

ABSTRACT

Ridho Nurfadhilah. 1225030189. JIMMY MCGILL CHARACTER ARC IN *BETTER CALL SAUL*. An Undergraduate Thesis. English Literature Department, Adab and Humanities Faculty, State Islamic University of Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung. Supervisor: 1. Pepen Priyawan, S.S., M.Hum., 2. Agry Pramita, M.A.

This research examines Jimmy McGill's character arc through cinematic characterization techniques in *Better Call Saul* (2015–2022). The study focuses on how the character arc manifests through characterization and what narrative factors drive it. This research applies the cinematic characterization framework by Boggs and Petrie (2018), encompassing eight techniques: appearance, external action, dialogue, internal action, reactions of other characters, caricature and leitmotif, contrast and dramatic foil, and choice of name. The method used is qualitative research with a descriptive design. The findings show that Jimmy McGill's character arc is constructed gradually and in layers across six seasons through the eight cinematic characterization techniques, driven by four narrative factors: early identity formation through the Slippin' Jimmy persona, systematic institutional rejection, Kim Wexler's function as moral regulator, and traumatic loss following Chuck McGill's death. Thus, the character arc is revealed not as a permanent erasure of Jimmy McGill's identity, but as its most consequential test, one whose answer is ultimately disclosed in the confession of Season 6.

Keywords: *Character Arc, Cinematic Characterization, Narrative Factors, Better Call Saul, Television Series*

ABSTRAK

Ridho Nurfadhilah. 1225030189. PERKEMBANGAN KARAKTER JIMMY MCGILL DALAM *BETTER CALL SAUL*. Skripsi. Jurusan Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Adab dan Humaniora, Universitas Islam Negeri Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung. Pembimbing: 1. Pepen Priyawan, S.S., M.Hum., 2. Agry Pramita, M.A.

Penelitian ini mengkaji perkembangan karakter Jimmy McGill melalui teknik-teknik karakterisasi sinematik dalam serial televisi *Better Call Saul* (2015–2022). Penelitian ini berfokus pada bagaimana character arc tersebut termanifestasi melalui karakterisasi dan faktor-faktor naratif apa yang mendorongnya. Penelitian ini menerapkan kerangka karakterisasi sinematik Boggs dan Petrie (2018) yang mencakup delapan teknik: penampilan, tindakan eksternal, dialog, tindakan internal, reaksi karakter lain, karikatur dan leitmotif, kontras dan *dramatic foil*, serta pemilihan nama. Metode yang digunakan adalah penelitian kualitatif dengan desain deskriptif. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa perkembangan karakter Jimmy McGill terbangun secara bertahap dan berlapis sepanjang enam musim melalui delapan teknik karakterisasi sinematik tersebut, yang didorong oleh empat faktor naratif: pembentukan identitas awal melalui persona Slippin' Jimmy, penolakan institusional yang sistematis, fungsi Kim Wexler sebagai regulator moral, dan kehilangan traumatis pasca kematian Chuck McGill. Dengan demikian, character arc tersebut terungkap bukan sebagai penghapusan permanen atas identitas Jimmy McGill, melainkan sebagai ujian terberat atasnya, yang jawabannya pada akhirnya terungkap melalui pengakuan di Season 6.

Kata Kunci: Perkembangan Karakter, Karakterisasi Sinematik, Faktor Naratif, *Better Call Saul*, Serial Televisi