

Analyze The Strength and Weaknesses of “The Killers” Written By Ernest Hemingway

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Character,
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ABSTRAK

Based on the short story The Killers by Ernest Hemingway. This research aims to find out the characters and characterizations in the short story The Killers. And knowing the relationship between characters and characterizations and the strengths and weaknesses of the short story “The Killers”. This research is a descriptive qualitative research whose data source is the short story The Killers. The data collection technique is done with the simak technique by observing and taking notes on the dialog used by each character of the short story to determine the characterization of each character. The data collected is analyzed by approaching Edgar V. Robert's theory to analyze the character and characterization in the short story The Killers through what the character says about himself, what the character himself does, what other characters say about the analyzed character, and what the author says about the analyzed character. The results of this study show that the main character has 7 characters with different characters and characteristics. There are 3 types of characters in it, namely protagonists, antagonists, and tritagonists. These characters show themselves through the dialog used by each character. The contribution shown by the researcher is that this research can help in finding the strengths and weaknesses of the short story The Killers through characters and characterizations, to provide recommendations to readers to be selective in choosing age-appropriate reading.

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INTRODUCTION

Humans are inseparable in terms of communication such as talking and socializing with other humans. And communication itself can also bring new views to us, of course, communication can influence our thinking. From the thought itself, humans pour it into writing or create a work that can be read by anyone, one of which is by creating literary works. Literary works are a medium for

expressing the thoughts of the author writing by pouring imagination to create a literary work. Literature can be classified into several types. The division types of literature are prose, poetry, and drama. Prose is a literary work in the form of a story in paragraphs containing a series of stories, which are included in prose such as short stories and novels. And short stories are literary works in the form of stories with only one conflict, and no more than a thousand words in length. Short stories are included in fictional prose, shorter than novels.

In writing a short story, of course, it is based on an interest or imagination that is poured by the author in his essay. A short story is based on two elements, namely extrinsic elements and intrinsic elements. Extrinsic elements are elements that are outside the literary work but indirectly affect the building or structure of the short story itself. The building or structure of a literary work more specifically can be said to be a supporting element in a story but does not take part in it, while intrinsic elements are the supporters in the short story itself. These elements are factually found when people read literary works. The intrinsic elements contained in a short story include theme, plot, setting, character and characterization, plot, setting, point of view, and moral message. This is in line with Nurgiyantoro's (2002:23) authoritative definition of intrinsic elements, "Intrinsic elements are the elements that make up the literary work itself". These elements will be found by readers of literary works that make literary works themselves (Selvi & Karim, 2017). The inherent beauty of literary works can entertain the audience in terms of language, presentation, storyline, or problem-solving and it is also useful in the sense that literary works can be taken as knowledge and cannot be separated from moral teachings.

The conveyance of the author's imagination and the morals in the story will not work if there are no characters, so characters are indispensable in short stories. The term character refers to the people and actors involved in the story. Character is one of the important elements in building a structure and becomes a link to convey the author's message either by his speech acts or by showing the activities of the characters in the story. An element to build a structure whose presence is indispensable. Characters in stories are usually not only human but can also be described as animals or objects that are given their respective characterizations to support the story being played.

Characters are divided into several types such as protagonists, antagonists, and tritagonists, dynamic and static, as well as round characters and flat characters. Besides character, there is also a characterization which is a description of the character itself. To make it easier for readers who will later review the short story, the researcher connects character and characterization research to show the suitability between characters and the types of characters to be studied. According to DeCenzo et al., (2016) in the book "Fundamentals of Human Resource Management", analyzing is the process of breaking down a problem or situation into smaller parts to understand and evaluate each of these parts. analyzing the objects, we examine can help future writers avoid the same mistakes.

Before conducting research, the author found several related studies, such as the In the first study, the research focus was to find the hero code of the main character through narration. then in the second study, the research focus was on illocutionary acts, locutionary acts, perlocutionary acts, speech acts in the short story "The Killers" by Ernest Hemingway. and third, the research objects analyzed in the third study were related to Conversation, Cooperation Principles, Conversational Implicature in the short story "The killers" by Ernest Hemingway. for this reason, the novelty that can be found by the author from previous studies is the difference in the objects studied and the methods used in collecting data to find out the characters in the story The Killers.

Article 33 paragraph (3) of Law No. 20/2003 states, "Foreign languages can be used as a language of instruction in certain educational units to support students' foreign language skills." For this reason, the author is interested in researching the short story "The Killers" because the use of language in the short story uses international languages that can add insight into foreign languages.

To that end, the author is interested in examining the short story "The Killers" because the use of language in the short story uses international languages that can add insight into foreign languages. the author also describes each character with simple dialog and language, through the short story "The Killers" as the object of research written by Ernest Hemingway in the 20th century.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Regarding content, literature is typically defined as an essay that only includes fiction rather than facts. Writing that conveys knowledge in facts sets literature apart from other genres like news, travelogues, histories, biographies, and theses. information presented as facts. Literature is defined as a work of art, meaning that literary works are similar to other works of art, such as painting, sculpture, sound art, and others. What distinguishes it from other works of art is that literature has a language aspect. according to Amidong (2016) in his journal, The word literature has a history in which it is mentioned that literature comes from the root word sas (Sanskrit) which means to direct, teach, instruct, and teach lessons. then the suffix tra means tool, means. So lexically, literature means a collection of tools for teaching, either instruction books or textbooks. In later developments, the word literature was combined with the prefix 'su', so it became susastra, defined as a good and beautiful creation.

Literature is a form and result of creative artwork whose object is the man and his life using language as a medium. Literary works are also a reflection of society. Through literary works, authors try to express the ups and downs of people's lives that they feel or experience (F. A Milawarsari, 2017), and literary works present a portrait of life concerning social issues in society. Based on the type of writing can be divided into two, namely fiction and nonfiction. Fiction prioritizes the author's imagination, resulting in subjective elements. So, a work of fiction suggests that it recounts a story that is made up, imagined, or that doesn't happen, so there's no need to search for the truth. This is the difference between works of science and fiction. Based on the information gathered, scientific works need to be held responsible for the truth. Fiction is defined as an unaccounted-for work of imagination that is freely composed in the style of a story (Kurniawan, 2017)

METHOD

This study aims to describe the characters and characterization in the short story The Killers, the purpose of this study is also to find the relationship between the character the characterization, and the strengths and weaknesses of the short story. Based on these objectives, the method that researchers will use is a descriptive method with a qualitative approach. Conceptualizations, classifications, and descriptions are created in qualitative research based on "events" that are obtained; descriptions are created based on "events" that are obtained during fieldwork. There are field operations. As a result, it is impossible to separate the processes of data collecting and data analysis both happen together. According to Sugiyono (2005: 21) in Dian Nor Apifah et al., (2022), the descriptive approach is a method used to describe or analyze a research result but is not used to make broader conclusions.

According to Sukmadinata in Rosita et al., (2022), Qualitative research is a study intended to describe and analyze phenomena, events, social activities, attitudes, beliefs, perceptions, and thoughts of people individually or in groups. Qualitative research has two main objectives, namely first, describing and revealing and second describing and explaining. This method is related to how to obtain information about interesting facts or phenomena on the object of research by describing not numbers. Therefore, the descriptive method is a method of overcoming problems that reveal the reality that occurs.

Data Sources

Data is an important instrument in research. Without data, research is considered invalid. Data is formed from characters that can be in the form of alphabets, numbers, or special symbols. and is a raw form that needs to be processed further through a model to produce information (Toba & Fransisca Donna, 2023).

The data in this research is in the form of descriptions in the form of words, phrases, and sentences contained in the analyzed short stories. The data studied also focuses on matters involving the strengths and weaknesses of the short story "The Killers" based on the characters and characterization of the short story "The Killer".

Technique for Collecting the Data

Data collection is a process where researchers collect information about the data to be analyzed in the research. The data in this study is in the form of discourse characterized by words and/or phrases in paragraphs that show the main character based on the subject-object position and the reader's position. To collect the data, the researcher used the simak method, and data collection was carried out by the author taking notes on the dialog that showed the character's characterization. This method is done by simak to the use of language on the object to be studied (Sahri, 2022). The note-taking technique is used when researchers take notes on data that is considered appropriate in the analysis study.

To conduct research, of course, data analysis is needed. The data collection technique in qualitative research is observation. In qualitative research, the method of gathering data is by observation (Prasanti, 2018). make observations by observing the object to be studied. There are some steps of data collection techniques used in this research.

1. The researcher reads the short story entitled "The Killers" repeatedly and carefully for ten minutes
2. Second, the researcher observes the characters in the short story "The Killers" by Ernest Hemingway.
3. Third, the researcher records the dialog that shows the depiction of the character to determine the relationship between protagonist, antagonist, and tritagonist.
4. Fourth, the researcher identifies character traits that correspond to highlighting the short story The Killers.

Technique for Analyzing the Data

Data analysis According to Noeng Muhadjir (1998: 104) Rijali, (2018), argues that the definition of data analysis is "an effort to systematically search and organize observation and other records to increase the researcher's understanding of the case under study and present it as findings for others". Meanwhile, to increase this understanding, it must be analyzed by trying to find meaning. The following are the steps in the data collection technique used in this study.

1. Analyzing the protagonist, antagonist, and tritagonist characters and characterizations with Roberts' theory in the short story "The Killers", the author uses an intrinsic approach The data will be analyzed intrinsically through the characters
2. Relate the character traits to the strengths and weaknesses of the short story "The Killers".
3. The writer classifies the types of characters, and concludes the research result of characters and characterization in the short story " The Killers".

Data Validity

It's a significant concern, and one that comes up for academics quite frequently while they're doing their research is how to calm readers's doubt about the result. According to Mulyadi,(2013) in his publication, research is a methodical, scientific sequence of actions to provide an understanding of a phenomenon by carefully and critically gathering evidence through the use of specific procedures

For this reason, data validity or triangulation is very necessary in a study. Although many people still do not understand the true meaning and purpose of triangulation in research, triangulation is a technique used to eliminate this uncertainty due to ignorance of this understanding (Alfansyur & Mariyani, 2020). In data validity, researchers will use source triangulation to obtain valid information

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This study discusses the characters and characterizations in the short story The Killers, the researcher will identify the characters that exist in the characters contained in the short story, in analyzing the characters in the short story, the author uses four instruments by the theory of Edgar V. Robert. Here are the names of the characters in the short story The Killers:

1. George

George is the main character and protagonist in The Killers because he has a dominant role in the story and is the manager and waiter of Henry's lunch room. George is a man who is smart enough to answer the mobsters' questions and follow every order asked by the mobsters not to accept customers at that time so Max is seen praising him several times because George obeyed his orders. George is also seen guarding his lunch counter so as not to make a scene that could threaten the people inside. In the dialog, George has a nickname from the mobsters which is Bright Boy Based on this it is stated in what is said by other characters to show his character can be found in the dialog:

"That was nice, bright boy," Max said. "you're a regular little gentleman,"

He knew I'd blow his head off," Al said from the kitchen. "No", said Max 'it ain't that. Bright boy is nice. He's a nice boy. I like him."

"Bright boy can do everything," Max said. "He can cook and everything. You'd make some girl a nice wife, bright boy".

2. Nick Adams

Nick Adams is the protagonist and in The Killers he is an employee at Henry's lunch, at the beginning of the story Nick looks very afraid and complies with every request made by the two mobsters, but at the end of the story, Nick shows his heroic spirit by going to Ole Anderson's house targeted by the killer trying to tell Ole that a killer is targeting him. Although it was blocked by the cook, Sam, Nick tried hard to keep going this is shown by what the character did in the quote:

"I'll go see him," Nick says to George. "where does he live?"

"little boys always know what they want to do." He said. "He lives up at Hirsch's rooming- house," George said to Nick. And Nick says "I'll go up there".

3. Al

Al in the short story *The Killers* is a hitman who targets Ole, Al is included as the antagonist or character who opposes the main character at first when he enters Henry's lunch the employees think that Al is just a normal customer, but after the situation supported Al also showed himself coming to the place with a bad purpose, seen in Al's rather rude dialog and some sentences that show that Al looks like a rebel are in the following quote:

"you better go around, bright boy, " Al said. (Al asked Nick to go back inside the counter where they cooked) but when George asked what he meant, Al responded "None of your damned business, and some scenes look like force seen in the quote: "Who's out in the kitchen?" Al said, " The nigger" said George." And Al asked to call the Negro cook at the counter., "What the hell do you argue with this kid for? Listen" Al said to George, "tell the nigger to come out here".

4. Max

Max in *The Killers* is an antagonist. Max is a man who came at the same time as Al and dressed the same as Al, Max came to the place of course with the same purpose as Al. The difference between Max and Al is that Max is a man who talks a lot and if read in the dialog Max throws a lot of questions to George and seems to praise everything George does. In the short story, *The Killers* Max has a mafia-like following there is a quote in the story that shows that Max talks a lot stated in the statement of another character in the following quote:

" shut up," said Al from the kitchen. " you talk too much goddamn much."
 "you talk too much." Said Al
 "Oh, what the hell," said Max. " we got too keep amused, haven't we?
 "you talk too much, all the same," Al said.

5. Ole Anderson

Based on what the author says about his character, Ole Anderson is a former boxer who was famous at the time in Chicago, and he was involved in the mafia business and made mistakes while in Chicago. In the short story *The Killers* Ole has a protagonist character described by the character of a kind man from the dialog that is read when viewed from his attitude Ole does not show like a boxer because he spends more time lying down. Because Ole is gentle with the housekeeper, he is also very impressed and recognizes that Ole is a good man in the quote from another character "He's just as gentle". When told by Nick that he was being targeted by the two mobsters, Ole did not give much response because he knew death would come to him in this case it was depicted that he was resigned to his life even though Nick tried to make him safe by giving advice but Ole still did not show fear in him contained in the quote:

Ole Anderson looked at the wall and did not say anything. " George thought I better come and tell you about it." "There isn't anything I can do about it." Ole Anderson said.
 " that wouldn't any good,"
 "No, There ain't anything to do."
 "maybe it was just a bluff" Ole Anderson rolled over toward the wall

6. Sam

Sam is a cook in the Henry rooms. In *The Killers*, Sam is described as a negro who always wears his apron when he works, because of his position as a cook, and when the mobsters come Sam tries not to interfere much and he also follows the orders shown by the mobsters. Sam is included as the protagonist but has a timid character and prefers to keep quiet rather than having to deal with the mafia when Nick wants to try to meet Ole but Sam prevents them from interfering with the affairs of the mafia, this is evidenced in the dialog:

“you better not have anything to do with it at all.”
 “You better stay way out of it”
 “mixing up in this ain’t going to get you anywhere,”

7. Mrs. Bell

Mrs. Bell is a tritagonist character because Mrs. Bell’s scene in *The Killers* is only once. Mrs. Bell is portrayed as a kind-hearted and motherly character because, in the short story, *The Killers* Mrs. Bell does not use much dialogue to mention herself but she provides information about Ole. Mrs. Bell is also the manager of Hirsch’s rooming house in the story Mrs. Bell also shows a caring nature towards Ole. Bell also shows a caring nature towards Ole, found in the following quote:

“He’s been in his room all day,” I guess he don’t feel well. I said to him: ‘Mr Anderson, you ought to go out and take a walk on a nice fall day like this,’ but he didn’t feel like it.’
 “he doesn’t want to go out.”

Characters in the story of the killers

In this research on character analysis and characterization, the author found 7 characters including 4 protagonists, 2 antagonists, and 1 tritagonist. Nick and George are the main characters in the story *The Killers*. In data 1 there is a character named George, a man with a smart mind, George is a protagonist, George follows every order and protagonist, George follows every order asked by the mobsters until one of the mobsters named Max recognizes that George is the one who is the protagonist. until one of the mafia named Max recognizes that George is smart and likes him. The conversation is included in the four ways to see character development, which is what other characters say about the character.

Data 2 has a character named Nick who is described as having a heroic spirit and caring for his friends, Nick is a protagonist, in his role Nick tries to tell Ole not to be killed even though Ole does not do anything when he gets the information conveyed by Nick. However, Nick is not willing if one of his friends is killed. This is included in the four ways of examining character development, namely what the character himself does.

Data 3 there is a character named Al who is an antagonist who is an opponent of the main character, based on short story information, Al came to Henry’s lunch because he was sent by a mafia gang friend who came for a mission. In *The Killers* dialog shown by the character Al behaves rudely, speaks with harsh sentences, and Al also threatens the employees in Henry’s lunch room, Al’s conversation is included in the four ways of examining character development, namely what the character does.

Data 4 The second antagonist named Max in the short story *The Killers* is sent by someone to find Ole Anderson, Max is a character who talks a lot until he is reprimanded by Al several times. Max also often praises what George does, Max shows in conversation that he likes George because Max chats more with George the conversation is included in the four ways of researching character

development from what the character does and what other characters say about the character being analyzed.

Data 5 has a character named Ole Anderson who is the target of the mafia. Ole Anderson is a protagonist character, who is described as having a gentle and very nice nature. Although his face looks sober, Ole is so friendly that his landlady is worried if Ole looks strange and rarely leaves his room.

Data 6 There is a character named Sam, Sam is a protagonist in *The Killers*, he is a cook with black skin color and described as having a fearful character and prefers not to interfere in a problem. Sam also prohibits Nick from telling Ole about the problem for fear of getting involved with the mafia. the conversation is included in what the character himself does to show his character.

Data 7 There is a character named Mrs. Bell, the character Mrs. Bell is included in the tritagonist because Mrs. Bell does not play much of a role in the story, in *The killers* Mrs. Bell comes to show Ole's room and Mrs. Bell seems to know Ole because she said that judging from his attitude he didn't look like a boxer because Ole spoke gently and Mrs. Bell also told Nick that Ole was more often in the room lately.

The Strength found in the short story *The Killers*

Every work of fiction needs characters, because characters are the most important element in making works such as this statement, characters will make the storyline have a characteristic or a certain impression on the audience. Characters will also make someone have something that is not owned by others and has its uniqueness (Fauzi & Yuwita, 2022) Hemingway uses dialogue that can be felt in real terms and each character plays a role in their respective dialogues so that it is easily imbued by the reader. as in the following quote said Hemingway supposed that the author should write straight and individually, his descriptions must be rich and earthy, and his words simple and forceful (Sorkhabi Darzikola, 2013).

The characters and characters of the murderers are the characters and characters described in the story the attitude of each character through the dialog used, this is evidenced by the four ways of examining character development proposed by Edgar V. Robert, namely what the character says about himself, what the character does, what other characters say about the characters being analyzed, and what the author says about the characters being analyzed. The dialog used by the characters also supports each storyline so that readers feel curious about the ending of the story. The names of the characters in the story are also clearly mentioned and do not use initials so that they are easy to analyze. example in the quote:

The door of Henry's lunchroom opened and two men came in. They sat down at the counter. "What's yours?" George asked them. "I don't know," one of the men said. "What do you want to eat, Al?" "I don't know," said Al.

In the quote above, the author directly mentions the name of the character and is in the form of direct dialog from each character.

The weaknesses found in the short story *The Killers*

Short stories consist of various themes, there are funny, romantic, horror, and so on, one of which I researched horror-themed short stories besides having advantages, there are also weaknesses in these short stories. As is known, short stories are sometimes used as a medium to convey morals, of course, it must be with polite language as according to He Zhaoxiong in Zhou, (2022) Politeness is a code of conduct with moral and ethical significance in people's daily lives, including people's efforts to maintain harmonious interpersonal relations.

However, in *The Killers* the dialog used by the characters in the short story has harsh words and depicts scenes of violence, and the language used by the mafia is too rough there are several sentences such swearing for example "You talk silly", "You talk too goddam much" so that this short story is not suitable if read by children under the age of 13 without the supervision of parents or teachers.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of this analysis, researchers found that the characters in the short story "The Killers" are: George, Nick Adams, Al, Max, Ole Anderson, Sam, and Mrs. Bell. The 7 characters in the short story *The Killers* include 4 antagonists, 2 protagonists, and 1 tritagonist. The first 4 protagonists are George, a man who is smart in dealing with problems, secondly Nick Adams, someone who has a hero's soul to save Ole Anderson, thirdly there is Sam, a cook at Henry's lunch with a timid and panicked character. Fourth, there is the second target of the killer, Ole Anderson with a calm character when told that someone is targeting him because Ole knows that the problem cannot be avoided even though he reports the police. Furthermore, there are 2 antagonists, the first is Al, a mafia plot sent to kill Ole Anderson, who has a rough character and in dialog often makes threats, and the second is Max, who is Al's partner in targeting Ole, Max has a talkative character. The tritagonist character is Mrs. Bell, the caretaker of the Hirsch boarding house, Ole's mistress is described as having a character who understands Ole's every decision and understands Ole. Each character above has a different role and of course, character is the most important element in writing short stories to convey the implied meaning in the short story created.

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