

**The Snow White's Character's
Modification in "Snow White
and The Seven Dwarfs by Regis
Maine" and "Snow White and
The Seven Dwarfs by Vera
Southgate" Seen from Feminist
Theory**

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Abstract

In this article discuss about the character Snow White in *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* by Vera Southgate and *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* by Regis Maine. The Story written by Vera Southgate is one of the stories that had a major influence on women's behavior. Where is the character Snow White was depicted as beautiful, kind, and has a handsome husband, it was made many women want to be like Snow White. Meanwhile, the Story by Regis Maine is also told the same main character, but there are the differences between the main characters in both of the stories. Character Snow White in *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* by Regis Maine is one of form Feminist movement. Because the character Snow White by Regis Maine or comic version is hard-worker, brave, strong, and active. While, in the story by Vera Southgate she was depicted as lazy, passive, weak and too innocent. So, from that, the female character in *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* by Regis Maine should be one of the good inspirations for the women.

Keywords: Feminist theory, Character, Snow White

Introduction

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs is one of the best novel written by Brothers Grimm in 1812. As the novel climbed into success, it was adapted into an animated movie of the same title in 1937 by Walt Disney. In 1939 *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* got special awards at the 11th academy awards. This animated film that tells the story of the life of white woman and become very famous at that time, even exceeding the expectations of Walt Disney itself. This story has attracted researchers' attention to reveal the problem in

this story. To this day many authors are rewriting this story line with different or similar title and with different versions like short story by Vera Southgate and Disney Comic by Regis Maine.

Novel or comic is part of literary works that we can find in the library or bookstore. In an era like today, novel and comic be found easily, just use our phones we can find them. We can find a lot of the story and read it whenever we want. But to understand the content of the story we need to analyze to

understand the meaning behind the story we read. Therefore, in this research, the writer would be analysis two stories with the same title but different versions. The stories that would be analyzed are *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* by Vera Southgate and *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* comic version by Regis Maine. The element that will be discussed is the characterization of Snow White from both stories. There is an idea about a popular mindset about women in society, therefore the writer chooses it because the writer attempts to give the readers a mindset in the society. To analyze both of the stories the writer will be used feminism theory. From this research, the writer believes that this study will increase the readers' confidence and awaken women that they are no longer seen as too innocent, helpless, weak, and passive. But women are strong, cheerful, hard workers, active and brave. So through this point of view, women can see themselves in a better. Besides, seen from feminism scope the writer also wants to give a contribution about women in the patriarchal society. The writer wants to changes the way of thinking of women in the past. Who thought that women were weak and always enslaved by others. Women right now should believe that their self is strong, cheerful, and brave.

In this study, the writer will be used Feminist theory to analyze the stories *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* by Regis Maine and *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* by Vera Southgate. It is because the writer thought that there are some differences between Snow White's Character in *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* by Regis Maine and Vera Southgate, so it is suitable to be scrutinized with a feminist approach. To prove that several differences occur to each female character, the writer will give some evidence. Therefore, the characteristic of the novel version of Snow White will be compared with the characteristics of the comic version of Snow White. Based on the feminist theory the writer attempts to analyze the stories *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* by Regis Maine and Vera Southgate, where is both stories have the same main character but their characteristics are different from one to another. According to Sulistyawan, (2018), Feminist theory is a groundbreaking thought against regulations of the law against

women. Meanwhile, according to Jayasinghe (as cited in Chandrika, (2019) Feminism is an awareness of women's exploitation and oppression in the family, at work, and in society. Feminist action supposes that action is taken to change this situation and get freedom for women. As stated by Crossman Feminist theory is the focus within power and oppression and gender roles and stereotypes, structural and economic inequality, objectification and discrimination, and exclusion based on gender (as cited in Chandrika, 2019). Feminism is one of the theories which demands the equality for women in society, such as in economic aspect, politic, education, opportunities, and others.

Novel and comic is an expression of art that can bring the moral message to the readers, so the author will deliver the value through the story and also the characters. According to Bakhtin novel is something that parodies all literary genres, it exposes the conversations of language and their forms. It means that a novel is a form of literary work that is used as a form of reflection of life. While the comic is a medium that is used to express ideas or stories with images, sometimes it is combined with text or other visual information. In a story surely there are wmmilletill be characters, it is one of the important elements in the story. Like Putri said a character can be defined as a person in literary work that has an identity that is made up of appearance, conversation, name, action, and thought (Putri, 2018). The character in a story will influence the readers to be copycats or imitate their favorite characters. The reader may be imitating characters' attitudes, the way they talk, fashion, physical appearance, etc. In both versions of the stories the writer will discuss the princess characteristics, from that, we will find out how the author creates the princess character.

Method

In this study, the writer used the descriptive qualitative method to collect the data. According to Nassaji, (2015) said the goal of descriptive qualitative is to describe a phenomenon and its characteristics. Therefore, the descriptive qualitative method will be used to find out the answer to the research question about how something happens and who is involved. In this study, the data from both stories will be in the form of sentences or

conversation, and it is will be evidence to prove to the readers that there is a transformation in the character Snow White from both of the stories. To show the transformation that happens to the character Snow White, the writer will be collecting some conversation and narration from both of the stories.

The subject of this study are the story *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* by Vera, (2008) published by Ladybird; UK ed. Edition in 2008 and *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* by Regis, (2012) published by Disney Comics in 2012. The object of the study was the character's Snow White in both of the stories. Which were then analyzed to determine whether the two characters reflect the feminist movement or reflect women who are weak and always under men. Based on the model of data analysis by (Miles & Huberman, 1994) the process of data collection, data reduction data

display and conclusion drawing and verification was repeatedly and simultaneously conducted. In the first attempt maybe the conclusion is unsatisfactory. Therefore, the repeated back and forth between first conclusion, data reduction, data collection, and data display are conducted simultaneously until the analysis arrives at a right conclusion about which one is more feminist between main characters in story by Regis Maine and Vera Southgate.

Findings and Discussion

The Similarities Between the Snow White's Characterization in the Story "*Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs by Vera Southgate*" and "*Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs by Regis Maine*"

Table 1. The Similarities of Characterization

No	Snow White's Characterization in the story " <i>Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs by Vera Southgate</i> "	Snow White's Characterization in the story " <i>Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs by Regis Maine</i> "
1.	Beautiful	Beautiful
2.	Naïve/ easy to trust others	Naïve/ easy to trust others
3.	Kind	Kind

Beautiful

The female characters in both stories have the same characteristic that is beautiful. In the story *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* by Vera Southgate mirror character clearly said "*The truth I must speak and I vow, that the child Snow White is more lovely than thou*"(P.10). It sentence was indicated that through other characters, the author reveals that the character Snow White in Story by Vera Southgate is Beautiful. Meanwhile, in the comic version through the conversation between the evil queen and the mirror, the author also reveals that the character Snow White is beautiful. It is proven by mirror character who is said that *But now there is someone else whose features are perfect whose eyes are adorable and whose...* and with the hatred of the queen, she said

"ENOUGH! Her name! I must know her name! and the mirror said *"it is the princess Snow White, my queen!"*(P.3). So, from the statement by the mirror character in the story by Vera Southgate and the conversation between the queen and mirror character in the story by Regis Maine was indicated that Snow White is beautiful.

Naïve

In both stories, the main character was easy believes in the queen. Even though the main character did not know who is she, because the queen was changed herself into another person. It was indicated that the main characters are naïve. The main character in the story *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* by Regis Maine is naïve because when there is a

woman come to the cottage she is always let into the cottage. It is proved by *"She opened the door and choice some pretty pink laces for her corset"* (P.22). It was indicated the Snow White is easy to believe with other people. In the story *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* by Regis Maine, the main character is also easy to believe in other people. It is proven by the

Kind

Just like the story in general, where the main character always has a good attitude throughout the narrative, it is the same with the story *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* by Regis Maine and Vera Southgate where the character Snow White was described as a kind character. Through the appearance of the character, the author was described that the main character as a good character. Physical appearance was consists of their age, performance, how they look, beautiful, etc. In a story by Vera Southgate, the appearance of the main character was indicated that she is so kind. It is proven by *"the queen did have a baby*

conversation between the queen and Snow White *"Go on! My apples are so tasty! There aren't any better apples in the world! And the snow white answer "well, it does look very nice!"* (P.39). So, from that evidence, we can conclude that the character Snow White in both of the stories is naïve.

daughter whose skin was as white as snow, whose cheeks were bright red and whose hair was as black as ebony" (p.8). From this sentence, the reader knows that the character Snow White has a good attitude. While, in the comic version by Regis Maine, through other characters, the reader knows that she is kind. It is proven by *"Oh, you're so beautiful and kind"* (p.37). In conclusion, both of the main characters in both of the stories have a good attitude.

The Differences Between the Snow White's Characterization in the Story "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs by Vera Southgate" and "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs by Regis Maine"

Table 2. The Differences Characterization

No	Snow White's Characterization in the story " <i>Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs by Vera Southgate</i> "	Snow White's Characterization in the story " <i>Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs by Regis Maine</i> "
1.	Lazy	Workaholic/Hard worker
2.	Boring	Friendly
3.	Innocent	Smart

Lazy vs Workaholic

In *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* by Vera Southgate, there was an event where showing that Snow white was a lazy character in the Novel. The laziness that Snow white showed in the Novel was when she was sitting and relax in the garden. In the picture in the story, Snow White has seen Snow White is happy and enjoying her life without any problem in her father's kingdom. Then, when she escaped and lived in the Dwarfs' cottage she is not doing anything. When she arrived there she was tired and fell asleep. It is proven by *"she lay down and soon she was fast asleep"* (p.14). However in the comic version, Snow White was depicted as a workaholic character, In the introduction of the story, Snow White Was doing her house chores in her father's castle and wearing bad cloth. Even though her stepmother hated her and she is

always giving her tasks that are not her job as princes. But she is still working so hard, she never complains and she does her task with pleasure. Then, after Snow White and the animals arrive in the Dwarfs' cottage, Snow White with her initiative asked the animals to clean that cottage together, because she knows that there is anybody was living there. As proof *"There! I've cleaned it all up! Now let's look upstairs!"* (P.13). So from both of the proofs, we can conclude that the main character in the story by Vera Southgate is lazier than Snow White in the comic version by Regis Maine.

Boring vs Friendly

In the story *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* by Vera Southgate, the female character is boring. Because throughout the journey of the story the main character is always alone without anyone with her. It makes the lack of

dialogue and jokes in the story. so the story is very tense and seems stiff. *"There was no reply. She tried the door and it opened, so she went inside to rest"* (P.8). It was indicated that Snow White in the story by Vera Southgate rarely takes action. While the character of Snow White in the comic version is friendly. Several events showed that snow white is friendly, for example when Snow White can be good friends with the animals in the forest. Snow white communicates with the animals *"The forest must be my house now on! But where shall I find a house here? Maybe you know of one?"* (P.11) Even though the animals cannot talk like a human, with Snow White's feeling, she can understand what is they mean. Then when Snow White meets with the Seven Dwarfs for the first time, she does not feel strange and uncomfortable with them because they have different body postures like normal humans. Snow White always shows that she is happy and her friendly character makes the people around her happy. Even to give those around her happiness, she spent her time dancing with the dwarfs. Snow White said *"You would like to dance but of course, handsome prince..."* *"the pleasure is all mine!"* (p.29). The Seven Dwarfs look very happy to be dancing with Snow White, it was clearly indicated that Snow White in the story by Regis Maine is a friendly character.

Too innocent vs Smart

In Vera Southgate's story, the queen attempts to kill snow white three times. *"For the third time, she made her way to the dwarfs' cottage and knocked on the door"* (p.32), That event was showing that how innocent Snow White, so she easily believes in new people. In the same even in *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* by Regis Maine, Snow White also received an apple from the queen and bite it. But the difference is the queen used black magic to disguise herself as an old woman, so surely no anybody can know who is she. *"In her Castle, the evil queen was preparing a magic potion..."* (p.27). Then when she comes to the cottage, the animals were tried to stop the queen, but unfortunately Snow White with her kindness she helps the queen. So as a form of gratitude, the queen gave a red poisoned apple. But there are the others even that showed Snow White is a smart character that is when she was

able to correctly guess the names of the Dwarfs *"Your name must be Dopey, and yours is Sneezzy, and you must be Bashful, you're sleepy, you're happy, you're Grumpy, and that only leaves Doc!"* (p.23). Besides when Grumpy is not happy if Snow White lived in their cottage, Snow White cleverly promises to cook for them *"...And I would cook for you"* (p.26) that is make Grumpy happy and agree if Snow White lived there.

Snow White's Character in the Story *"Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs by Regis Maine"* is more Feminist than Snow White's Character in the Story *"Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs by Vera Southgate"*

Snow White is one of the princess stories that were familiar in the world. It is one of the forms of the feminist movement. Where the first version of this story was published in 1937 by Walt Disney. According to Flouli, (2017) First-wave feminism involved a period of the feminist movement during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries especially in the United States and in Europe, it focused on women's suffrage, better working conditions, reproductive rights, marriage, and property laws, and the right to education. From that, we know that the writer knows that this story was created as a form of the women's revolution. The story *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* were published in the time of the feminist era. Where the main character in this story has reflected the phenomenon in a society that happened at that time. The character of Snow White was indicated that women at that time start to get more than before. For example, the main character in the story is a woman, so that means that a woman is not under man. So this story was reflected with what happens in the society, the author may take a phenomenon that happens in the society at that time.

Snow White in the comic version by Regis Maine is the modified character from the old character of Snow White into the modern one. The writer wants to say that Snow White in the comic version attempts to prove to the readers that women are no longer in the second position after the men. There is some evidence in the comic version was showing Snow White in the story by Regis Maine is feminist. For example: when Snow White cleaned the Dwarfs' furniture, when she cooks, and through the problem. It showed that she is active and

start to take a role in life. Different from the character Snow White in *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* by Vera Southgate, she was depicted as a dependent, passive woman, and lazy. Therefore, with the several proofs that the writer finds in the stories, the writer considered that Snow White's character in the story by Regis Maine is more feminist than the Snow White Character by Vera Southgate.

Stories and the Society

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs by Vera Southgate and Regis Maine were equally published in the twenty-first century. So it means that both stories were published after third-wave Feminism (1990-2000). Snow White's actions and her characteristics in the novel were a depiction of the real society in the feminist era on how they struggled to get their equality in society. They struggled for it but they cannot do anything and the result that got oppression from the same sexes who had a higher class or status, that was made women were weak and always sad. As Beauvoir stated in her book that when she becomes a young girl, her father had all power over her, then when she married her father transfer his responsibility to her husband (Beauvoir, 2011). In this case, even though Snow white had not yet got married to the prince but when she lived in the seven dwarfs' cottage, she unconsciously made the dwarfs the protector. Just like what we see in society that young girls before they married they will be under their father's protection whether after they marry they will be under their husbands' protection. It is indicated that a woman is always under the men and they seem does not have any role in society.

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs is by Regis Maine is one of the new versions, that will change the readers' mindset, that women nowadays should be stronger than women in the old times. In comic versions was showing to the readers that women were not lazy, weak, boring, passive, etc. In this study, the writer also wants to remind us that we are still living in a patriarchal society where men are superior to women, but patriarchy is not always about men are superior to women. That is the same with the problem we can see in both stories, how the queen jealous of snow white because of her beauty. Even with the queen's power, she attempts to kill snow white. But at the end of

the story, the queen was lost and dead. So that indicated that a woman is should be strong and never give up when faced with any problem in their life because there is nothing lasts forever and everything will be changing.

Conclusion

As time goes on, literary works also get influenced by the transformation of the era. The way people thinking or their perception of something will change with the changing era. Like the novel, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* by Vera Southgate, the author of it novel would put ideas related to what happened in the society. While in the comics version the author also put ideas that are related to what happens nowadays. Both stories are not very different, however, the time and perspective when the author creates the story are different. So that is made there are differences between the main character in the novel and comic version. The discussion reveals that Snow White in the novel having a modification or developing character in the comic version. The Snow White in the novel was depicted as Lazy, innocent, boring, dependent passive, and weak. While in the comic version the character Snow White was depicted as a strong, workaholic, smart, brave, and active. These developing characters are shown from her action through the problem she faced in each story. this study also shows that that novel and comics are a reflection of the society where we live. Such as these films that depicted women in the feminism era, where women struggled to get their rights to be equal to men in many aspects and also oppression to the woman by another person. Then, Snow White in *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* by Regis Maine is a modified form, where is a woman who finally showed the real character development of woman. It was shown how Snow White in the comic version was no longer as boring, too innocent, dependent weak, and passive but she was a workaholic, smart, energetic, friendly, and strong.

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