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## The Protagonist Characterization In Monster University Movie's Script

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**Abstract.** This research entitled The Protagonist Characterization in Monster University Movie. The problems in this study are (1) How are the Protagonist Characters portrayed in Monster University Movie and (2) How are the protagonist's struggles depicted in the Movie. This research is relevant to descriptive qualitative method to analyze the characterization and the struggle of the characters. The source of the data is the Monster University movie's script. By applying the theory of Boggs (2008) this study aims to depend protagonist character and how the character's struggle in Monster University movie. By doing the data analysis, it is found that the protagonist character namely Mike that has good personality while Sulley is reckless, arrogant, angry, and always giving up the monster. However, they become one and then they are very good and scarer monster ever. In their struggle, Mike and Sulley faced their struggle with the physical of themselves. It teaches people how to behave in life by having good character. Thus, this study contributes to enrich the reference of literature study for it is essential in teaching people in life.

**Keywords:** *K protagonist, characterization, monster university movie*

### Introduction

Literary work is a medium used by the author in conveying author ideas, as a medium for literary works to become a bridge that connects the author's thoughts which are conveyed to the reader. There are so many forms of literary works, novels, prose, short stories and movies. Movie is an audio-visual communication medium to convey a message, because it can convey a lot of information quickly.

Movie depicts a character that is considered as one of the psychological aspects in the story. Characters play an important role to make the story in a movie more alive

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(Pope, 2005). Characters are actors in a story. can be animals, inanimate objects, or humans. The characters in the movie are very important for the audience, because with the characters in the story the audience will more easily understand the plot in a story. Planning is a series of stories that contain the continuity of the movie's story. In a story, each character has a different character or characters.

Discussing about character is certainly related to characterization. The author's strategy in describing the characters in his story so that it is understood that the character or trait of the character is called characterization (Hutagalung, Rajagukguk, Siburian, & Panggabean, 2022). Character and characterization have a relationship which cannot be separated. In the story, it must have a character and characterization to support what the story tells about (Mukarromah, 2019). Character is the objek in the narrative While describing a character in a novel is known as characterization. Therefore, the author discusses the characterizations. In characterizing the characters, it can be started by describing their physical characteristics, their personality, their social status and their social relationships. There are many traits and personalities that are known. One of them is the Protagonist.

Protagonist is the main character who gets sympathy and support from the audience. The protagonist contains a positive disposition and is more admired (Munanto & Rahima, 2020). These characters tend to be involved or influenced by most of the choices or conflicts that arise in the narrative. According to Gordon Allport personality as an organization various aspects psychological and physicalis a structure and a process. The protagonist can appear in any literary work: novels, films, poems, plays, operas, etc. However, if a narrative contains a secondary plot or several different stories, each story may contain its own protagonist, but not always a good protagonist. Many are dishonest or even criminal, but they always get the sympathy and support of the audience. The opposite of the protagonist is the antagonist. An antagonist is usually a character who opposes the protagonist or main character of a story, but an antagonist can also be a group of characters, institutions, or forces that the protagonist must deal with.

Human beings cannot be separated from problems in life. According to Matondang (2019), everybody always has problem in their life. The problem can be classified based on the situation, it may simple or difficult. The problems affect the way human thinking about life, and they need to do something to overcome all of their problems.

In this study, the researchers analyze the protagonist character and the struggle in *Monster University* Movie. Protagonist characterization is interesting to study because from this study it can deepen the knowledge about protagonist characterization and know the struggle of the main character.

Monster university is kind of animated movie released on America 20 June 2013 produced by Walt Disney. This movie tells about animated monster in one university called Monster University. Through the character Mike and Sulley, it will be easy to deepen protagonist characterization Monster University.

Concern to protagonist character in the movie, this study aims to portray the characterization of the protagonist characters and to describe the struggle characters. Thus, problems of the study are formulated as follows:

1. How are the protagonist Character portrayed in *Monster University* Movie?
2. How are the protagonist's struggle depicted in *Monster University* Movie?

## Review Of Literature

### *Characterizatio*

Character and characterization are two different things, but they are related. They have their personality and appearance, which make them different from one to another". The character is essential to the author because he represents the role that provides the main idea for the author's story. Character is essential for the author because they give the portrayal of a role that delivers the main idea of the author's story. A character might carry a unique point to provide strong representation and make the readers feel interested and remembered the role. Further, one of the entertainment media that can have an impact or influence on the development of children's character is film media (Payuyasa & Primayana, 2020).

Character is a person portrayed in the drama of a narrative work, interpreted by the reader as possessing the moral and temperamental qualities expressed in words and deeds (Pier & Landa, 2008). Therefore, it can be said that the relation between character and its personal quality depends on the readers' acceptance. The readers can get the personality of a character through its utterances (verbal) and actions (nonverbal) Every character has its characteristics. furthermore, Characteristic is used to differentiate the character by looking through their typical feature or quality. The researcher uses the theory of characterization since the theory applies to reveal the characteristics. In analyzing the characteristics, the researcher focuses on how the interaction between the main character reflected.

Of course, talking about characters cannot be separated from characterizing them. Character and characterization he is two different things, but related. Characters are people or objects or players in a story, whereas characterizations are ways of describing characters. Characterization is the character representation in novels, films, or other literary works, and it uses to make a character real and natural. Boggs (2008) state, "To be interesting, characters must seem real, understandable, and worth caring about." The researcher used the theory of characterization by Joseph M. Boggs and Dennis W. Petrie. In their book entitled *The Art of Watching Films* classified the characterization into 4, there are:

1. Characterization by appearance. The character aspects of the film are represented both visually and momentarily. The first thing the audience sees when watching a movie is the appearance of the actors. The audience can make arbitrary inferences based not only on the character's movements, but also on facial features, clothing, physical structure and demeanor.
2. Dialogue characterization. Character traits are expressed not only in words, but also in the way they speak. Through her word choice and patterns of stress, pitch and pose in her speech, she is able to reveal her true feelings, actions and emotions.

3. Characterization by reactions of other characters. Other pictorial representations are decisive for characterization. A lot of information about the role is gathered and provided before the character first appears on screen.
4. Characterization by choice of name. When characterizing by name selection, a technique called name input is used. Typing a name means using a name that has the appropriate tone, meaning, or connotation.

In addition, Wijianto, (2012), characterization is a pattern of depicting a person who can be viewed from a physical, psychological and sociological perspective. In physical terms, it describes the physical characteristics of a character, for example, age, facial expression, hair, lips, nose, head shape, skin color and so on. In the psychological aspect, a person's character is described through one's thoughts and behaviour. Through the sociological aspect, it can describe a person's personality in the social environment and better understand the personality of each character from the way a person talks, behaves and interacts with the environment.

By watching a film, we will know the characterization that exists in each character that is described by the author about the characters in the story clearly. Characterization is also an important element of fiction, because without characters, the story will not work (Kurnianto, Haryono, & Kurniawan, 2019). By understanding the characterization of each character, the audience will easily understand and find the meaning in the film.

### ***Personality***

Personality is the overall attitude, expression, behaviour and the way an individual interacts with other individuals. Many experts have formulated the definition of personality according to the theory they believe in. In this way you will find many variations of the definition of personality. Here are some experts whose definitions can be used as references in personality studies. According to, Allport said if "Personality is a dynamic entirety of those individuals who can determine one's adjustment to others (Caprara & Cervone, 2000). The characters are classified as overall characters, subjective characters, impact characters, and main characters.

Based on the personality theory, the author will more easily explain the personality of the characters that already exist in the story, including all thoughts, thoughts, behaviour and have the potential to form a single unit. The personality of the character in the film can instill character values, such as a person's personality based on whether or not their physiological and psychic needs are achieved (Silviandari & Noor, 2023). Therefore, the film makers give their films their own color, especially when it comes to dialogue and characters to the actors (Sukmaningrum & Hawa, 2022).

### ***Protagonist***

Protagonist is the main characters who have the sympathy and support of the audience. Similarly, the protagonist is a character with a good character, so it is liked by readers (Sidiq & Manaf, 2020). This character tends to participate or be influenced by most of the choices or conflicts that appear in the narrative. According to Altenbernd (1970). The protagonist presents something that we

expect according to the view of the reader. This means that the problems he faces are as if they are also our problems. For example, Cinderella is the protagonist in Cinderella movie. Some additional details about protagonist:

1. The protagonist can appear in any literature work: novels, movies, poems, plays, operas, etc. However, if a narrative contains a secondary plot or several different stories, each story may contain its own protagonist.
2. The protagonists are not always good. Many are dishonest or even criminal, but they always get sympathy and support from the audience

### ***Struggle***

Human being cannot be separated from problems in life. According to Braun & Jay (1979) everybody always has problem in their life. The problem can be classified based on the situation, it may simple or difficult. The problems affect the way human thinking about life, and they need to do something to overcome all of their problems. The struggle is the way human solving their problems. In a film, problems are often caused by the antagonist because they have the same or opposite goals as the protagonist (Lestari, 2019).

The struggle comes from the word that means struggle a fight for survival or independence (Manesah, 2016). The struggle is such a mission or goal that requires much effort to accomplish or achieve. People do struggle because they have their own goals that can motivate them to achieve their dream. For that reason, people usually will give their best effort to achieve their dreams. Automatically it will make them struggling, even in the worst situation. Sometimes people get fail in the way to reach their goal, but they will keep struggling from the unpleasant experience. They will learn the positive things from what is done by struggling.

1. They will learn the positive things from what is done by struggling.

People will learn the positive things even though they failed in certain problems of life. When negative things and the most difficult problems come people will keep struggle for their satisfying goals. According to McKechnie, struggle is a task or goal requiring much effort to accomplish or achieve. People struggle because they have goal that motivate them. They have dreams to achieve. Therefore, they will give the greatest effort to accomplish the dreams. It keeps them struggling, even in the most difficult situation. When people fail to reach their goal, they will struggle from the unpleasant experience. They can learn positive things from their struggle. Each person believes that he needs struggle since he realizes that all of his efforts will satisfy him.

### **Method**

This study applies a descriptive qualitative method Bogdan (2010). He stated that the qualitative method is a research procedure that produces descriptive data in the form of words written or spoken of the people and behaviour that can be observed. The data are dialogue, the appearance of the characters, the reaction of the characters, expression of the characters, the protagonist characterization and the protagonist struggle in the movie to support the data. The source of the data in this study is taken from the *Monster University* Produced by Pixar Animation Studios and released by Walt Disney Pictures 2013. The duration of the movie was

1 hour and 50 minutes 11 second and the supporting the data is taken from movie script website. After that, the data then analyzed to find out the protagonist characterization and the struggles in the movie.

## Findings and Discussion

### *Protagonist Characters Portrayed in Monster University Movie*

The main character is the character who becoming the spearhead in the characterization process in a story. The researcher determined the two main characters in the movie. The two characters are the concern in the story. In addition, they are the most admired characters in the story. Thus, they are also the protagonist's main character.

### **The Characterization of Mike**

#### *Friendly*

Mike is friendly. Friendly means relating to, or befitting a friend. That is shown after Mike entered the monster university. He still doesn't know anyone there. But he friendly said "hi" and tried to befriend everyone. Mike is also so happy to meet his roommate and frankly befriend him without choosing friends. Mike showed friendly in his scarer group too. He just met the OozmaKaapa team, but he best friend easily with them.



Mike: "Hello, I'm your roommate."

Randy Boogs: "Hey there! I'm your roomie."

Name's Randy Boggs, scaring major!"

Mike: (small laugh) "Mike Wazowski, scaring major."

Randy: "I can tell we're gonna be best chums, Mike. Take whichever bed you want I wanted you to have first dibs!"

#### *Study Diligently*

Mike knows that he can't be a very scared monster, because, he is a little monster and most people just see him with a cute face. So, to become a scarer, Mike always studies diligently. When he just came to monster university, he just prepared all books in his room. And when the study starts, he studies diligently using books in his room and gets a good point for it. Also, in exercising the scarer games, he always learning the scarer method in books and teaches all persons in OozmaKaapa teams about that.

Mike: "I just can't wait to get started"



### *Spirit*

Mike always keeps his spirit on. Since he was a little kid, he has had a spirit to become a scarer. After he got to enter the monster university, he study diligently because he just was so passionate to become a scarer. He always keeps spirit on by learning anything, trying to do all activities that support his personality to become a scarer, and studying diligently all subject in scarer study.



Mike speeds up on the treadmills.

### *Never Give Up*

Mike has had so many struggles in his life. Because he is small, everyone always underestimates his capability. but,he never gives up to learn and becoming a scarer. Although Dean, not believing in him becoming a scarer, he never gives up and always learning to become a scarer. Even, he already winning with cheating but he just goes to the human scare room with his brave to prove that he can be a scarer. After he gets out of the university, he still working in Monsters.Inc to become a postman and promoted to works as a scarer.



Mike: "Roar!!!"

Prof Knight: "Well done, Mr. Wazowski".

### **The Characterization of Sulley**

Sulley is a big blue monster. His full name is James Sullivan. He is from the Sullivan family, who knows as the biggest scarer family. Sulleywas portrayed as good-natured, hardworking, gentle, and confident, hence, he love this job as a scarer. Thus, while he basked in the limelight of being top scarer and going with

the All-Time scare record. Furthermore, he had a humble side in that he was more interested in being a good employee for the company. This was most likely due to him having worked way up through the ranks of the company from mailman to janitor, cafeteria and work to be wrangler and finally to be top scorer ranks. Sulley realized just having the talent wasn't enough when Dean Hardscrabble kicked him and Mike out of the scare program, for which he blank Mike even though he was bullying him and not studying. Furthermore, the researcher will discuss Sulley's characterization that focuses on two points: how Sulley's personality and Sulley struggle in the movie.

### *Reckless*

Sulley is a reckless monster. He just did everything without thinking first. When he just entered the class, he just gives a big roar to prove that he is scared. After that, he underestimates Mike by breaking the Dean can, so he just gets kicked out of the university.



Prof Knight: "one frightening face does not a scarer make, Mr. Sullivan."  
Sulley: Roar!!"

### *Arrogant*

Sulley is arrogant monster. He just always doing something to show that he is a very wonderful scary monster. He always showed up to everyone with his roaring.



Sulley: You are not even in the same league with me.



*Angry*

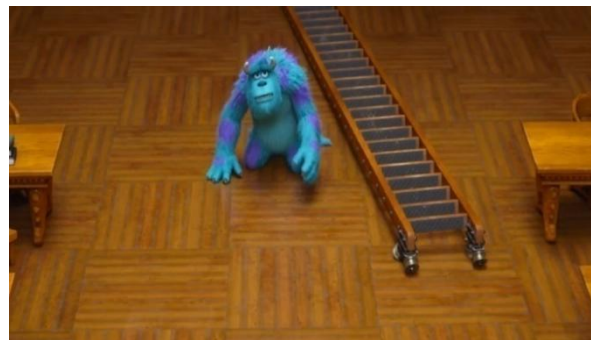
Sulley always being angry with anything. Because he just wants everything will follow his decision. But, if anything goes wrong from his view, he will get angry and angry about it.



Sulley: Really? And who is gonna carry you?

*Giving up*

Sulley is just easy giving up monster. He just always giving up after getting into any problems. He just not has any way to out form the problems. He just can sit and get sad about it.



The Librarian spins toward the sound and quickly runs toward Sulley

The characterization of both Mike and Sulley in this study presents that characterization contributes to the movie's live. It creates the uniqueness of the movie that makes the movie itself different from other movies Pope (2005). Characterization of the protagonist characters namely Mike and Sulley in Monster University movie teach us as reader how to behave in life. It is clear that different movie or different kind of literary works will play different characterization of the characters that is special or unqi in every movie.

In addition, to know the characterization of the characters, the characters should be seen real and understandable Petrie (2008). In this study, both Mike and Sulley as the protagonist characters are described real and understandable. They are portrayed as the real characters that play the role as the protagonist characters. Thus, reader can understand each of them well.

### 3. Mike's Struggle

In this movie, Mike has a very big struggle to be born as a little monster. He can't be the same as the other monsters to make everyone afraid of monsters. Start from the first one, Mike entered Monster University for learning how to be a scarer. His struggle start from the first time he came to the university. He's just been laughing thing. He just gets more struggle after the dean announces to the newest students to passed the final exam, so they can still be in the university. Mike has the struggle to hold his position there. He just learning and learning for the exam. Any other struggle from Mike is adapting. He was just so difficult to adapt and has a new friend for him because they just see Mike so cute in his little body. Then the next struggle is for becoming a scarer. He has a big struggle to make the OozmaKaapa team confident with their power. But he still can't become more scarer. So, he just felt completely useless for that. But inside all these struggles, Mike takes it upon himself to prove to the world that he doesn't have to be big or loud to be a good scarer. After failed again, Mike just become enjoy and respected his new job as a postman with his best friend, Sulley. Mike become a more positive, upbeat character and never felt jealous of anyone again.

Mike: "Hey, did you see me ride the pig? That took guts."

Chet: "Slow down, squirt. This party is for scare students only."

Johnny: "Oh, sorry, killer, but you might wanna hang out with someone a little more your speed. They look fun."

Don Carlton: "Oh, hey there! Wanna join Oozma Kappa?"

Squishy: "We have cake!"

Johnny: "Go crazy."

Mike: "Is that a joke?"

Johnny: "Ah, Sulley, talk to your friend."

Sulley: "Well, he's not really my friend, but sure.

You heard him. This is a party for scare students."

Mike: "I am a scare student."

Sulley: "I mean for scare students who actually, you know, have a chance."

Mike: "My chances are just as good as yours."

In this part, they just praise Sulley then Mike. Based on the dialogue above, shows that the ROR team choosing Sulley over Mike. Because they just say Mike is cutest than being a scarer. Mike just sadly approved it because he just knows that he is so little monster.

### 4. Sulley's Struggle

In this movie, Sulley is one of the monsters who have struggled in his life. He is a very big monster. but, he just not wants to study to become a scarer. Because he can't be clever with it. He just believes that the scarer must be a good roar for becoming a good scarer. He just does not believe in other monsters who study diligently. He just wants to be more than anyone. He just always underestimates others. But, furthermore, after Mike started befriending him, Mike proved that Sulley is a good monster. He just teaches how to be a good one by daily exercise it, making Sulley confident about anything. And, after a long time, Sulley is not believing in Mike becoming a scarer and wins the games. So, he just cheating for winning it. But, after he realized that he is not a scarer anymore, he just sadly said it to Mike. Mike and Sulley make a scarer team and winning the humans scarer because they work together. After that, he just got struggle because he just

got kicked up from the university by the dean. But, they decided to work in Monster. Inc. as the postman and get more benefit to become scarer there.

Sulley: "Oops. Sorry. I heard someone say roar so, I just kinda went for it. Ooh, excuse me. Sorry. Didn't mean to scare you there. Hey, how you doing?"

Prof. Knight: "Very impressive. Mister...?"

Sulley: "Sullivan. Jimmy Sullivan."

Prof. Knight: "Sullivan? Like... Bill Sullivan? The scarer?"

Sulley: "Yeah. He's my dad."

Prof. Knight: "I should've known. I expect big things from you."

Sulley: "(In a country accent) Welp. You won't be disappointed."

Mike: "Um, I'm sorry. S-should I keep going?"

Prof. Knight: "Nah, nah... Mr. Sullivan's covered it. Everyone take out your scaring textbooks and open them to chapter 1."

Sulley: "Hey, bub, can I borrow a pencil? Forgot all my stuff. Ah Yeah, there we go. That'll get it. Mike just narrows his eye at that".

In this part, Sulley shows that he doesn't want to study. Based on the dialogue above, it shows that Sulley is not want to study because he is known as the Sullivan, who is scarer in every roaring. So, he just sitting in the class and not studying.



Sulley can't take it. He bolts forward, leaving his teammate behind

In this part, Sulley just following his friends with an angry face Based on the screenshot above, Sulley just proved that he is not believing in anybody because he thinks everybody in his team is not scary. Everyone in this life faces the problems and they have to do the struggles (Manesah, 2016). Human beings are facing this life by doing the struggles. In this study proves that people should strunggling. Literary works such as movie is the description of real life where the author express his/her ideas, feeling, experiences. It shows how people fight for life, efforts in life and so on. Thus, it is struggle, Marsam (2000).

### **Conclusion**

After doing analysis, it is concluded that in Monster University Movie there are two main characters as the protagonist, they are Mike, and Sulley. Mike is friendly, never gives up, diligent in study, and has so much spirit to be a scarer. In other parts, Sulley is Protagonist but he is reckless, arrogant, angry, and always giving up the monster. But after they become one part, they just being very good and scarer monster ever.

In their struggle, they faced so many struggles. Mike has a struggle with the physical of himself. He is a little monster, who can't be scaring anyone because he

looks more cute than scary. He has just been underestimated by everyone. But he never gives up on becoming a scarer. He just does so many things for him and for his friends to becoming a scarer. Either, Sulley has so many struggles too. Become part of Sullivan, not making him a real Sullivan by not studying and just proudly roaring with a frightened face. Everyone was just proud of him until he was just kicked out by the Dean for fighting with Mike. He just not believing in every monster for becoming scarier than him. But, soon, he realized that he is terrified of becoming a scarer.

### Suggestions

The study concerns the adaptation which is focused on the characterization of the main characters of the story. The researchers analyze the characterization of the main character in the movie then found how the movie adapt those characterization and struggles. The next researcher, particularly those who have the same problems and are interested in conducting research, this study can be a reference in researching the adaptation. Knowing about the characterization and the struggles of the movie can be a lesson to the readers to learn many things from the characters especially in the movie. Follow the best characterization and leave the worst one.

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