

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

Chapter I is an introduction that contains an overview of the research. In this chapter, the researcher presents the research background, statement of problems, research objectives, research significance: theoretical and practical, conceptual framework and previous studies.

1.1 Research Background

Characters have a very important role in building a story in a novel, because no story can be written without the characters told in it. Characters in a novel serve to expand or extend the plot which will make the story in it more interesting to read. As a literary work, novel presents a long story in an interesting way through fictional characters in it for the readers to enjoy. Novel usually tell about the life of the main character in his daily life in reacting and interacting with other characters in the environment where he lives. Characters are actors who experience certain events and conflicts in novel, that means they have the power to dominate the whole story in it. In other words, the characters who will control the storyline in novel, they express their ideas, describe the theme, create and resolve conflicts in their own way.

Characters created by the author in a novel usually have human-like characteristics in real life, they live a life in it, usually the characters are brought to life with different characters and personalities from one another, especially the main characters who are told in more detail. Hence, characters in novel can be interpreted as representations of humans and their lives. The life events narrated in novel are brought to life by the characters as story holders who have thoughts, feelings and emotions. Through the personalities of the characters created, an author describes character's life with the conflicts that occur in it, be it conflicts with others or with himself, also about everything that humans feel and experience in life, such as happiness, sadness, loneliness, anger, fear, worry, disappointment, struggle, suffering, misery, success, failure, etc.

According to James N. Frey in his book, *How to Write A Damn Good Novel* (1987), there are two types of homo fictus, namely uni-dimensional character and

three-dimensional character. The uni-dimensional character is not conspicuous, because he is supporting character who say one or two lines of dialogue in novel, so that they do not have the power to attract readers' interest in the long term. In addition, the characteristics of the uni-dimensional character is easy to know, because he usually only has one characteristic, such as arrogant or kind. Meanwhile, the three-dimensional character in novel is usually the main character, they have characteristics that are more difficult to identify. They have complex motives and conflicting desires and are alive with passions and ambitions. They have committed great sins and have borne agonizing sufferings; they are full of worries, woes, and unresolved grievances. (Frey, 1987, p. 3).

The main character is an important character in a novel who usually greatly influences the storyline and attracts the readers' attention the most, he has the most scenes that make him always in touch with other characters. The main character is always told to have a difficult life in a novel, he endures endless suffering and conflicts in different situations in his life. Through personality formation, the author creates the main character who deserves attention, love, and support from the readers and develops his personality into an attractive and believable whole individual. Although the main character is created with an imperfect personality, the problems, difficulties or injustices experienced by the main character attract the readers' attention. It creates a feeling of sympathy and empathy in them, so that they want to fully know and understand the character and continue to follow the story to the end.

Furthermore, the three-dimensional character is explained by Lajos Egri, in his book, *The Art of Dramatic Writing* (1923) that every object has three dimensions: depth, height, width and human being have an additional three dimensions: physiology, sociology, psychology. The physiological dimension includes the physical characteristics possessed by the character, the sociological dimension is the description of the social condition of the character, and the psychological dimension is related to the mental state of the character.

The main character in a novel that has three-dimensional aspects will be more alive in the story compared to the characters who only have one or two of

those three aspects. The three-dimensional aspects can provide reasons for each phase of human behavior, so that it produces an in-depth description of the main character in order to know and understand him as a whole and explore his motivations. From a literary point of view, if the main character in a novel does not have one of the three-dimensional aspects, then the novel will not be successful, even though the plot built in it is interesting. Therefore, the main character must have the three-dimensional aspects to become an interesting, unique and different character from other characters in a novel.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher became interested in analyzing the three-dimensional aspects of the main character in a novel. This interest led the researcher to find a novel entitled *Where the Crawdads Sing*, which is written by Delia Owens, an American writer and zoologist. Owens is a nature lover, having even lived in the African wilderness for decades studying lions, brown hyenas and elephants in their natural habitat. As an expert in both fields, the story created by Owens in *Where the Crawdads Sing* is about a girl named Catherine Danielle Clark who lives alone the marsh for many years, but she is able to survive to adulthood there.

Therefore, the researcher decided to choose Delia Owens's *Where the Crawdads Sing* as the object of research in this research. The reasons why the researcher chose this novel are: first, *Where the Crawdads Sing* is the stunning debut novel by Delia Owens. As a debut novel, has successfully attracted the attention of many people from all over the world since it was published on August 14, 2018 until 2022, *Where the Crawdads Sing* has reached 12 million sales worldwide. And in 2022, Publishers Weekly ranked it as the 14th bestselling book of 2021 with sales of over 600,000 copies.

Moreover, in 2018, two weeks after its publication, *Where the Crawdads Sing* was selected for Reese Witherspoon's Hello Sunshine Book Club as the September Book and Best Books of 2018 on Barnes & Noble. Then, in 2019, *Where the Crawdads Sing* remains at number one best seller on Amazon's Most Sold and Most Read Books of the Week charts for fiction with 45 weeks on the list and on IndieBound's Indie Bestseller Lists for hardcover fiction. And also,

Where the Crawdads Sing has topped The New York Times Fiction Best Sellers of 2019 and 2020 for a combined 32 non-consecutive weeks. In 2021, it holds the record for the most weeks at number one on The New York Times Best Sellers list for hardcover fiction. As of late February 2022, it has remained on the bestseller list for 150 weeks.

Another milestone was that on May 16, 2021, *Where the Crawdads Sing* won the British Book of the Year at the Page Turner Award. Then, on June 9, 2021, *Where the Crawdads Sing* won another award, it won the Bookseller Award in Japan. And the latest news, *Where the Crawdads Sing* was adapted into a film by Sony Pictures and will be released on July 15, 2022. Alexandra Fuller, New York Times bestselling author of *Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight*, provided a review of the novel which Owens posted on her personal blog, *A lush debut novel, Owens delivers her mystery wrapped in gorgeous, lyrical prose. It's clear she's from this place — the land of the southern coasts, but also the emotional terrain — you can feel it in the pages. A magnificent achievement, ambitious, credible and very timely.*

And second, *Where the Crawdads Sing* raises the story of a woman who presents herself as a complete human being who has strengths and weaknesses. She was abandoned by her family since childhood in their shack located in a marsh far from the town and then she lived alone there for many years until she died. That means, she experienced various events and problems in her life in the novel from her childhood, adolescence to adulthood, both with herself and other characters. However, she managed to grow and survive well there without her parents and older siblings or anyone. Hence, the story in it will reveal the three-dimensional aspect of her and it will play an important role in showing the development of her personality from a child, teenager to adult woman. Aspects of the main character's personality as the center of the story in novel are always interesting, because he is told the most. The main character must have its own uniqueness that makes him special and different from other characters in a novel or from the main characters in other similar stories.

Therefore, the researcher is also interested in analyzing the personality development of Catherine Danielle Clark as the main character in Delia Owens's *Where The Crawdads Sing*. Thus, in this research, the researcher focuses on analyzing more deeply about the three-dimensional aspects possessed by Catherine Danielle Clark by using Lajos Egri's three-dimensional theory and using Ludwig Klages' personality theory to analyze the personality development of Catherine Danielle Clark in Delia Owens's *Where the Crawdads Sing* in a research entitled, "Three-Dimensional Aspects of Main Character Catherine Danielle Clark in Delia Owens's *Where The Crawdads Sing*".

1.2 Statement of Problems

Based on the research background, the researcher is interested in analyzing the three-dimensional aspects and personality development of the main character in *Where the Crawdads Sing*. To be more specific in this research, the researcher formulates the research in two research questions, that are:

1. How are the three-dimensional aspects of the main character described in Delia Owens's *Where the Crawdads Sing*?
2. How is the personality development of the main character shown in Delia Owens's *Where the Crawdads Sing*?

1.3 Research Objectives

The purpose of this research is to find and describe the answers to the research questions listed above. The following are research objectives that correspond to the research questions:

1. To analyze about the three-dimensional aspects, which consist of physiological dimension, sociological dimension, and psychological dimension possessed by the main character in Delia Owens's *Where the Crawdads Sing*.
2. To analyze about the personality development of the main character from her as a child, a teenager to an adult woman in Delia Owens's *Where the Crawdads Sing*.

1.4 Research Significance

The object of research that the researcher chooses is *Where the Crawdads Sing*, a novel by Delia Owens. Therefore, the research problems in this research are all in the realm of literature. The researcher hopes that this research can provide useful information and knowledge about literature, especially regarding the research problems analyzed in this research. The following is the research significance which is described theoretically and practically:

1) Theoretical Significance

The researcher hopes that the results of this research can give birth to important understandings about the theory used in this research which is useful for broadening insight and knowledge, as well as developing Lajos Egri's three-dimensional theory, which is used to analyze the three-dimensional aspects of the main character and Ludwig Klages' personality theory, which is used to analyze the personality development of the main character in Delia Owens's *Where the Crawdads Sing*.

2) Practical Significance

- a. The researcher hopes that this research can be useful for students majoring in English Literature as a reference material in their literary research, especially research that uses the same topic and theory.
- b. The researcher hopes that this research can help readers in general to understand literary analysis, especially about the three-dimensional aspects: physiological dimension, sociological dimension, and psychological dimension possessed by the main character which is analyzed using Lajos Egri's three-dimensional theory and the personality development of the main character which is analyzed using Ludwig Klages' personality theory.
- c. The researcher hopes that this research can be useful for other researchers as a comparison with other previous studies to make better literary research in the future.

1.5 Conceptual Framework

The researcher uses *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens as the object of research and this research aims to analyze about the three-dimensional aspects

and the personality development of Catherine Danielle Clark as the main character in the novel. To analyze the three-dimensional aspects of the main character, the researcher uses Lajos Egri's three-dimensional theory. The theory is used to find out as a whole about the three-dimensional aspects possessed by Catherine Danielle Clark, which consist of physiological dimension, sociological dimension, and psychological dimension that exist within her.

The physiological dimension relates to the physical characteristics possessed by Catherine Danielle Clark in the novel. The physical characteristics she has affect her mental state and shape her character and personality, which makes her see things in a different way from other characters in the novel. Hence, the first step to knowing about Catherine Danielle Clark is to analyze her physiological aspects that can be seen by the sense of sight, such as her sex, age, height and weight, the color of her hair, eyes, skin, her posture, appearance: she is good-looking or not, over- or underweight, clean, neat, pleasant, untidy, her shape of head, face, limbs, she has defects or not, like deformities, abnormalities, birthmarks, or diseases, and her heredity.

The sociological dimension relates to the social conditions of Catherine Danielle Clark in the novel. The condition of her family, how other characters around her who interact with her treat and judge her, as well as the conditions of the social environment in which she lives play a role in changing her personality, so that she behaves differently from other people. Thus, the next step to get a better description of her personality and to make a proper analysis of her sociological aspects, the researcher must dig down to the source by analyzing her social class, occupation, education, home life, her religion, race and nationality, her place in community, political affiliations, the amusement and hobbies she has.

And the last, the psychological dimension relates to the mental state and characteristics of Catherine Danielle Clark in the novel. The psychological dimension is the result of the previous two dimensions, the physical characteristics possessed by her create a sense of security or insecurity in her and the poor social environment conditions make her traumatized. To understand each of her behaviors, thoughts, feelings and emotions, the researcher must look at the

motivations that drive her to behave that way, why she does what she does and says what she says. Hence, the final step to knowing and understanding Catherine Danielle Clark as a whole is to analyze her psychological aspects, such as her sex life and moral standards, Kya's personal premise, ambition, frustrations, chief disappointments, her temperament, how her attitude toward life, her complexes, she is extrovert, introvert or ambivert, her abilities, qualities and I.Q.

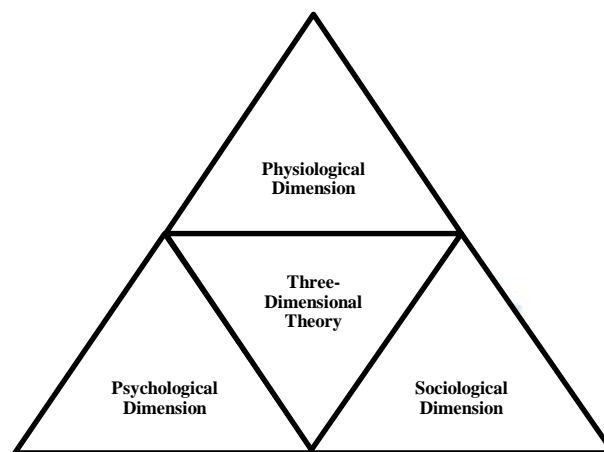


Chart 1. Lajos Egri's Three-Dimensional Theory

The three-dimensional aspects of the main character will show the development of her personality from a child, teenager to adult woman. To analyze the personality development of Catherine Danielle Clark in *Where the Crawdads Sing*, the researcher uses Ludwig Klages' personality theory. The theory can be used to approach her personality traits down to a fine line. In this theory, there are three aspects of personality: the first, personality material is the first capital provided by nature to be used and developed by her which contains all the innate abilities and features. Personality material is divided into memory and the power of recall, and the power and way of understanding impressions.

The second, personality structure. If the material is seen as the content (material) of personality, then the structure is the characteristics of its form or formal characteristics. In this personality structure, there are two forces, that are the driving force and the inhibiting force. The balance between these two forces determines Catherine Danielle Clark's behavior. In the personality structure there are three issues to be analyzed, that are how her temperament: she is sanguine or phlegmatic, how her feeling (the nature of feelings): she is passive, active or

reactive and how her mood: she is expansive or depressive, and how her power of expression in the presence of large and small stimuli.

And the third, personality quality, there are two principles called will and feeling, and the contradiction of these two principles can show the character of Catherine Danielle Clark. In will, the powerful “I” is driven by the desire for self-preservation. Meanwhile, in feeling, “I” is controlled by the desire for surrender which pushes “I” to weaken herself to what she is facing. Thus, there are two forms of personality, namely the personality controlled by spirit that supports will and the personality controlled by soul that supports feeling. In this personality quality, there is also the system of impulses that can show the dynamics of her personality, that are: self-control, spiritual lust, lust.

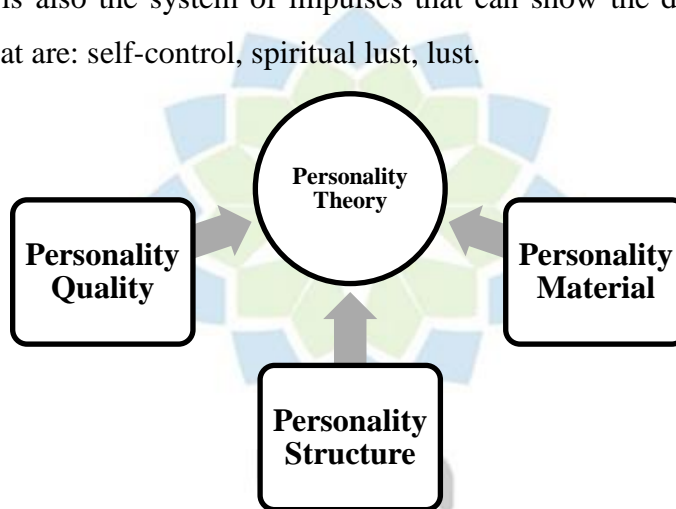


Chart 2. Ludwig Klages' Personality Theory

1.6 Previous Studies

Previous studies are sources of reference or guidance. References provide information about various things, such as a topic, names of people, places, terms, history of famous people and so on. References can come from books, journal articles, or thesis. Therefore, previous studies have a very important role in research, because previous studies serve as reference material to develop previous research and become a comparison and complement for further research. Previous studies that became a reference for researcher in this research are as follows:

- 1) The first research is a journal article entitled *The Analysis of the Main Character Based on the Physiological, Sociological, and Psychological Aspects in the Novel Bad Beginning by Lemony Snicket* (2017), written by

Delannoy Belin, Ni Made Suwari Antari, and I Wayan Mulyawan. The topics in this research are about the physiological, sociological, and psychological aspects of the main character and the method of characterization that presents the three-dimensional aspects of the main character in the novel. In this research, the researchers used a qualitative method by applying the documentation method to collect data. And the theories used in this research are the theory by Warren and Wellek, and the theory by Lajos Egri.

- 2) The second research, entitled *Three Dimensions of Jean Louise as the Main Character in Lee's Novel Go Set a Watchman* (2017), is a journal article written by Efraim Aero and I Gusti Ayu Gde Sosiowati. This research focuses on discussing three topics, that are: 1) How to characterize Jean Louise based on three-dimensional aspects: physical, social, and psychological?, 2) What characterization methods are used by the author to describe Jean Louise?, and 3) Why Jean Louise failed as a reform figure?. This research is a library research, which uses the documentation method by using note-taking techniques to collect data. And in analyzing the data, the researchers used the three-dimensional theory by Lajos Egri and characterization theory by Kenney.
- 3) The third research, entitled *Characterization and Three Dimensions of the Main Character in Looking for Alaska* (2018), is a journal article written by I Ketut Suardi Utama, Putu Ayu Asty Senja Pratiwi and I Made Sena Darmasetiyawan. This research focuses on analyzing the characterization methods used in presenting the main character and the three-dimensional aspects of the main character in John Green's *Looking for Alaska*. In this research, the researchers used a qualitative descriptive method to analyze the data, while to collect data used the documentation method. Then, some theories of characterization were used in this research, such as the theory of characterization by Kenney and the theory of character dimensions by Egri.
- 4) The fourth research is a thesis entitled *Struktur Kepribadian Tokoh Utama Novel Kimi no Na wa karya Makoto Shinkai Kajian Psikologi Sastra* (2019),

written by Desy Lathifah. The topics of this research focuses on the intrinsic elements and personality structure of the main character in the novel. In this research, the researcher uses the library method, where the reference is written material. Then, to analyze the data, the researcher uses structural theory to analyze the intrinsic elements and to analyze the personality structure using a psychological approach, namely Ludwig Klages' personality theory.

- 5) The fifth research is a journal article, *Analisis Struktur Kepribadian Tokoh Utama dalam Novel Peri Kopi Karya Yetti A.KA* (2021), written by Oki Listya Kusumaningrum, Budi Purnomo, Siti Munifah. This research specifically focuses on analyzing the personality structure of the main character in Yetti A.KA's *Peri Kopi* using Ludwig Klages' personality theory. And then, the research design in this research is descriptive qualitative and data collection uses library techniques that use written sources to obtain data.

This research has differences with the five previous studies above. First, the object of research used in this research is different from the object of research in these previous studies. The object of research in this research is Delia Owens' debut novel, *Where the Crawdads Sing*, which was published in 2018. Second, although the first research question and the theory used are the same as those used by three of the five previous studies, the application of Lajos Egri's three-dimensional theory in this research will be different. In the first previous study, three-dimensional theory was used to analyze the three-dimensional aspects of the main character consisting of more than one character, namely Violet, Klaus, and Sunny, so that the analysis does not focus on one character. Meanwhile, in this research, the three-dimensional theory is used to analyze the three-dimensional aspects of Catherine Danielle Clark who is the single main character, so that the analysis will be more focused and detailed.

Then, in the second previous study, the main character is a woman named Jean Louise, she has a father and a lover named Hank. And in the third previous research, the main character is Miles Halter, a teenage boy who attends Culver

Creek, a boarding school. He has many friends, such as Chip Martin, Alaska Young, Takumi Hikohito and Lara Buterskaya. Meanwhile, in *Where the Crawdads Sing*, Kya is abandoned by her parents and older siblings in the marsh and lives alone there, she has no one. Hence, the analysis results of the three-dimensional aspects of Catherine Danielle Clark will be different from those of Jean Louise or Miles Halter.

This research will not only analyze the three-dimensional aspects of the main character using Lajos Egri's three-dimensional theory, but this research will also analyze the personality development of the main character using Ludwig Klages' personality theory which consists of Personality Material, Personality Structure and Personality Quality. Not only one aspect of personality will be analyzed in this research, as in the fourth and fifth previous studies which focused on analyzing Personality Structure, but the three aspects of personality will be analyzed in this research. Therefore, this research is important, although it has the same research question as the three previous studies, but the second research question is different and not the same as the five previous studies above. Thus, the results of this research will develop these previous studies by producing a literary analysis that focuses on analyzing the three-dimensional aspects of the main character using Lajos Egri's three-dimensional theory and the personality development of the main character using Ludwig Klages' personality theory.