

ANALYSIS OF THE MAIN CHARACTER IN THE FILM 'STORY OF KALE: WHEN SOMEONE'S IN LOVE' BY M. IRFAN RAMLI AND ITS IMPLICATIONS ON INDONESIAN LANGUAGE LEARNING IN HIGH SCHOOLS

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Abstract

This research examines the characterization of the main characters in the film "Story of Kale: When Someone's in Love" by M. Irfan Ramli and its implications for Indonesian language learning in high school. The purpose of this study is to describe the characterization of the main characters in the film and its implications for Indonesian language learning in high school. This research uses a qualitative approach with data collection techniques such as listening and note-taking. Data analysis is conducted using Albertine Minderop theory (2005), specifically the direct (telling) and indirect (showing) methods. The results of the study indicate that there are seventeen data points on the characters of Kale and Dinda. Based on direct method analysis, Kale is characterized as friendly and confident. Through the indirect method, Kale is characterized as confident, caring, sacrificial, and possessive. Meanwhile, Dinda, in the direct method analysis, is portrayed as independent and calm. In the indirect method analysis, Dinda exhibits traits of being calm, honest, optimistic, and unfaithful. This research can be implicated in Indonesian language learning in 11th grade high school, within the context of Merdeka Curriculum's learning outcomes: students are able to infer the feelings and traits of characters as well as other intrinsic elements such as the story setting and events in drama performances.

Keywords: *Characterization of main characters, direct and indirect methods, implications.*

1 INTRODUCTION

Literary works are human fantasies expressed in language that not only provide entertainment but also aesthetic value or life lessons. Literary works can also be interpreted as an individual's inner expression through language, depicting the author's insights into the realities of life, the pure imagination of the author unrelated to real life, and can also be portrayed by blending these two aspects (Rohman & Wicaksono, in Habibati et al., 2022). Literary works are not limited to novels, short stories, poetry, or drama, but can also manifest in the form of films.

A film is defined as an art form that originates from the combination of various creative components such as music, visual arts, sound art, drama or theater, and technology, using images as its visual representation. Film serves as a form of literary work that effectively portrays societal life. In Indonesia, there are several popular film genres among the public, especially among teenagers, one of which is the romantic film genre.

Characters are actors or players in a story, while the way an author portrays the characters in a film is known as characterization. The characterization of characters or players in fictional works involves their reasoning and emotions, which may include their appearance and habits (Minderop, 2005:95). Characterization of characters or players is a crucial element in a film. Through the portrayal of characters, audiences can discern the intended message conveyed by the writer. The depiction of character traits can be influenced by various factors such as personality, the appearance of the character, or other factors that play a role in shaping the character in a story.

Character is a human trait that arises from innate factors since birth, influenced by education, and shaped by experiences influenced by the surrounding environment or others. The continuous advancement of science and technology can also affect the character and personality of individuals, especially students in the field of Education. Currently, many cases show that the character and traits of students in the field of Education exhibit weaknesses.

Indonesian language learning plays a crucial role in developing character and traits in students. Literary works are used in Indonesian language and literature education to expand knowledge, instill moral values, and enhance language skills (Safitri et al., in Nofasari et al., 2023). By studying characters and characterization in literature, it is expected that students can relate literary works to real-life experiences they have encountered (Desetyawan, in Nofasari et al., 2023).

The author will examine the characterization of the main characters in the film "Story of Kale: When Someone's in Love" and its implications on Indonesian language learning in high schools. The purpose of this study is to describe the character of the main characters, Kale and Dinda, using Albertine Minderop's theory (2005) of direct (telling) and indirect (showing) methods, and their implications for Indonesian language learning in high schools.

2 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research employs a qualitative approach. The qualitative approach aims to understand the events experienced by the research subjects. This approach is more suitable for investigating aspects such as behavior, attitudes, and perceptions of the subjects (Moleong, 2007). Qualitative research aims to understand social reality in general from the participants' perspectives. This study chooses a qualitative approach because it uses the film titled "Story of Kale: When Someone's in Love" as its data source. The analysis of this research is descriptive, which means that data are analyzed in the form of words or sentences, not numerically.

Observation and note-taking are the techniques used in this research. The observation technique in this study involves listening to or watching the dialogues spoken by the characters in the film. The next technique is note-taking. The researcher takes notes on excerpts of dialogue that describe the characterization of the main characters in the film "Story of Kale: When Someone's in Love". The results of this research are presented in the form of scene excerpts or images taken from the film and informally through descriptions in the form of dialogue excerpts. The findings of this research are implicated in high school education, particularly in Indonesian language learning.

3 RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Based on the research conducted regarding the characterization of the main characters in the film "Story of Kale: When Someone's in Love," a total of seventeen data points were obtained from the characters Kale and Dinda. To facilitate understanding of the research results on the characterization of Dinda and Kale in the film "Story of Kale: When Someone's in Love," the research findings are presented in tabular form as follows:

Table: Characters of Kale and Dinda

No.	Method	Character Name	Category	Character	Amount
1.	Direct	Kale	Character name	Friendly	1
			Appearance	Self-confident	1
	indirect		Dialogue	Care	1
				Self-confident	2
			Action	Willing to sacrifice	2
				Care	1
				Possessive	1
2.	Direct	Dinda	Character name	Independent	1
			Appearance	Calm	1
	Indirect		Dialogue	Optimistic	1
				Honesty	3
			Action	Disloyalty	1
				Calm	1
				Total	

3.1 Direct Method or *Telling*

Direct method or telling is when the author directly outlines and describes the character traits of a character, for example, stating that the character is tough and talkative (Dermawan, in Putra, 2021).

Using this direct method, the author is directly involved in introducing the character's traits clearly. This allows readers or viewers to understand and immerse themselves in the character based on the explanations provided by the author (Minderop, 2005:8). Thus, readers or viewers can directly grasp the characterization of the character through this narrative. The direct method or telling includes: Characterization through Character Name Usage, Through Character Appearance, and Through Authorial Utterance (Minderop, 2005:8).

3.1.1 Characters use character names

Character names in a literary work are often used to create and develop ideas, to clarify the character of a figure. Writers give names to characters to provide unique characteristics that distinguish them from other characters. Character names may contain literary allusions (Minderop, 2005:8).

1. Kale

In the Toba Batak culture of North Sumatra, Kale is a nickname used within a family to signify closeness among them. In this culture, Kale's nickname is not just a name but also reflects strong social bonds among individuals. Someone who can build good social relationships with those around them tends to have a friendly character. According to Pratiwi (2021), being friendly involves behaviors and traits of being familiar in social interactions, such as smiling readily, being inclined to help, and greeting others.

True to his name, the character Kale in the film "Story of Kale: When Someone's in Love" is portrayed as an individual who can build strong social relationships and has a friendly demeanor. Kale has no enemies in the film, indicating his ability to foster good social relationships. His friendliness is evident as Kale often smiles during interactions with other characters.

2. Dinda

"Dinda" originates from the Indonesian language and means "young sister" or "younger sister." The name Dinda is closely associated with girls who exhibit feminine traits. According to Feldman (1990), some characteristics associated with femininity include emotional aspects, less logical thinking, tendency to complain, despair, sensitivity, and a tendency to depend on others.

Contrary to the feminine characteristics typically associated with the name, the character Dinda in the film "Story of Kale: When Someone's in Love" displays independence and does not rely on others. Throughout the film, Dinda is depicted as a woman who faces her problems independently without needing assistance from others.

3.1.2 Character through the appearance of the character

The clothing or appearance chosen by a character can clearly depict and clarify their characteristics and personality. This appearance encompasses what they wear and how their expressions are portrayed (Minderop, 2005:10-11).

1. Kale



Picture 1. Kale Appearance



Picture 2. Kale Appearance

(Source: Film *Story of Kale: When Someone's in Love* Timecode 00:05:51 and 00:19:16)

In the scene excerpt above, Kale is dressed in a plain t-shirt layered with a flannel shirt and complemented by jeans, giving off a relaxed impression. Kale also wears glasses with slightly tousled yet neat hair. On Kale's wrist is a wristwatch. According to Binus University, the Casual Chic style typically involves wearing plain t-shirts paired with a jacket or shirt, and accessorizing with glasses, necklaces, or wristwatches to enhance their style with added value. Individuals dressed in this manner usually exhibit confidence.

In the film "Story of Kale: When Someone's in Love," the character Kale wears clothing that aligns with the description above and portrays confidence. Kale is depicted as a confident

individual who believes in his ability to make Dinda happy if they were to unite or develop a relationship beyond just being ordinary friends.

2. Dinda



Picture 3. Dinda's appearance



Picture 4. Dinda's appearance

(Source: *Film Story of Kale: When Someone's in Love* TimeCode 00:03:26 and 00:44:51)

The color blue is always associated with the sky, sea, water, and coldness, according to Dameraia (2007). The color blue provides inspiration and symbolizes tranquility. In every scene involving Dinda, she is always seen wearing clothing with hints of blue. This color serves as a symbol of tranquility. In line with this, Dinda is portrayed as someone who can maintain her calmness in various situations. She is able to remain composed when facing challenges that come her way.

3.1.3 Character through the author's speech

This method gives the author or writer a lot of freedom to write a story. The author directly comments on the characters' traits. However, in this study, the researcher did not find data that describes the characters' traits as conveyed by the author or writer.

3.2 Indirect Method or *Showing*

The indirect method requires readers or viewers to think for themselves about the characters depicted by the author (Minderop, 2005:22). In the indirect method, also known as *Showing*, the author lets the characters themselves depict their own traits through dialogue and actions. In this situation, the audience has the opportunity to personally assess the characters. The *Showing* method encompasses: Dialogue and behavior.

3.2.1 Character through character dialogue

Dialogue from characters can depict the role they play, allowing the audience to visualize and imagine the character's personality traits

1. Kale

Care

Data 1

"I don't have the right experience, okay. But you make an exception to something that shouldn't be there. Argo did that to you in front of everyone. Whether someone is right or not, he doesn't have the right to do that to you"

The above excerpt from the dialogue shows that Kale cares about Dinda. Kale expresses that Dinda should not have received rough treatment from Argo. Kale assists Dinda to understand that what Argo did was wrong.

Confidence

Data 2

Kale : Break up with Argo, Din! You're afraid of him, not in love with him. You deserve someone better.

Dinda : Is there someone better??

Kale : There is.

Dinda : Who?

Kale : Me.

The dialogue excerpt above demonstrates that Kale is confident. Kale firmly asks Dinda to end her relationship with Argo and confidently asserts that he is someone far better than Argo.

Data 3

"I'm a hundred percent sure, you know. This project can definitely succeed. The song was really good earlier."

Kale stating "a hundred percent sure" indicates that Kale fully believes the project will achieve success.

Self-sacrifice

Data 4

"Dinda, do you remember how hard it was for us to start this relationship? I was shunned by my friends, quit the band, and you were harassed by Argo for months. I accepted everything because we wanted to be here."

The excerpt from the dialogue above shows that Kale has sacrificed a lot in the relationship. Kale reminds about how Kale was avoided by friends, left the band, and how Kale always protected Dinda when she was harassed by her ex-boyfriend

Data 5

"Din, I left Marko The Company for you, for this project. I'm being ostracized by the kids because of you, because of this project".

From the excerpt above, Kale sacrifices his job and is willing to accept the consequences of opposition from his friends because he wants to focus and strive to make the project he is working on with Dinda successful.

2. Dinda

Optimistic

Data 6

"Well, even though Argo is often emotional like this, but I believe he will change someday".

The excerpt from the dialogue above shows that Dinda has an optimistic character about the future. Despite Argo's frequent emotional outbursts, Dinda remains optimistic that Argo's behavior will change for the better someday.

Honest

Data 7

"I've cheated! I've disappointed you"

The excerpt from the dialogue reflects honesty, as Dinda does not hide the truth or her mistakes. Dinda honestly admits her wrongdoing, that she has cheated and disappointed her partner, Kale.

Data 8

"I want to get married and continue my studies in Germany".

The excerpt from the dialogue also illustrates Dinda's honesty towards Kale by stating the reasons why she wants to end their relationship, namely that Dinda wants to marry someone else and plans to continue her studies in Germany.

Data 9

Kale : Since when have you been uncomfortable in this relationship?

Dinda : 10 months ago.

The excerpt from the dialogue above depicts honesty. When Dinda is asked since when she has felt uncomfortable in their relationship, she honestly answers that she has felt uncomfortable for the past 10 months.

Infidelity

Data 10

"I've cheated! I've disappointed you".

The excerpt from the dialogue also shows the trait of infidelity, as Dinda admits to cheating. This indicates that Dinda has broken her promise and betrayed the trust of her partner, Kale.

3.2.2 Character through the actions of the characters

Characterization of a character can be observed through their behavior and actions. This is because the actions performed by characters reflect the feelings they are experiencing. The character of a character can be seen through their behavior. According to Henry James, as quoted by Pickering and Hoeper (in Minderop, 2005:38), personality development in characters can be seen through actions and behavior, which can indicate the character traits displayed in their actions.

1. Kale

Care



Picture 5. Kale's caring actions



Picture 6. Kale's caring actions

(Source: Film *Story of Kale: When Someone's in Love* TimeCode 00:07:25 and 00:08:31)

The scene above depicts Kale secretly following Dinda and Argo. From a distance, Kale witnesses a commotion and acts of violence perpetrated by Argo against Dinda. At minute 00:08:31, Kale intervenes to assist Dinda, preventing her from being further victimized by Argo, which eventually escalates into a physical altercation or fight between Argo and Kale.

Possessive



Picture 7. Kale's possessive actions

(Source: Film *Story of Kale: When Someone's in Love* TimeCode 00:30:57)

In the scene above, Dinda decides to end her relationship with Kale and wants to leave the house. However, Kale's quick response reveals his possessive nature. Kale swiftly locks the door, refusing

Dinda's decision to leave. Kale's action demonstrates that he exerts strong control and restricts Dinda's freedom to make her own choices.

2. Dinda

Calm



Picture 8. Dinda's actions

(Source: Film *Story of Kale: When Someone's in Love* TimeCode 01:04:10)

In the scene above, Dinda exhibits a calm demeanor. Despite facing problems that trigger Kale's angry reactions, who continuously suspects and accuses Dinda of still being involved with her ex-boyfriend, Dinda manages to maintain her composure throughout the situation. With Dinda's calm attitude, she eventually resolves the issue.

3.3 Implications for Learning in High School

Research on the main characters in films can be applied in Indonesian language learning for high school students in grade XI. The characters in the film "Story of Kale: When Someone's in Love" can serve as relevant examples for students in their daily lives. In the context of literature learning in schools, films are one of the sources or tools that can be utilized to teach literature at the high school level. The findings from research related to character traits can be used as varied teaching materials according to the Competency Standards (CS) of the Merdeka Curriculum: students deduce the feelings and characteristics of characters as well as other intrinsic elements such as the setting of the story and events in the drama performance.

The purpose of applying the research findings as varied teaching materials is for educators to enable students to understand the characters of Kale and Dinda. Kale, who exhibits friendly, confident, caring, sacrificial, and possessive traits. Meanwhile, Dinda portrays independent, honest, calm, optimistic, and unfaithful traits. By understanding these characteristics, it is hoped that students can distinguish between positive and negative traits. Educators aim for students to apply positive traits in their daily lives, both within the school environment and in society. "Story of Kale: When Someone's in Love" is a suitable and engaging film for literature teaching in high schools. Based on these learning outcomes, educators can utilize "Story of Kale: When Someone's in Love" as a teaching material for Indonesian language lessons, particularly in the context of drama.

CONCLUSION

The analysis of the film "Story of Kale: When Someone's in Love" by M. Irfan Ramli using the theory of Abertine Minderop (2005) shows that through the direct method, the character Kale exhibits traits of friendliness and confidence, while Dinda displays traits of independence and calmness. Using the indirect method, Kale demonstrates traits of confidence, caring, sacrificial nature, and possessiveness, whereas Dinda exhibits traits of calmness, honesty, optimism, and unfaithfulness. In this study, the researcher did not find data that directly describes the characters as conveyed by the author or writer.

The implication of the main characters' traits in the film "Story of Kale: When Someone's in Love" on Indonesian language learning in high schools (SMA) is significant. The film can be utilized as a literary learning medium in high schools, particularly for studying character traits. Research on the main characters' traits such as Kale and Dinda provides educators with opportunities to teach students about positive and negative behaviors in everyday life. Through analyzing these character traits, it is hoped that students can understand and distinguish between good and bad traits, and apply the positive aspects learned from the film in their interactions within the school and community environments. This film not only serves as an engaging supplementary learning resource but also enriches the experience of learning literature at the high school level in accordance with the Merdeka Curriculum.

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