorly understood, or even completely ignored (Ratna, 2010). Therefore, the analysis of the Harry Potter Series will be studied in-depth using Jacques Derrida's Deconstruction analytical scalpel.

There are a number of studies on this novel, for example, the one done by Dewi (2016) focused on Harry Potter as the main character of the story. The research data was taken from the last two novels of the Harry Potter series entitled *Harry Potter and the Half-blood Prince*, and *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*. His research aims to describe the development of personality traits experienced by Harry Potter as the main character. The novels focus on Harry's mission to fight Voldemort by finding and destroying Horcruxes. In this mission, Harry experienced an interesting process of personality development. He was in the teenage phase when his emotions were unstable.

Another study of the Harry Potter novels focuses on the minor characters in the story. Musarofah (2012) discusses Lord Voldemort by using the individual psychological theory of Alfred Adler. In her study, she discovers the superiority of Lord Voldemort. Meanwhile, Alvanita (2012) tells the story of Harry Potter's journey to Hogwarts. The aim of her research is to study the character development of Neville Longbottom, a minor character in the Harry Potter novel series, and discover its significance in the story. Her findings suggest that Neville is experiencing personality changes. His change was from the shy, forgetful, and docile boy described in his early years at Hogwarts to a confident man. This personality development is classified into three aspects: cognitive, affective, and psychomotor. Putri (2019) discusses Severus Snape as the tragic hero in the novel series. She analyzes his character and the ways how Snape can be a tragic hero. She uses structuralism approach to analyze the tragedy of Severus Snape and theory of tragedy and tragic hero. Her research shows that Severus Snape is a tragic hero because he is flawed yet a special character.

Research using a deconstruction approach is also used in the article entitled "Deconstruction of the Horror Film Formula in *Midsommar* by Ari Aster" (Hapsari et.al, 2023). This article reveals that the narrative of a horror film can be further improved so that the audience feels out of the box by applying a different formula but with the same terrifying sensation. The general formula for horror films has been deconstructed in the research data in this paper, namely the film *Midsommar*. The results of her research found that there are four binary oppositions to the horror film formula in *Midsommar*, namely deconstruction of order from scary to peaceful; dark to light lighting; and dramatic sound effects. The color element is also deconstructed, namely by using a variety of colors, namely blue, green, white and yellow instead of monotonous colors. The reversal of non-dominant and dominant elements in the film has a significant influence in producing eerie and scary moments.

Meanwhile, this study focuses on disclosing the inherent characterization of Severus Snape in the story and his description. This article deconstructs the binary view of major and minor characters in a story. The main character who appears more than the other characters in the story is considered to be the driving force of the story and is the focus of the reader's attention. The main character in a literary work then becomes the object of research. In contrast, minor characters are only additions to the story. A minor character is a character that has a minor role in the story, it means that a minor character appears less than the major character in a story. It is much easier to describe what a person has done instead of who a person is (Risdianto, 2014). Thus, there is a need for a more holistic analysis of the characteristics of the characters in a story. The function of the minor character is as a supporting character in the story (DiYanni, 2001). However, although appearing less often as supporting ones, minor characters can be the main cause of the actions carried out by the main

character. The role of these minor characters thus becomes big for the continuity of the story. Characters can be identified from the characters' conversations, descriptions of other characters, and their actions. Through Snape's conversations, descriptions, and actions, this paper tries to reveal Snape's true role or function throughout the story. The data is analyzed using a deconstruction approach to reveal the meaning of Snape's paradoxical actions and words, which the author wants to convey.

METHODOLOGY

The researchers used qualitative data analysis and a deconstruction approach in analyzing the data. Later, the researchers identified and analyzed the characters to be studied in the Harry Potter novel series by J.K. Rowling by using explanations in the form of words. In addition, the researchers will focus on the elements in the novel which consist of words, phrase, dialogs, and narrations. The principle of deconstruction from Jacques Derrida will be used. Deconstruction is a term used to describe a way of reading a text (literary or philosophical). This method is based on the philosophical views of Jacques Derrida. He was influenced by the phenomenological views created by Heidegger and Nietzsche's skepticism. His views challenge the claims of structuralism that take into account specific language systems. Deconstruction can be interpreted as a reduction or decrease in the intensity of the construction itself (Ratna, 2010). Deconstruction is also called post-structuralism because it builds its theory based on the concepts of semiotic structuralism. If the analysis of structuralism focuses on the main character who is more concerned, post-structuralism draws great attention to the subject and minority groups. Derrida himself wants to pay attention to aspects that previously were not considered by literary works through the perspective of structuralism, such as the notion of language which is always related to signified and signifiers. Through deconstruction, this order is no longer valid. Concepts are explored in-depth and renovated with new perspectives. The deconstruction method aims to show the failure of efforts to present absolute truth (Norris, 2017).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

CHARACTERIZATION OF SEVERUS SNAPE

Of all the Harry Potter series characters, Severus Snape can be considered the most controversial of all. He is described as a mysterious character with a message the writer wants to convey to the story. This character is always described as a negative one, so readers also have a negative assumption that Snape is a bad person in every way. By reading carefully, we can see that Snape is actually a complicated person. We can take this as an indication that he has a hidden agenda or goals. On the surface, he seems sarcastic, mean, mean, and arrogant. In some scenes, the reader can see that he holds many grudges and is very jealous of people he doesn't like. In particular, he had always looked down on the Gryffindor students, considering them arrogant and seeking the attention of most professors. The reader may assume that he has poor interpersonal skills. This can be seen from their social interactions. Severus Snape's character is shown in the following section.

1. Sarcastic

One of the negative characteristics attached to Severus Snape is sarcasm. A character like this can be

seen in his behavior and speech. For example, in the comments about Harry Potter when talking to other characters, His comments show his rudeness to everyone and his distaste for Harry Potter in particular. This attitude made the people around Snape dislike him, including Harry Potter. He even hated Snape without trying to find out about Snape's true identity or character. The first book, *Harry Potter and The Philosopher's Stone* tells of Snape and Harry Potter's first meeting, which took place in Potions Class. Snape started satirizing Harry Potter for the first time, as we can see in the following quote: Excerpt 1: Harry Potter. Our new — celebrity (Rowling, 1997: 136).

From the word "celebrity" in the quote above, we can assume that Snape showed his hatred for Harry Potter, especially when Snape mentioned Harry Potter's father, who always treated him badly. The word "celebrity" above is not as positive as it should be, but it is Snape's indirect allusion to Harry Potter. His actions are based on why Snape is treated badly by Harry Potter's father, who always oppresses him when he is a child. Therefore, he wanted to treat Harry Potter the way his father did.

2. Cruel and Mean

Another bad personality that Severus Snape had was that of a mean and ruthless character. The bitterness of Snape's life is why this trait appears like his painful memories of being rejected by Harry Potter's mother, Lily, which made him say bad things to her. The word "Muggle" that Snape meant to Lily shows how much he looked down on people he thought were Muggles. People like this were considered ordinary people who didn't understand magic. This attitude is also seen in how he treats Petunia, Harry Potter's aunt, who can't do magic. As we can see in the following quote: Excerpt 2: You're a Muggle. (Rowling, 2007:562).

In the seventh book, *Harry Potter and The Deathly Hollows*, Snape has a statement about his Muggle attitude. This shows how intimidating Snape's attitude towards others who were not his equals was. This statement and his attitude showed Snape's sarcastic attitude. The sentence in quote 2 above also illustrates social inequality based on hierarchy in the wizarding world. Snape looked down on Muggles for having a lower social status. They are considered inferior to those born to wizards because they do not have the same nature and ability to do magic.

3. Arrogant

Severus Snape had higher standards for his students in his class than other professors. This is because he only wants students with the best grades to continue their studies. This kind of attitude shows Snape's arrogance. The following is a quote about Snape's cocky character: Excerpt 3: I take only the very best into my N.E.W.T. Potions class, which means that some of us will certainly be saying goodbye. (Rowling, 2003:232).

From quote 3 above, Severus Snape's statement: "which means that some of us will certainly be saying good-bye" can be seen as his cynical attitude. People saw this attitude as Snape's arrogance. The standard of education that Snape set in his class was high. From the quote above, Snape forces his students to meet his standards to pass his class. He did not receive low grades because they were deemed less able and unable to continue their studies. This negative label attached to Snape might lead the reader to believe that Snape was not a good person. However, by doing some careful reading, some positive characteristics have been revealed. This positive trait supports the hypothesis that Snape is a good guy and eliminates the fact that Snape is a bad character in the story. Because of Snape's role, Harry Potter was finally able to beat Voldemort. Snape's positive character traits include the following explanations:

4. Caring

From the negative characteristics shown by Snape in the story, the other characters hardly believe that Snape is actually a good person. The character attached to Severus Snape was also a barrier for Harry Potter to believe what Hagrid said to him that Snape cared about him. This belief finally changed when Professor Dumbledore proved his words. As we can see in the following quote: Excerpt 4: Professor Snape grew worried that you still believed Sirius to be a captive of Lord Voldemort's. He alerted certain Order members at once (Rowling, 2003:830).

The statement "Professor Snape grew worried" made by Professor Dumbledore shows that there are other characters in the story who acknowledge Snape's kindness. Dumbledore believed that Snape cared about Harry Potter so he said that Snape was worried for Harry Potter's safety. Snape's concern for Harry's safety was a testament to his positive nature. The belief that Snape's concern for Harry Potter was supported by the actions he took to protect Harry Potter from the dangers of Sirius Black.

5. Helpful

Snape's other positive character is a helper. This attitude is seen in the scene when he makes a potion to help Lupine not turn into a werewolf. This help shows Snape is not a selfish person. His attitude towards Lupine contradicts the notion that Snape is a bad person. This action was proof that Snape was actually a good person. Excerpt 5 This potion is the only thing that helps. I am very lucky to be working alongside Professor Snape (Rowling, 1999:157).

Professor Lupine's statement: "I am very lucky to be working alongside Professor Snape" shows his positive response to Snape's character. The word "very lucky" shows that Severus Snape was a good person. These words showed Snape was actually the best one could hope for after all the past bitterness between Lupine and Snape. In the story, most of the interaction between Snape and Lupine takes place during Harry Potter's third year at Hogwarts. Snape assumed that Lupine helped Sirius Black get into Hogwarts School. Snape also thought that Lupine had collaborated with Sirius Black in his assassination attempt while they were at school. Therefore, it is understandable that Snape is seen as cruel and hateful towards Lupine throughout Harry Potter and The Prisoner of Azkaban. The other characters' perceptions of Snape seem paradoxical with his actions helping Lupine. This again proves that Snape actually has a good character.

6. Brave

People who hated Severus Snape assumed he was a coward. But that opinion changed when it was finally revealed that Snape was a double agent who put him in grave danger. Her courage comes out to help Harry Potter, as we can see in the following quote: Excerpt 6 "Which I do on your orders!" "And you do it extremely well. Do not think that I underestimate the constant danger in which you place yourself, Severus. To give Voldemort what appears to be valuable information while withholding the essentials is a job I would entrust to nobody but you." (Rowling, 2007:578).

Snape's action as a double agent is proof that he is a brave man. He takes every risk that comes his way because of his actions. Dumbledore's statement "the constant danger in which you place yourself," means that Snape is a brave man because he has sacrificed and endangered his life. Dumbledore's statement supports the argument that Snape is actually a good person. Snape's courage made Dumbledore believe that Snape was his loyal follower. Dumbledore then put great faith in Snape.

SEVERUS SNAPE'S ACTION

Severus Snape is a character who plays an important role in defeating Voldemort, the biggest enemy in the wizarding world. One of Lord Voldemort's missions was to kill Harry Potter because Harry Potter threatened him. Severus Snape was one of Voldemort's followers. At least, that's what is described in the story about Snape from the beginning to the resolution part of the story. Voldemort was used by Severus Snape to obtain information, which he then used to defeat Lord Voldemort himself. Without Severus Snape's helpers, Harry Potter might be unable to defeat Lord Voldemort. The following are the actions Severus Snape took to protect Harry Potter and help him defeat Lord Voldemort.

1. Save Harry from The Cursed Broom

In the first Harry Potter book, *Harry Potter and The Philosopher's Stone*, Harry sees the Golden Snitch at the start of the game and flies towards it. This made the Slytherin Captain push him and receive the punishment. In the game, Harry's broom is moving uncontrollably due to the influence of the Dark Arts. Seeing Harry in danger, Snape muttered a spell to save him and got the broom under Harry's control again, and won the game. Not only did he save Harry's life in the first match, but Snape also made sure Harry was not in danger by being the referee in the next match. Excerpt 7 Harry-"Snape was trying to save me?" "Of course," said Quirrell coolly. "Why do you think he wanted to referee your next match?" He was trying to make sure I didn't do it again. Funny, really..."(Rowling, 1997:204)

Quirrell's statement, "Of course," informed him that Snape was not trying to curse Harry's broom. Instead, he was trying to save her. Quirrell's question: "Why do you think he wanted to referee your next match?" made Harry realize that Snape wanted to protect him by being a referee which he had never done before. This action was Snape's attempt to keep Harry from being attacked again in the game. This assumption is reinforced by the scene when Professor Quirrell confesses to Harry that he is holding the broomstick. It was eventually discovered that Professor Quirrell was behind the events throughout the story, with Voldemort alive under his turban.

2. Prevent Quirell Steal the Philosopher's Stone

Most people do not realize that Snape actually knew from the start that Quirrell was trying to steal The Philosopher's Stone to harm Harry Potter. To protect Harry Potter, Snape tried to prevent Quirrell from stealing the stone. The following is an excerpt of the conversation between Snape and Quirrell when Quirrell was caught trying to steal The Philosopher's Stone. Excerpt 8 "You don't want me as your enemy, Quirrell," said Snape, taking a step toward him. "I-I don't know what you—" "You know perfectly well what I mean." "Very well," Snape cut in. "We'll have another little chat soon, when you've had time to think things over and decided where your loyalties lie." (Rowling, 1997:163).

The above conversation took place in the Forbidden Forest when Snape threatened Quirrell that he would steal The Philosopher's Stone. Snape expressed his suspicions about Quirrell's motives. Quirrell previously admitted that he bewitched Harry Potter's broomstick during Quidditch Champions. Snape's statement "to think things over and decided where your loyalties lie." indicates that Snape was very careful about playing his role as a double agent. From this statement, we can also see that Quirrell is a loyal follower of Voldemort. With such statements, Quirrell at that time believed that Snape was also a loyal follower of Voldemort. By being a reliable spy, Snape wanted Quirrell to stay out of his affairs with Voldemort and The Philosopher's Stone.

Melliandhini & Kurniawati

3. Teaches Expelliarmus

To help Harry Potter get rid of Voldemort, Snape taught Harry Potter "Expelliarmus", a powerful spell. This spell saved Harry Potter many times, especially when he met Voldemort. In the final battle, Harry Potter used this signature spell when he dueled Voldemort, as we can see in the following quote: Excerpt 9 Lord Voldemort-"Avada Kedavra!" Harry- "Expelliarmus!" The bang was like a cannon blast, and the golden flames that erupted between them, at the dead center of the circle they had been treading, marked the point where the spells collided. (Rowling, 2007:627).

The Expelliarmus spell is Harry Potter's signature spell. This spell became Harry Potter's weapon against Voldemort during the Battle of Hogwarts. This spell reflects Voldemort's Killing Curse. The power of The Disarming Charm became great and backfired on Voldemort's Killing Curse on Voldemort himself. Expelliarmus isn't actually a spell to kill people, but a spell that reflects whatever spell the opponent casts. Thus, when "Avada Kedavra", Voldemort's signature spell, and "Expelliarmus", Harry Potter's signature spell meet, they will have a different effect than they should. Snape's spell then helped Harry Potter kill Voldemort.

4. Protect Harry from Sirius Black

Sirius Black's escape made Harry Potter nervous. He didn't know the reason why he was being chased by Sirius Black. Rumors of Sirius Black chasing Harry Potter finally reached Severus Snape. He had been so worried about Harry when he heard that Sirius Black had escaped from Azkaban. Snape's relationship with Sirius was actually similar to Harry's relationship with Dudley. She didn't like Sirius Black because he bullied her when they were kids. However, even though Snape had a bad experience with Sirius Black, he still protected Harry Potter by fighting Sirius Black. Excerpt 10 "So," he said, straightening up again. "Everyone from the Minister of Magic downward has been trying to keep famous Harry Potter safe from Sirius Black. But the famous Harry Potter is a law unto himself. Let the ordinary people worry about his safety! Famous Harry Potter goes where he wants to, with no thought for the consequences." (Rowling, 1999:284).

Snape's statement "Let the common man fear for his safety!" indicates that he was worried about Harry Potter when Sirius Black escaped from Azkaban. Coupled with the dementors guarding the Azkaban prison who roam to protect Hogwarts, it makes the atmosphere even more tense. However, Snape still tried to protect Harry Potter from Sirius Black's threats.

5. Give Fake Veritaserum

Even though in the end Snape was dumped by Dolores Umbridge at least he had protected Harry Potter from Umbridge's threat. Snape tries to protect Harry from Umbridge and Voldemort. Sensing Harry and Umbridge's innocence doing something outrageous, Snape tricked Umbridge into giving him a fake potion, as quoted below: Excerpt 11 Dumbledore-"...It was he too who gave Professor Umbridge fake Veritaserum when she was attempting to force you to tell of Sirius's whereabouts. . . ." Harry disregarded this; he felt a savage pleasure in blaming Snape, (Rowling, 2005:833).

In quote 11 above, Dumbledore's statement shows that he places his trust in Snape. That indicated that Snape was a good person. Snape's act of giving fake Veritaserum shows his efforts to protect Harry Potter. Snape had taken many great measures to protect Harry, especially since the arrival of Dolores Umbridge at Hogwarts School. Her action of making fake poison (Veritaserum) which was then given to Umbridge made Umbridge fail to kill Harry Potter with that poison. Snape's actions are proof that Snape has a good character and tries to protect Harry Potter.

Melliandhini & Kurniawati

6. Teach Harry Occlumency

To get rid of Harry's fear of being possessed by Voldemort, Dumbledore asked Snape to teach Harry a spell called Occlumency to block his mind from evil magical disturbances. Occlumency magic is one of the spells given by Snape in order to protect Harry Potter from evil wizards, especially Voldemort, who wants to enter Harry Potter's mind and influence him. We can assume this from the following quote: Excerpt 12 "Study what?" said Harry blankly. Snape's sneer became more pronounced. "Occlumency, Potter. The magical defense of the mind against external penetration. An obscure branch of magic, but a highly useful one. (Rowling, 2003:519).

Snape is an expert in Occlumency magic. With that skill, Snape managed to trick Voldemort. He knew that Voldemort had been using Harry's mind for months. To protect Harry, he warned Harry not to think about Voldemort. He also taught Harry Potter about Occlumency. Mastering this defensive magic protects Harry Potter's mind from Voldemort, who wants to control his mind and achieve his goal.

7. Give the Idea of Making Polyjuice

Snape's other action to protect Harry Potter was to approach Mundungus Fletcher. Mundungus is part of The Order of The Phoenix which might help Snape protect Harry. With his intelligence and skill, Snape had a good idea to make Mundungus do what Snape told him to do. Excerpt 13 "You will suggest to the Order of the Phoenix," Snape murmured, "that they use decoys. Polyjuice Potion. Identical Potters. It is the only thing that might work. You will forget that I have suggested this. You will present it as your own idea. You understand?" "I understand," murmured Mundungus, his eyes unfocused. (Rowling, 2007:688).

When Severus Snape said "You will forget that I have suggested this" it shows Snape's actions to protect himself as a spy for Harry Potter. This is one of his efforts so he can remain a spy and get information about Voldemort. He still has to maintain his position as a follower of Lord Voldemort so that his mission is balanced. Snape took on a very dangerous mission for him to save Harry. However, he kept doing it until he finally managed to help Harry Potter kill Lord Voldemort.

8. Put the Sword of Gryffindor

In the seventh book of the Harry Potter Series, Harry Potter and The Deathly Hallows, Voldemort is getting closer and stronger to achieving his goal. The Death Eaters' followers are also getting bigger. After the evacuation process, Harry Potter was attacked again by the Death Eaters group. His increasingly insecure existence made Harry and his friends have to run away from their hiding place. At this critical moment, Snape played his part in helping Harry Potter. As we can see in the following quote. Excerpt 14 "Good. Very good!" cried the portrait of Dumbledore behind the headmaster's chair. "Now, Severus, the sword! Do not forget that it must be taken under conditions of need and valor... and he must not know that you give it! If Voldemort should read Harry's mind and see you acting for him..."(Rowling, 2007:582).

Snape gave Harry a sword for protection. This was because Voldemort could potentially use Legilimency on Harry and find out Snape's true loyalties. For that, Snape had to make sure that he wasn't the one who gave the sword to Harry Potter. To comply with Dumbledore's request, Snape devised a way to place the real sword under the frozen lake in the Forest of Dean and used his magic by casting a Patronus in the form of a Doe to direct Harry to the sword's location. This dangerous act was a testament to Snape's true intentions to protect Harry Potter.

9. Spied Voldemort

Another act of Snape to protect Harry Potter was spying. Snape was at great risk if Voldemort revealed his actions. In doing so, Snape must do dangerous things that endanger his identity and life. Voldemort's return made Dumbledore ask Snape to join the Death Eaters group to become a double agent, as in the following quote: Excerpt 15 Dumbledore- "Do not think that I underestimated the constant danger in which you place yourself, Severus. To give Voldemort what appears to be valuable information while withholding the essentials is a job I would entrust to nobody but you." (Rowling, 2007:578).

His actions as a double agent made Dumbledore worry about Snape's safety. His anxiety was proven when Dumbledore said "Do not think that I underestimated the constant danger in which you place yourself, Severus". From the quote above, Dumbledore didn't really force Snape to become his loyal follower. He just wanted Lord Voldemort killed. Dumbledore didn't want people to sacrifice themselves to defeat Lord Voldemort. However, Snape's actions were of his own volition. During the First Wizarding War, Severus Snape became a member of the Death Eaters. Making Voldemort sure that Snape is on his side. Until finally Snape realized that the Dark Lord was planning to kill Lily Evans, a plan that made Snape helpless and made him beg Albus Dumbledore to become a spy in exchange for his protection.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Based on his character, Severus Snape is a round character or commonly called a complex character. It can be said to be a round character because there are several depictions of various sides of Severus Snape's life. After doing some careful reading, it can be concluded that the characters change throughout the story. He is described as sarcastic, cruel and ruthless, and arrogant. Then, turn into a helper, brave, and caring. By using the concept of deconstruction, it can be concluded that minor characters like Snape actually have a significant role in the continuation of the story. Snape not only makes stories interesting with the conflicts and intrigues he makes or with his paradoxes but also holds the key to destroying the evil character in the Harry Potter series, namely Voldemort. Snape's presence in the story plays a role in creating conflict which can make the story more intense and interesting. Without Snape's role and function in the story, the main character cannot carry out his function in defeating his struggle against evil characters. Snape also plays a major role in moving the story from the stages of rising, climax, falling, and resolution in the whole story. Derrida's deconstruction reading which is implemented in the Harry Potter story can give the view that minor characters in a story are details added by the author so that the story goes well. The view that story structure can be interesting because the main character is not something that can be taken for granted. Thus, this deconstruction method or reading can also be applied in reading other literary works that previously only focused on the main character to get a different perspective in reading a literary work.

REFERENCES

- Alvanita. (2012). The character development of Neville Longbottom in the Harry Potter series. *Lexicon: Journal of English Language and Literature*, 1(3), 225-235. <https://doi.org/10.22146/lexicon.v1i3.42080>
- British Council. *Biography of J. K. Rowling*. <https://literature.britishcouncil.org/writer/j-k-rowling>
- Derrida, J. (1981). *Dissemination*. University of Chicago Press.

Melliandhini & Kurniawati

The Role of Severus Snape in The Harry Potter Series by J.K Rowling: Deconstruction Perspective

- Dewi, A. F. (2016). *A study of Harry's personality development in Harry Potter and The Half-Blood Prince and Harry Potter and The Deathly Hallows* [Bachelor's Thesis, Universitas Diponegoro]. <https://ejournal3.undip.ac.id/index.php/engliterature/article/view/489>
- DiYanni, R. (2001). *Literature: Approaches to fiction, poetry, and drama*. McGraw Hill.
- Hapsari, N., Fatmawaty, L. S. W. A., & Aeni, E. N. (2023). The deconstruction of horror film formula in Midsommar by Ari Aster. *Allure Journal*, 3(1), 14-28. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.26877/allure.v3i1.11982>.
- Mahmud, A. (2017). The character study of Severus Snape in J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows. *Jurnal STBA TechnocratOnline*, 1(1). <http://journal.stbatechnocrat.ac.id/?p=62>
- Mendie, J. G., & Stephen, N. U. (2020). A philosophical analysis of Jacques Derrida's contributions to language and meaning. *Pinisi Discretion Review*. 4(1), 43-62.
- Musarofah, U. H. (2012). Studi tentang tokoh Lord Voldemort dalam novel Harry Potter and The Half-Blood Prince karya J.K. Rowling: Sebuah pendekatan psikologi individual. *LANTERN: Journal on English Language, Culture and Literature*, 1(2) <https://ejournal3.undip.ac.id/index.php/engliterature/article/view/489>
- Norris, C. (2017). *Membongkar teori dekonstruksi Jacques Derrida* (Terj.). Ar - Ruzz Media.
- Nurgiyantoro, B. (1998). *Teori pengkajian fiksi*. Gadjah Mada University Press.
- Putri, R. V. D. P. (2019). *Severus Snape as the tragic hero in Harry Potter series by J.K. Rowling* [Bachelor's Thesis, Sanata Dharma University]. <http://repository.usd.ac.id/id/eprint/36053>
- Ratna, N. K.. (2010). *Sastra dan cultural studies: Representasi fiksi dan fakta*. Pustaka Pelajar.
- Risdianto, F. (2014). *A handbook of English literature*. Javakarsa Media.
- Rowling, J. (1997). *Harry Potter and the philosopher's stone*. Bloomsbury.
- Rowling, J. (1999). *Harry Potter and the prisoner of Azkaban*. Bloomsbury.
- Rowling, J. (2003). *Harry Potter and the order of the Phoenix*. Bloomsbury.
- Rowling, J. (2005). *Harry Potter and the half-blood Prince*. Bloomsbury.
- Rowling, J. (2007). *Harry Potter and the deathly Hallows*. Bloomsbury.
- Silverman, H. J. (2004). *Derrida and deconstruction*. Routledge.