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**The Structural Analysis of The Main Character in Cinderella's Short  
Story in *Grimms Fairy Tales***

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**Abstract**

*The purpose of this study is to analyze the structure of the two Cinderella's short stories, namely Cinderella in Grimm's Fairy Tales written by Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm, and by Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm edited by Edna Henry Lee Turpin. In order for the meaning of the story to be fully conveyed to the reader, it is necessary to present the relationship between the plot and other elements in the story, and structure has a very important role in presenting this. This analysis reveals the author's intention to compose a story through intrinsic elements, that is characters especially the main characters, which are then related to characterization. The results of this analysis are expected to help readers to broaden their understanding of the two Cinderella short stories through these elements.*

**Keywords: Structure; Characters; Characterizations; Cinderella**

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**INTRODUCTION**

Literary works, both fiction and non-fiction, have many benefits to study because they present a lot of information and knowledge. Apart from that, literary works also function as entertainment. Prose fiction such as novels and short stories is one of the written literary works that is still favored by all circles of society. This makes a lot of prose which is eventually adapted into an animated film and a live action film, including one of them is the Cinderella story. Stories presented in the prose can enrich insight into all aspects of life, such as social, cultural, language, political issues, environmental issues, economic issues, and educational issues. This is in line with Setyowati & Sukmawan (2018) who stated that literature presents many values as a reflection of real life which is poured into the form of text, including the cultures that exist in society (Setyowati & Sukmawan, 2018).

Enjoying a literary work will be more meaningful if we can appreciate the work by not only enjoying it but also understanding and interpreting the value of the story through understanding the elements contained in it. Sayuti (as cited in Masie, Siswanto, Pratiwi, & Suwignyo, 2017) explained that the attempt to understand and interpret the values contained in a literary work which is then expressed in the form of writing is an appreciation of literary works. Enjoying a work, interpreting the value of literary works, understanding in the form of

analyzing elements of literary works, and realizing the values contained in literary works are the stages of appreciating literary works (Masie, Siswanto, Pratiwi, & Suwignyo, 2017).

The problem propounded in this study is the structural analysis especially in the intrinsic elements, namely the character elements of Cinderella's short story in *Grimm's Fairy Tales written by Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm*, and by *Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm edited by Edna Henry Lee Turpin*. This analysis leads to how the intrinsic character elements in the two texts support the author to convey his message to the reader. By presenting the differences and similarities of character elements in the two texts, especially the main characters, it is hoped that readers can appreciate these literary works. In later elaboration, the character element also raises another element, namely the characterization elements. The relationship between the two also has an important role in conveying the meaning of the story so that it can be conveyed completely to the reader.

Short story is one of the literary works that is still popular today. According to Poe (as cited in Irshad & Ahmed, 2015), short story is fiction (prose tale) which focuses on single effects which can be read in half an hour and no more than two hours (Irshad & Ahmed, 2015). It means that the short story does not allow to tell many characters, events, conflicts, or subplots. There are two important elements that can be analyzed in literary works and cannot be separated, namely intrinsic and extrinsic elements. Lestari (2019) stated that, intrinsic elements are the basic elements that directly build the structure of the story in the literary work itself, which includes: theme, character, plot, setting, and point of view. Intrinsic elements are interrelated with each other and have an important role in developing the story, without the presence of intrinsic elements, literary works cannot exist. While extrinsic elements are story building elements that come from outside the literary work (Lestari, 2019).

Characters are someone in a literary work who experiences events and is the creation of an author who is given a certain identity through names, appearances, conversations, and actions that can later help the reader to visualize the character accurately (Prawiradilaga, 2017). Prawiradilaga (2017) also stated that, a character who has an important role in the development of the story is called the main character. While supporting character is a character whose appearance only acts as a supporter and complements to the main character. Characters have a very big role in the development of a story, these characters are known as major characters. Minor character is the opposite of the major character, that is, the role does not contribute too much to the development of the story (Prawiradilaga, 2017). The next type of character is the protagonist and the antagonist character. The protagonist is the main character who plays an important role in the story and has a conflict with the antagonist character, while the antagonist is the opposite (Mentari & Wennyta, 2019). According to Mentari & Wennyta (2019) round character is a character who undergoes changes and developments both in personality changes in daily life and changes in social status that make this character have a major influence on the movement of the story (Mentari & Wennyta, 2019). Prawiradilaga (2017) adds that changes also occur in the mental, emotional, and physical characteristics of the character (Prawiradilaga, 2017). Flat character in relation to the round character is a character in the story whose personality is not too developed which makes the character less realistic (Prawiradilaga, 2017).

The description of the character will be easily understood by the reader through characterization. Therefore, character and characterization have a close relationship with each other. The character element raises the characterization elements. Characters are someone in a literary work who experiences events and is the creation of an author who is given a certain identity through names, appearances, conversations, and actions that can later help the reader to visualize the character accurately. Departing from this definition, it can be indicated that the characters are the persons contained in the story where the characters are then described through characterization. Characterization is give a clear picture to the reader about the character's character, including the physical appearance and personality of the character (Prawiradilaga, 2017). The personality of the character in the story describes the personality of the character, for example: careless or neat, being responsible or not, friendly, polite or lacking manners, indifferent or romantic and caring. Characterization in a story refers to the placement of characters with other characters (Lestari, 2019). The characterization played by the character must be able to convince the reader so that the reader can feel the quality of the characterization is in accordance with the character who plays it and the character has imbued the characterization he/she played, that is the function of the character. According to Aminah (2018), through a direct presentation, readers will be informed about what the character is like where the narrator directly says what he thinks about the character. While, indirect presentation refers to the actions and words of the character (Aminah, 2018). The relationship between the two also has an important role in conveying the meaning of the story so that it can be conveyed completely to the reader.

## **METHOD**

In this analysis, the writer applied the structural analysis and other supporting steps such as observe by reading carefully to collect the results about the character elements in both Cinderella's short story. The object of structural analysis is in the form of literary discourse and is presented with an internal approach (Todorov & Weinstein, 2014). Structural analysis can be a good way to understand literary works.

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS**

There is a difference in the number of characters in the two short stories of Cinderella. The characters in *Cinderella' short story in Grimm's Fairy Tales written by Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm* are *Cinderella, Cinderella's father, Cinderella's mother, Cinderella's step mother, Cinderella's step sisters, the Prince, the King, and Dove*. While, the characters in *Cinderella' short story in Grimm's Fairy Tales written by Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm edited by Edna Henry Lee Turpin* are *Cinderella, Cinderella's father, Cinderella's mother, Cinderella's step mother, Cinderella's step sisters, the Prince, the King, the butler (prince's servant), and Dove*.

Cinderella is the main character of the two texts. In addition, Cinderella characters in both texts are also categorized as protagonist, main character, major character, and round character. Cinderella is the main character also the protagonist character because Cinderella is a humble girl, a friendly, forgiving person, also a helpful person. This can be seen from how he accepted the presence of her stepmother and also his two stepsisters without ever repaying the crimes they had committed. This is in line with Mentari & Wennyta (2019) who stated

Cinderella is the only main character that appears in many Cinderella stories. Cinderella is a major character because of the existence of Cinderella and her life story has the potential to develop the story into an interesting story. How Cinderella's grief after her mother's death made her have to live with her stepmother and two evil stepsisters, until finally, her life returned to happiness after marrying the prince, it is the changes that occur in Cinderella's life as a round character. In addition, she also experienced a change in social status after marrying the prince.

Next, the writer focuses on finding the similarities and differences between the main character (Cinderella) in the two texts. The similarities between the main character (Cinderella) in the two texts can be seen through their characterization. Cinderella characters in both texts have the same characterization, including: filial, patient, hard worker, simple person, thankful person, soft-hearted, obedient, never give up, beautiful, and polite. Look at the table below to get a clearer picture of the characterization of Cinderella in the two texts.

**Table 1. Cinderella's Characterizations in *Cinderella' short story in Grimm's Fairy Tales written by Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm***

No	Characterization	Techniques of Character Revelation
1	Filial	Indirect Presentation through action
2	Patient	Indirect Presentation through action
3	Hard worker	Indirect Presentation through action
4	Simple person	Indirect Presentation through action
5	Thankful person	Indirect Presentation through action
6	Soft-hearted	Indirect Presentation through action
7	Obedient	Indirect Presentation through action
8	Never give up	Indirect Presentation through action
9	Beautiful	Indirect Presentation through action, Direct Presentation by the Author
10	Polite	Indirect Presentation through action

**Table 2. Cinderella's Characterizations in *Cinderella' short story in Grimm's Fairy Tales written by Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm edited by Edna Henry Lee Turpin***

No	Characterization	Techniques of Character Revelation
1	Filial	Indirect Presentation through action
2	Patient	Indirect Presentation through action
3	Hard worker	Indirect Presentation through action
4	Simple person	Indirect Presentation through action
5	Thankful person	Indirect Presentation through action
6	Soft-hearted	Indirect Presentation through action
7	Obedient	Indirect Presentation through action
8	Never give up	Indirect Presentation through action
9	Beautiful	Indirect Presentation through action, Direct Presentation by the Author
10	Polite	Indirect Presentation through action

### Similarities of Main Characters Between the Two Text

Cinderella characters in both texts have *filial* characterization. This can be seen from Cinderella's actions after her mother died. Cinderella went to her mother's grave every day to weep over it. This shows a form of devotion from Cinderella who visits her mother's grave every day and is saddened by her mother's death. Excerpt from Cinderella's short story *in*

*Grimm's Fairy Tales* edited by Edna Henry Lee Turpin, “Every day the daughter went to her grave to weep.” (pp. 156), is one of the evidences in the story that shows Cinderella's devotion.

In addition to filial, the two Cinderella characters in both texts have the same *patient* characterization. This can be seen from how she accepted the presence of her stepmother and also his two stepsisters without ever repaying the crimes they had committed. Cinderella's patience is always tested because her stepmother and her two stepsisters always treat Cinderella like a maid in her own house. Some events that show Cinderella's patience in the story are when Cinderella's stepsisters felt Cinderella did not deserve to be in the parlor with them and made Cinderella go to the kitchen. Cinderella's stepsisters took Cinderella's fine clothes and made her wear rags and wooden shoes, and led her mockingly into the kitchen. Cinderella is treated like a maid in her own house where every day she has to work until the night to do all the housework. By doing everything possible, Cinderella's stepsisters make Cinderella's life miserable. If the weather is warm at night, Cinderella will sleep on the kitchen floor, but she will sleep in the ashes on the hearth if the weather is cold. Therefore she became so dirty that made her stepsisters called her Cinderella or little ash girl. Cinderella's patience was still being tested when the party was held by the king, but her stepmother and two stepsisters did not let her come to attend the party. Cinderella's stepmother makes it difficult for Cinderella to go to the festival by giving her some requirements, but in the end she still didn't allow Cinderella to go with them. “*All her pretty clothes were taken away, and she wore rags and wooden shoes.*” (pp. 157), “*On warm nights she lay on the kitchen floor.*” (pp. 157), the quotes are evidence in the story that shows the patient nature in Cinderella.

The next characterization of the two main characters (Cinderella) in both texts is *hard worker*. Cinderella works from morning to night to complete all her homework alone without any help from her stepmother or step-sisters. Even though she was tired, she still had to finish all the work. In fact, at night when she wanted to rest to unwind after a hard day's work, Cinderella didn't have a proper place to sleep. “*From morning till the night she worked.*” (pp. 157), “*She rose early to draw water, to light the fire, to cook, and to scrub*” (pp. 157), these quotes are evidence in the story that shows Cinderella's hardworking nature.

The two Cinderella characters in both texts also have a *simple person* characterization. This can be seen from several events in the story. For example, when her two stepsisters took all of Cinderella's clothes and luxury items and required Cinderella to live a simple life. In addition, Cinderella's request was much simpler compared to the request of her two stepsisters when her father went to the fair. Cinderella only asked her father to bring her the first twig that strikes his hat on the way home, while her two stepsisters asked their father to bring them expensive gifts such as beautiful dresses, pearls and precious stones. “*'And, Cinderella, what will you have?' he asked. 'Father,' she said, 'please bring me the first twig that strikes your hat on the way home.'*” (pp. 158), the quotes are evidence in the story that shows Cinderella's simple personality.

Still in the same incident when Cinderella's father went to the fair, it also shows another Cinderella's personality, namely the *thankful person*. Cinderella thanks her father for granting her request to be brought the first twig that strikes his hat on the way home. “*Cinderella*

*thanked him for the twig even more than her sisters did for their beautiful gifts.*” (pp. 158), the quote is evidence in the story that shows Cinderella is a thankful person.

*Obedient* characterization is owned by both Cinderella characters in both texts. This can be seen from several events in the story. For example, when Cinderella's stepsisters felt Cinderella did not deserve to be in the parlor with them and made Cinderella go to the kitchen. In addition, Cinderella also obeyed the orders of her two stepsisters to prepare them both to go to the party, even though Cinderella herself was not allowed to attend the party by her stepmother and two stepsisters. Therefore, in order to be able to attend the party, Cinderella was willing to obey her stepmother's orders, which gave her the condition to pick a dishful of beans that her stepmother threw away into the ashes. “*‘Is this girl to sit in the parlor with us?’ asked her stepsisters. ‘We do not wish her there. Send her into the kitchen.’ So into the kitchen she had to go.*” (pp. 157), “*‘Comb our hair and brush our shoes and fasten our buckles. We are going to the ball at the king's palace.’ Cinderella did as they told her, crying all the while.*” (pp. 159), the quotes are evidence in the story that shows Cinderella is an obedient person.

Furthermore, the characterization of the two Cinderella characters in both texts is *never give up*. This can be seen from several events in the story. For example, when Cinderella begged her stepmother to allow her to attend the party so she had to work hard to pick a dishful of beans that her stepmother threw away into the ashes. There are differences in the role of Cinderella when the incident occurred, where the persistence of Cinderella's character in *Cinderella' short story in Grimm's Fairy Tales written by Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm* was more tested in getting her stepmother's permission because her stepmother told her to pick a dishful of beans into the ashes twice. Cinderella's never give up personality can also be seen during the three days of the party, where every day she asks Hazel-tree for help to help her dress up. On every day during the party, Cinderella also tries to manage the time well so that she can get home on time before her stepmother and her two stepsisters get home. This she did so that her disguise was not known by her family. There are differences between the two texts in the form of adding settings (places) when the event occurs, where Cinderella's character in *Cinderella' short story in Grimm's Fairy Tales written by Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm* jumped into the pigeon-house after she wished to go home on the first of the party, as well as when she wished to go home on the second day of the party, and she disappeared behind a big tree. Grimm “*But Cinderella kept begging to be allowed to go.*” (pp. 159), “*The third night the sisters went again to the ball. Then Cinderella said again to the hazel tree: ‘Rustle and shake, Dear little tree! For the king's ball, Once more dress me.’ Down came a dress more beautiful than either of the others.*” (pp. 163), the quotes are evidence in the story that shows Cinderella's never give up personality.

The next characterization possessed by the two Cinderella characters in both texts is *beautiful*. Many times in the story, either directly or indirectly, it is conveyed that Cinderella is a very beautiful girl. This can be seen when the two stepsisters began to treat Cinderella cruelly because they were jealous of Cinderella's beauty, so they tried to torture Cinderella in every way so that Cinderella no longer looked beautiful. Furthermore, Cinderella's beauty was very clearly seen when she attended the dance for three days in a row. Everyone at the party was in awe of her beauty, so the Prince didn't let anyone dance with Cinderella but herself.

“*She looked like a beautiful princess.*” (pp. 161), “*Cinderella, more lovely than ever, was the queen of the ball. The prince danced with her only, and he gave no one else a chance even to speak to her.*” (pp. 163), the quotes are evidence in the story that shows the beauty possessed by Cinderella.

The last characterization equation that Cinderella has in both texts is *polite*. In addition to all the previously mentioned characterizations, Cinderella is also described as a polite female figure. This can be seen when the Prince came to Cinderella's house to look for the girl who owned the slipper. When Cinderella's turn to try the slipper, she first bowed low to the prince as a sign of respect. “*She bowed low to the prince as she took the slipper from his hand.*” (pp. 167), “*so Cinderella was called, and she, first washing her hands and face, went in and curtsied to the Prince, who gave her the golden shoe.*”, the quotes are evidence in the story that shows Cinderella's personality. *polite*.

From the explanation above, it is known that character element has a relationship with characterization. The two are interrelated and cannot be separated from each other. The character element raises the characterization elements. The relationship between the two also has an important role in conveying the meaning of the story so that it can be conveyed completely to the reader. In Cinderella's short story, the reader can immediately conclude that the Cinderella character is the protagonist through the characterization given by the author to the character.

### **Differences of Main Characters Between the Two Text**

The writer does not find any significant differences in the two main characters (Cinderella) in the two texts, both from the characterizations and the type of character possessed by Cinderella. This may be because one of the texts (*Cinderella's short story in Grimm's Fairy Tales written by Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm edited by Edna Henry Lee Turpin*) is just an edited version of the original text (*Cinderella's short story in Grimm's Fairy Tales written by Jacob and Wilhelm*). The writer only finds that Cinderella's persistence in *Cinderella's short story in Grimm's Fairy Tales written by Jacob and Wilhelm* is more tested in getting her stepmother's permission because her stepmother told her to pick a dishful of beans into the ashes twice, but both are still included in the *never give up* characterization. Although there are other differences in Cinderella's role in the two texts, this does not affect the character and characterization of Cinderella. For example, in the *Cinderella's short story in Grimm's Fairy Tales written by Jacob and Wilhelm* when Cinderella wished to go home on the first of the party, and she jumped into the pigeon-house, as well as when she wished to go home on the second day of the party, and she disappeared behind a big tree. Although the difference in Cinderella's role causes the addition of events and even settings (places), this will not affect the characterization but will affect the storyline.

### **CONCLUSION**

Based on the writer's analysis using a structural approach, it shows that the two main characters (Cinderella) in the two texts have no significant differences, both from the characterizations and the type of character possessed by Cinderella. Cinderella is the main character of the two texts. In addition, Cinderella characters in both texts are also categorized

as protagonist, main character, major character, and round character. Cinderella characters in both texts have the same characterization, including: filial, patient, hard worker, simple person, thankful person, soft-hearted, obedient, never give up, beautiful, and polite. This may be because one of the texts (*Cinderella's short story in Grimm's Fairy Tales written by Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm edited by Edna Henry Lee Turpin*) is just an edited version of the original text (*Cinderella's short story in Grimm's Fairy Tales written by Jacob and Wilhelm*). Although there are other differences in Cinderella's role in the two texts, this does not affect the character and characterization of Cinderella. Although the difference in Cinderella's role causes the addition of events and even settings (places), this will not affect the characterization but will affect the storyline.

Based on the results of the analysis, it is also known that element character has a relationship with characterization. The two are interrelated and cannot be separated from each other. The character element raises the characterization elements. The relationship between the two also has an important role in conveying the meaning of the story so that it can be conveyed completely to the reader. In Cinderella's short story, the reader can immediately conclude that the Cinderella character is the protagonist through the characterization given by the author to the character.

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