

**JOURNAL**

**APPROVAL SHEET**

**READER-RESPONSE POINT OF VIEW ON  
“WONDER” MOVIE CHARACTERIZATION**

Compiled By:

Abigail Yan

NIM. 147016

Approved on February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Advisor

Dr. Wardani Dwi Wihastyanang, M.Pd

NIDN. 07020585001

# READER-RESPONSE POINT OF VIEW ON “WONDER” MOVIE CHARACTERIZATION

<sup>1</sup>Abigail Yan, <sup>2</sup>Dr. Wardani Dwi Wihastyanang, M.Pd

e-mail : <sup>1</sup>[abigailyan644@gmail.com](mailto:abigailyan644@gmail.com); <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1,2</sup>Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris STKIP PGRI Jombang

## Abstract

Literature is the expression of life in words of truth and beauty. It is already stuck on human's spirit, thoughts, and emotions. And the meaning of literature has taken over in human daily life. Understanding about literature is not always on novel or poem, but we also can explore it through movie. Movie is one of literary works that already popular in this century. Movie is an entertainment that can give us beyond of imaginations and emotions.

This study revealed one statement of the problem which is: 1) what are the characterizations of the main character Auggie Pullman in WONDER movie through reader-response point of view. It is investigated about a movie about a journey of a little boy named Auggie who has physical disabilities to face a reality.

In this study researcher used qualitative descriptive to analyze and for the approach, researcher chose reader-response theory to know more what the audiences think about the movie, especially on the main character, Auggie Pullman. And the kind of reader-response that researcher took is the individualist. Researcher used questionnaires to collect the data which is taken from the audiences themselves then researcher produced them into analysis.

The result of this study showed that there are many characterization of Auggie Pullman that told if he is very shy guy and has a self conscious because of his physical appearance. But Auggie is actually hilarious and he likes to help, above all he taught us to always choose kind.

And hereby, researcher suggest to the readers to develop more about literature in any kind of theory especially when the readers analyzing about characterization.

Keywords: Literature, Movie, Characterization, Reader-Response.

## Introduction

Literature has essential relation with human. According to Pickering, James H & Hoeper, Jeffrey D (1981. 01:307), literature is a uniquely human activity, born of man's timeless desire to understand, express, and finally share experiences. Literature is a written communication, representing of each soul and language, by all means literature has the part of human's life. Movie and literature are two different things but have the same goal, it is to make an understanding and enlargement of the insight of human civilization. According to Himawan Pratista (2008:1), film is an audio-visual media that combines two elements, namely narrative and cinematic. The narrative element itself is related to the theme while the cinematic elements are the flow paths or the storyline. Literature and movie also be able to inspire and enrich each other by action, images, words, and etc.

If talked about movie, it needed viewers. No work value be discovered, because viewers will become an essential thing in the process of movie. The role of viewers in literary work has been perceived since long time ago, the classic time. Reader-response is a criticism theory that builds a connection between reader and text. This theory is different than the others and it is alluring to be practiced and analyzed because this criticism is focused on the reader as the necessary subject along with the text. According to Culler (1981:105), reader-responses examines the reader's response to a text as a response to a horizon of expectations.

Thus, researcher will discuss about "Wonder" movie. Wonder is a 2017 American drama movie, directed by Stephen Chbosky. A lot of viewers have given comments to this movie ever since its released. Some are positives, also doesn't rule out of negative comments. Considering of the information and background, researcher participated into the bandwagon to watch the movie and it took out the interest of researcher to know more about Auggie's characterization. Knowing there would be a lot of different ideas and opinions of the watchers then the researcher simply used Reader-Response Theory to get an interpretation of the watchers regarding the movie. As researcher made a discussion on what viewers think about Auggie Pullman's characterization on "Wonder" movie based by reader-responses theory, absolutely this study took a point of view of the responders. Then the results be conducted in a study with title "Reader-Response Point of View on "Wonder" Movie characterization".

## **Review of Related Literature**

### **A. Literature**

Literature described as everything written; the use of language in written form (A. Teeuw 1987:30). Literature is a subject that we listen and read in daily of our life, because it has become a thing that is inherited from generation to generation. Not only that, literature is one of the cultural heritages that is freely available for everyone and it enrich us with new knowledge and meanings. Literature is something limitless, it has no bound to jump by all means everyone, in every age can create a story through writing or moving pictures and it will eventually be called as literature. Literature is a form that comes up by thoughts and ideas of the writer, then the writer pours down into a text but the text is not meant to be the thing like news or report but something that can entertain the viewers.

Klarer (2004:1) says, literature is referred to as the entirety of written expression can be categorized as literature in the more exact sense of the word, only written expression which has aesthetic can be called as literature. It determines as literature has many aspects, not only about aesthetic expression but imagination, feelings, ideas, and emotions which

something that are taken from human. It makes literature automatically attaches to human's life, covering all aspects of life and can't be separated.

## **B. Movie As Literary Work**

Nowadays, the technology growth in the world has evolved increasingly by the time, therefore there are plenty of new innovations or renewals of the technology that we can openly take in. In literature field; audiovisual materials such as drama and movie can be the great equipment for the viewers receive the reception of literary work easily. Without difficulties, we can find literary work that is adapted into movie and it is currently used and in progress. Like what the statement that Klarer had said (1998:56-57), "At the end of the twentieth century, it is impossible to neglect movie as a semi-textual genre both influenced by and exerting influence on literature and literary criticism. Movie is predetermined by literary techniques; conversely, literary practice developed particular features under the impact of movie. Many of the dramatic forms in the twentieth century, for example, have evolved in interaction with movie, whose means of photographic depiction far surpass the means of realistic portrayal in the theater."

## **C. Elements of Movie**

Movie is being created by two elements, they are narrative element and cinematic element. Both elements have its own role and they basically rely and support one another, if the two elements are continuous to help each other it will surely make the movie as successful as expected. The narrative element of movie is the material (story) to be processed, while cinematic element of movie is the way and the director's style on how he will direct the movie to process it (Pratista 2008:1).

## **D. Character**

Character is an essential thing that has to be included in narrative movie. The function of the character is about to tell why and what is the reason the performer (person) does that scene. Abrams (2009:42) states that, character is the person represented in a story, who are construed by the reader as possessing particular moral, intellectual, and emotional qualities by inferences from what the person say and their distinctive ways of saying dialogue from what they do. Kenney (1966: 20) says about characters that she is adopted by E.M Foster that characters in fiction are divided in to two: "flat" and "round" characters.

In the basic part of introduction of the character in narrative movie characters can be divided into several types based on different points of view and reviews. A character can be categorized in several types of naming: main character & supporting character, protagonist & antagonist, typical & neutral character.

## **E. Characterization**

Characterization is literary devices used in literature to highlight and explain the details about character in a story, in other word it can be said if characterization the process of conveying information of the character in fiction story (literature). Jones (1968: 84-86) states, characterization is the depicting of clear images of a person. Characterization, by this definition, means the real description of the characters participating in the story through their actions. There are 5 things that can be the methods for us to notice a characterization in a character development: physical appearance, displaying the character's action, revealing the character's thoughts, letting the character speaks, and getting the reaction of other. Jones also added (1968: 84-86) there are options for writer how to describe about character's characterization, their names are direct and indirect.

## **F. Reader-Response Theory**

There are many theories that can be used as to analyse a literary work, among them all the researcher takes reader-response theory to observe "Wonder" movie. In reader-response, literary work is being viewed by an activity or process of the reader's mind instead of being considered as fixed entity of aggregation. This process also takes on reader's assumption, anticipation, frustration, emotions, and reconstruction. Reader-response covering a composition of approaches to literary or text that focuses to the position of reader to create a meaning and modify it with a defense mechanism (Pradopo 2011:177).

To illustrate, viewers are like the cars that have different aim, which it means viewers will be give difference of the capacity of understanding the literary works and it eventually will contribute the appreciation, objectively. According to Iser, reader-response is the reading process a phenomenological approach, one must take into account not only the actual text but also "the action involved in responding to the text". In reader-response, there are 3 types of reader namely as individualist, experimenters, uniformists. Among 3 kinds of reader-response, this study definitely included as individualist type

## **Method**

The research was conducted by using qualitative research design (Creswell 2007:3), the data was purely collected from the dialogues in "WONDER" movie that brought out the characterization of Auggie Pullman and for the source of the data was taken from responses of the responders regarding the movie. In this research, the research instrument was a form of questionnaire, to make it more reliable to answer the problem statement it has been validated by expert validator. The steps of procedures of collecting data were downloading the movie, watching, preparing the questions for

the questionnaires that related to characterization, and coding. The last step was researcher explained the relation of the characterization and the main character that is being discussed. Interpreted of the literary work to find the answer of the problem statement by sorting out the responses of the participants into the table. After put the questions and responses on the table, researcher categorize on response which has similarities meaning to compare of one another, then researcher made a conclusion of each of the answer of the research problem that is classified as Auggie's characterization

## **Finding and Discussion**

In this research, the researcher presented the findings and discussed the characterization of main character "Auggie Pullman" based on the purpose of this study of the research. The discussion is done to answer the research problem that focused on the characterization. August "Auggie" Pullman is a main character from the movie "WONDER". Auggie held the most of conversation and he told where the plot went, Auggie character also has found in many related scenes. Auggie also described as a protagonist character he carried out goodness and delivered the concept of the movie.

### **A. Physical Apperance**

In this movie, Auggie portrayed as a kid who has disabilities by his face. Dinda and Andi thought Auggie is a 8 years old when he entered 5 grade. Both of them as well as Didi, Heru and Nadia added as well if Auggie's face had damaged ever since he was born. It didn't look like the normal kid's face but just different, by his face, cheeks, and mouth. Auggie has had more surgeries than most people go through in an entire lifetime, and he's only in the fifth grade

### **B. Self-Conscious**

Nadia, Heru and Dinda so convinced if Auggie has biggest self-conscious in the entire movie. From the beginning, he showed it off upon his new meeting with new people in regular school. Auggie worried about what would his friends think about his, especially his feature. He felt uncomfortable when Mr. Tushman encouraged him to have a school tour with the kids.

*"[3 kids entered the staff room]*

*Mr. Tushman: Good, they are here*

*Auggie: [Peeked at behind to checking out then looked back to Mr. Tushman with uncozy expression] who are they?*

*Mr. Tushman: Well, I thought it'd be helpful for you to meet some of our students before you start school, Auggie. What do you think?*

*Auggie: [looked at mom with worried face] other kids now?"*

*(SCC scene 1, 05:33 – 05:54)*

### C. Pessimistic

All of the participants agreed if at the first look, Auggie was truly pessimistic person. It showed of how he made thoughts by himself to people's opinion of his physical. When there was a friend who approached him, his classmate Summer, to eat together because Auggie didn't have friend at cafeteria and to sit with, Auggie rejected. He assumed if Summer approached him just because Mr. Tushman told her so and Summer pittied him.

*“Summer: Hi, I'm Summer.*

*Auggie: I know. We are in the same homeroom. You don't have to do this.*

*Summer: Do what?*

*Auggie: You don't have to be my friend. I know Tushman talked to you.*

*Summer: I don't know what you are talking about, Auggie.*

*Auggie: I know Tushman talked to some kids before school started and told them they had to be friends with me.*

*Summer: He didn't talk to me.*

*Auggie: Yeah, he did.*

*Summer: No, he didn't.*

*Auggie: Yeah, he did.*

*Summer: No, he didn't. I swear on my life! [Summer a bit raised her voice]*

*Auggie: Okay, okay. You don't have to get mad.*

*Summer: I don't like being accused of things, okay?*

*Auggie: Okay, I'm sorry.*

*Summer: You should be.*

*Auggie: He really didn't talk to you?*

*Summer: Auggie!*

*Auggie: Okay, I just... why are you sitting here then?*

*Summer: Because I want some nice friends for a change.*

*Auggie: Me, too.”*

*(PS, scene 54:35 – 55:25)*

### D. Dream On

Auggie has always dreamed to have friends to hang out and to play. But his fears about getting bad impression controlled his mind and his ego became bigger. His own secret kept close to him so nobody knew and understood.

*“What I wanted was to go to school, but only if I could be like every other kid going to school. Have lots of friends and hang out after school and stuff like that.”*

*(DO, scene 05:25 – 05: 34)*

### E. Shy

Both Dinda and Nadia claimed if Auggie was shy. Shy to approach new people and shy to interact with them. He always has the habit to look down whenever he meets the strangers. When he met Jack Will, Julian, and Charlotte he wished he could escape or make time passed quickly, but that is not how life goes.

*“Mr Tushman: Auggie, this is Jack Will, Julian, and Charlotte [Mr. Tushman introduces Auggie to those kids] Guys, this is Auggie Pullman [In return Mr Tushman introduce Auggie] Charlotte, Julian, and Jack Will: hi.. [stuttered with surprised face while Auggie kept looking down]”*

*(SH scene 1, 06:08 – 06:20)*

#### **F. Considerate**

A story-teller name Hoden Raden told if Auggie was very observant. He looked details deeply than others and it was also supported by Andi. There was a moment where Mr. Tushman introduced him to 3 kids at school to take him around the school and the first thing he was doing was looked on their frame body and shoes.

*“Meeting kids is harder than meeting adults. Everyone makes the same face at first... but kids aren’t good at hiding. So, I usually looked down. You can learn about people with their shoes, I think these three are: trust fund kid, hand-me-down kid, o-oh crazy kid.”*

#### **G. Smart**

There was a scene where it seemed delight to both Dinda and Didi, it was when the kids; Julian, Auggie, Jack Will, and Charlotte visited science class. Julian judged Auggie’s face by asking what was his face caused until got damaged in the rude way. But Auggie easily answered Julian’s question and also corrected his word.

*“Julian: Actually I have got one question for Auggie. What’s the deal with your face? [*

*Jack Will: Dude!*

*Julian: I mean, were you in a car crash or something?*

*Charlotte: Julian!*

*Julian: What? Tushman said we could ask questions if we wanted.*

*Jack Will: Not with rude questions. Besides, he was born like that, Mr. Tushman said.*

*Julian: Yeah, I know. I just thought maybe he was, like, in fire, too.*

*Jack Will: Hey, Julian, shut up.*

*Julian: You shut up.*

*Charlotte: Stop! Why don’t we all shut up?*

*Auggie: No, I wasn’t in a fire. And the word’s “supposedly”*

*Julian: What?*

*Auggie: You said that “Sains is supposably really hard” twice. The word’s “supposedly” with a “D”. Maybe my mom can homeschool you too.”*

*(SMR scene 1, 09:20 – 10:08)*

#### **H. Helpful**

Andi said Auggie was very helpful to Jack Will. A scene showed up there was a pop quiz which presented by teacher but because Jack Will was not really smart at science he lost faith to do his quiz. But Auggie was there to help, even it did mean with cheating. Auggie shared his answers to Jack Will so Jack could copy them.

Nadia approved what Andi said and remarked if Auggie would help Jack Will at science if only Jack would come to his house after school. And fortunately, Jack agreed.



*“There is scene where the teacher held a pop quiz. Jack Will couldn’t do the quiz because he wasn’t really smart at science. But Auggie helped him by showed his task off and shared with Jack Will.”*

*(HPF scene 1, 35:23 – 36:30)*

### **I. Comical/Hilarious**

Nadia and Andi agreed if Auggie also has funny side and he was actually hilarious. When Auggie has already got into friendship with Jack Will, both of them looked enjoyed companion one another. Whatever he said and acted he would turn it to be something playful to see. Even when Jack Will asked about the condition of his face, Auggie didn’t mind but tell him the truth in joking way.

*“Jack Will: What’s wrong?*

*Auggie: I just don’t like eating in front of people.*

*Jack Will: What do you mean?*

*Auggie: It’s long story. But when I eat, I chew like some prehistoric swamp turtle.*

*Jack Will: No joke! Me too!*

*[Jack Will showed how he done eating to Auggie, both laughing]*

*Auggie: Now, there is Tuna on your face.*

*Jack Will: Yeah! Tuna-Man!*

*Auggie: No, no! Let me show you how it’s done.*

*[Auggie showed his way to Jack Will and ended up both of them laughing]*

*Jack Will: Dude, that is more gross. [Jack Will playfully teased Auggie]”*

*(CMC scene 1, 37:34 – 38:03)*

### **J. Forgiving**

Both Nadia and Andi said if Auggie has soft side, they proved it on scene where Jack Will was made mistake that could be heard by Auggie. Jack unintentionally said he was forced to be friend with Auggie in order Julian’s question but truthfully, Jack never meant it. Then Jack went to online game and had some talks with Auggie before he apologized for what he had done.

*“Jack Will: I’m sorry for what I said.*

*Auggie: Truth... would you kill yourself if you looked like me?*

*Jack Will: No. But I totally would kill myself if I looked like Julian.*

*Auggie: Wait until he sees our science fair project!*

*Jack Will: So can we be friends again?*

*Auggie: OK!”*

*(FGV scene 1, 01:15:56 -01:16:40)*

### **K. Kind and Sensitive**

Despite how Auggie got treated by his friends at the school, Auggie never ceased to learn and grow up. He stayed still to go to school and faced whatever the situation. Until in the end of movie, Nadia revealed if Auggie gained recognition he deserved. He made it out to be role model for every student in school.

*“Auggie POV: Walking up towards that stage, I felt like I was floating. My heart was beating so fast. I didn’t understand why I was getting a medal. It’s not like I blew the Death Star, all I did was get through this fifth grade, just like everyone else here. Then again,*

*maybe that's kind of the point. Maybe the truth is, I'm really not so ordinary. Maybe if we knew what other people were thinking we'd know that none's ordinary. And we all deserve a standing ovation at least once in our lives."*

*L. (KNS scene 1, 01:44:00 – 00:44:41)*

## **Conclusion**

Based on the statement of the problem, researcher only focused on August "Auggie" Pulman's characterization as the main character of the movie. Auggie took a role as an important role and described as a protagonist character. In this movie, 5 participants joined together to give comments and opinions about Auggie's characterizations. 5 ways were being used to analyze the characterizations, they were: physical appearance, displaying the character's action, revealing the character's thoughts, letting the character speaks, and getting reaction of the others. 5 participants agreed if Auggie is a good person. He has potential, just like the other kids at his age but the difference that he got, he is not physically flawless as we think about. He had his face been undergoing many surgeries when he was a baby. He is a dreamer, he has always been dreaming to be astronaut.

When he meets new people he would think people instantly dislike him because of his appearance which makes his self conscious rising up inside himself. He is just very shy as in person and often he seems to be pessimistic. He thinks the world is against him and can't tolerate for who he is and he simply thinks if nobody could ever be friend and love him. But, he is a considerate and smart kid, because he thinks deeply and he response quickly than the others. Auggie is very helpful, he would like to offer a help to his friend when his friend can't study well at certain lesson. Auggie has comical/humorous side when he is around his closest people. He would innocently say anything upon something and it could burst out laughter. Auggie is forgiving. When his dad hid his helmet he was seemed a bit pissed but then he realized something. Instead of releasing his rage but he did forgive, as well as when Jack Will has done something wrong to their friendship. Auggie willingly forgave him and treasured their bond. Lastly, Auggie is kind and sensitive. From the beginning of the movie up to the end, he always chose kind. He never accused someone or kept a revenge to them whom mocked him but he stayed still being kind. Until he deserved something precious during his graduation day, he became a role model for all the kids in school

## **REFERENCE**

- Abrams, M. H. 1999. *A Glossary of Literature Terms Seventh Edition*. USA: Heinle and Heinle Thomson Learning
- Adi, Ida Rochani. 2011. *Fiksi Populer (Teori dan Metode Kajian)*. Yogyakarta: Pustaka Pelajar

- Aminuddin. 1990. *Metode Kualitatif dalam Penelitian Karya Sastra dalam Pengembangan Penelitian Kualitatif dalam Bidang Bahasa dan Sastra*. Malang: Yayasan A3.
- Creswell, John W. 2007. *Qualitative, Quantitative, and mixed methods approaches*. USA: Sage Publication.
- Davis, F. Todd and Kenneth Womack. 2002. *Formalist Criticism and Reader Response Theory*. New York: Palgrave.
- Fish, Stanley. *Is There A Text In This Class? The Authority of interpretive communities*. Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, 1980.
- Hariyanto, P. 2000. *Pengantar Belajar Drama*. Yogyakarta: PBSID Universitas Sanata Darma
- Kenney, William. 1966. *How To Analyze Fiction*. New York: Monarch Press
- Klarer, Mario. 1999. *An Introduction to Literature Studies*. London: Routledge
- Nurgiyanto, Burhan. 1995. *Teori Pengkajian Fiksi*. Yogyakarta: Gadjah Mada University Press.
- Pradopo, Rachmat Djoko. 2007. *Beberapa Teori Sastra Metode Kritik dan Penerapannya*. Yogyakarta: Pustaka Pelajar
- Saifuddin, M. 2010. *Literary Appreciation*. STKIP PGRI Jombang.
- Sugiyono. 2008. *Metode Penelitian Kuantitatif Kualitatif dan R&D*. Bandung: ALFABETA
- Sugiyono. 2014. *Metode Penelitian Pendidikan Pendekatan Kuantitatif, Kualitatif Dan R&D*. Bandung: Alfabeta.
- Teeuw, A. 2003. *Sastra Dan Ilmu Sastra*. Bandung: 2003
- Welleck and Warren. 1993. *Theory of Literature..* New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company.
- Wicaksono, Andri. 2014. *Pengkajian Prosa Fiksi*. Garudhawaca