

An Analysis of Characterization and Theme in The Netflix Series Bridgerton Season Three Part A

Udur Delima Sibatuara

English Language and Culture Study Program, Faculty of Economics and Business
University of Widya Dharma Pontianak
sibatuaraudurd5@gmail.com

Abstract

Theme is the main idea or thought in writing. Meanwhile, a character is an actor who experiences events and problems in the story or fiction so that the event become an interesting story. This research aims to find out about the characterization and theme in a movie series. The movie series that will be the object of analysis is Bridgerton Season 3 Part A. The writer applied the descriptive qualitative method, which focuses on movie theme and characterization analysis. In this research, the data was collected from watching the movies, and then the writer took notes and quoted based on the analysis. For the analysis, the writer identified, interpreted, or described the findings, and then made a conclusion based on the findings. The findings of this study reveal that the theme is unrequited love, friendship, growth, self-discovery and identity. While for the characterization, it is found out that both the main characters: Colin Bridgerton and Penelope Featherington is a dynamic and round character with a great personality and trait that will be shown in the series indirectly through their appearance, way of speaking, trait, how they act and so on.

Keywords: *Characterization, Themes, Netflix series*

Introduction

Literary work has a lot of functions that can be us as a platform to express ideas, thoughts, and feelings of the writers. Meanwhile, for the audience, one can seek enjoyment and pleasure. Not only that, but it can also give inspiration and understanding of certain things. Based on the journal article by Trisniani Ifianti and Anita Kurnia Rahman entitled "Analysis of Characterization of The Main Character of 'First They Killed My Father' Movie by Angeline Jolie" stated that literature can influence a person's way of life thinking and living in every color of life. Literary activity is mainly aimed at improving the mind, the imagination and expression. As a product of human culture, literature includes values which live and apply in society.

Meanwhile Keerthika, S. (2018). Literature and Society: How Literature reflects society. stated that Literature's primary goal is to stimulate and transform our mental processes. Writings of brilliant brains enable us to document their thoughts and emotions. We were enthralled with it for two reasons: its substance and its presentation. The information should pique readers' interest and be pleasing to them in some manner. The style needs to be one that delights the reader and broadens his understanding. In the same journal she also stated that "Literature makes us to deeply analyze societal issues and sometimes it provides us a solution to solve the problem. The Poet, the dramatist, the novelist, the essayist all of them reflects society in their works." As everybody want to live in their imagination, there is fiction literary work. Imagination makes life more beautiful and colorful. The experiences of those who live in a society are reflected in literature.

However, no matter how fiction a literary work is, all literary works contain elements of reality. Nowadays, one of the most access and closest literary works to people's life is movies.

When people wish to get out of every day's activity, movies often become one of the choices. By watching a movie, we can forget our busyness and pass through time easily. Moreover, it can also give us a lot of inspiration by serving amazing plot, setting, theme and characters. Besides movies, movie-series is also one of the most well-known accessed media. Unlike movies in which the story usually is in rush and packed into one, movie-series has a longer duration. It offers more in-depth and detailed insight into the story, the character, the setting etc. Movie-series is also classified into many types of genres. Starting from horror, slice of life, comedy, action, romance etc. Everyone has his/her very own interest in genre. People can choose what genre of movie and series that they want to enjoy.

Mikhail Bakhtin in his book entitled "The Dialog Imagination" stated that genres are by nature inter textual, influenced by the genres with which they are associated. Bakhtin believes genres are dynamic and always growing, not static. Of all those genres, romance is the most popular genre. Cited from journal article, "The Portrayal of Daphne Bridgerton's Love Language: Semiotic Analysis in Bridgerton Series" by Lerissa Daniela and Fentaria Praisety Faoth, Todd (2014) argues that the reason why love stories are so popular in movies is because they are relevant to society and the lives of people. The romantic genre views human connections as something that people should anticipate from one another. The film portrays the characters' emotions as they fall in love and struggle through social obstacles together with their loved ones.

Nowadays, there are many platforms in this technology digital era. Audience can access movie and movie series with various of genres through a lot of places. Viu, Disney plus, IQIYI, Wnetv and one of the most well-known is Netflix. Netflix offers a lot of different movies and series from a lot of different genres and themes. The movies are made by a lot of different production houses, even from a lot of different countries.

Netflix also creates a series, Bridgerton, a romantic historical drama series which first appeared on December 25, 2020. Now, Bridgerton is one of the most anticipated drama series by a lot of people. This series already has two seasons. Now, in 2024 they come up with a new season. Premiered on May 16, 2024, Netflix gives part a which contain of four episodes. The series will continue next month on June 13, 2024, giving another four episodes to complete the series. From the description above, the writer wants to analyze Bridgerton Season 3 Part A. Because in this season, Chris Van Dusen as the creator and executive producer offers a lot of exciting things for the audience to enjoy. How the character that was previously shy and tend to be a passive character which does not really speak much have a lot of changes. Focusing on the previously side character and give the insight of their everyday life and their romantic life makes this season more interesting and a little relate for the introvert.

This series focuses on the past in London. Giving a little explanation and understanding of the past life in London. Even though this series is a fiction, but it can give us ab insight how society is in the Regency era.

Hashmi and friends (2023) study the Bridgerton by Julia Quinn as an Inter-Text of Female Universal Voice as A Critical Discourse Analysis Stated that Literary critics and social historians view the Regency Era as the era that lay between the Georgian and Victorian eras. It was renowned for its sophistication and overall achievements in all sectors. and especially in the domains of fine arts and architecture. Presenting oneself in public as polite and kind was encouraged by regency social traditions and etiquette. This story revolves around the life of the Bridgerton family. The Bridgerton family who is a family of Viscount is one of the most well-known and strong family in the ton. The Bridgerton family was originally a family of 10. The late viscount who is already dead not long before the last child Hyacinth was born, the mother Violet Bridgerton, and their eight children. Anthony Bridgerton who is now a Viscount Bridgerton, Benedict Bridgerton, Colin Bridgerton, Daphne Bridgerton, Eloise Bridgerton, Francesca Bridgerton, Gregory Bridgerton and Hyacinth Bridgerton. The mother, Violet

Bridgerton, believe and want all their children to marry for love just like her and her husband did.

The first season focus on Daphne, the eldest daughter, and the Duke of Hastings which at first, fake dating for their advantages but ends up falling in love with each other. The second season focus on Anthony Bridgerton who at first want to find a perfect match and find a perfect match based on society but the sister (Kate Sharma) of the match really hates him. Accusing him not worthy because he does not love her sister but, Anthony ends up falling in love with Kate who were his enemy and marry her. For the last season, focus on the third son of Bridgerton family. Colin Bridgerton who loves to travel abroad. Upon his return after a few months of travelling, he came back with a new personality. He that was still a boy and talkative and naïve change. Not only his personality but his appearance. Penelope Featherington as the female lead of this season was previously a shy girl who is always become a laughingstock of the ton. She always has a crush on Colin secretly. In this season, she changes her appearance at first causing people to be surprised. With her change of appearance, she hopes to find a husband even though she has a crush on Colin Bridgerton. Colin, as her best friend helps her at first, but then when she attracts a suitor, he relies on his feeling for her and through a lot of problem and misunderstanding they finally get to be honest with their feeling towards each other.

In the other part of season three, it talks about their life and journey through their engagement and marriage in society and how Colin discovers Penelope's secret life. With the release of the new season of Bridgerton, a lot of people are anticipating this series. It became the number one most popular series on Netflix. According to Netflix's internal ranking, the first half season three reached up to 45.05 million views worldwide. Make it has the biggest debut weekend in series history.

Based on the description above, the writer wishes to describe the theme of the series Bridgerton Season 3 Part A and how the characterization of each of the characters in the series Bridgerton Season 3 is.

Theoretical Review

Films, movies, and movie series are forms of literature that can be used to entertain people of all ages. Begin with the youngest member of the family and progress up to the eldest. They all enjoy movies. A film series, often known as a film franchise, is one of the most fun and popular forms of movies available today. As the audience, we can have a deeper understanding of the story. Not only that, but we may gain a better understanding of and engage with the character. We will be presented with a longer story with a variety of inventive ways for the author to describe the characterization.

In "A Glossary of Literary Terms" (1971), M.H. Abrams defines characters as people portrayed in a dramatic or narrative work who, based on inferences drawn from their actions and words, as well as the opinions of other characters, readers understand to possess specific moral, intellectual, and emotional characteristics. In accordance with Abraham's thesis, Wayne C. Booth claimed in 1961 in his book "The Rhetoric of Fiction" that character is described as "a moral center of awareness" in the story. Booth emphasizes how characters symbolize certain viewpoints and values, impacting how the reader sees the story. Each character, like actual individuals, has their own personality and traits. It distinguishes one character from another in the same way as humans do in real life. A single character can be described directly or indirectly. A character can have multiple personalities, or merely one or two. In literature, characters can alter as the plot progresses. It's called characterization.

Booth (1961) defines characterization as making an impression of someone else. Booth emphasizes how well-executed characterization gives the impression that we are interacting with a genuine, diverse human. In agreement with Booth's viewpoint, David Lodge emphasized

in his 2007 book "Working with Character" that characterization is the process by which a writer conveys the sense that a person exists regardless of their wishes or intentions. Lodge emphasizes the significance of characterization in giving characters a sense of agency in the plot. Knowing the expert's definition of characterization enables the writer to discern how the author of a story intends to reveal the character's personality. People struggle to understand characterizations because human characteristics are complex, diverse, and ambiguous.

There are some character developments that are shown in some numbers. They can be recognized by their appearance, alterations, and individual traits. In "Making Characters Dance: The Craft of Characterization in Literature" (2008), Sean Doyle asserts that a range of techniques, including "direct description, dialogue, action, internal monologue, and the character's relationships with others," are employed to reveal the personality of the proposed character. This idea aligns with his assertion. This thorough approach comprehends the different methods authors employ to create characters. Mieke Bal concurred with Doyle in "Narratology: Introduction to the Theory of Narrative" (1985), asserting that narrative voice and focalization play a crucial role in illuminating characterization. Presentations of characterizations might be direct or indirect. Direct characterization presentation suggests that the personality is communicated to Direct display of characterization indicates that the personality is revealed to the audience. In contrast, indirect characterization depicts elements that reflect a character's personality. It can be seen in their voice, ideas, actions, appearance, and how they treat others, as well as how other characters treat them.

A character could also be based on human characteristics. It is separated into flat characters, which often contain only one or two qualities. Round characters are more complicated and have a variety of qualities and personalities. Changes are another method for revealing characterization. There are static characters, who remain the same individual throughout the novel. A dynamic or growing character is one that changes during the plot.

Aside from the character, the concept is another noteworthy aspect of the novel. Theme refers to the story's fundamental topic. In his book "Anatomy of Criticism" (1957), Northrop Frye defines theme as "the controlling idea or statement of a work of art." According to Frye, Terry Eagleton stated in 1983 in "Literary Theory: An Introduction" that "a set of cultural concerns or values embodied in a text."

Methodology

In this section, the writer outlines how to conduct the research. There are two categories: qualitative and descriptive. These categories assist the writer in determining the overall outcome of this study. A research methodology is a rigorous and theoretical investigation of the procedures used in a specific field of study. The process of research involves emerging questions and procedures, data typically collected in the participant's setting, data analysis inductively building from particulars to general themes, and the writer making interpretations of the meaning of the data. The final written report has a flexible structure. The writer will use this design to analyze the characterization and the theme to answer the question that have been formulated before. By analyzing the movie series Bridgerton Season 3. To have the best result, the writer will first watch the series and understand the story. Then the theme will be analyzed. Lastly, the writer will understand and analyze the character in the series.

Findings and Discussion

The Theme for Bridgerton Season 3

The writer found out that the unrequited love and second chance in this movie series revolve around Penelope Fetherington which loved Colin Bridgerton for a long time, but Colin

did not recognize her feeling. In this season, they explore how Penelope tries to move on and try to get a husband. Through her change, Colin started to see her in a new light. Identity and secrecy that in the previous season, has been revealed that Penelope has a secret, which she is the famous gossip writer "Lady Whistledown". The queen is trying to find who is behind Lady Whistledown and how society is really influenced by Lady Whistledown.

In this season, Netflix explores more on how Penelope has to maintain her secret identity and how she has to write scandals of her own in order for it not to be questionable. This season 3 also shows how Colin Bridgerton hates Lady Whistledown without knowing who is behind it. Besides, Friendship as in the previous season shows how close Penelope Fetherington and Eloise Bridgerton. In this season, it shows how Eloise and Penelope fight. Penelope tried to apologize, but Eloise refused to accept it. It shows how Eloise creates a new friendship with Cressida Cowper who is Penelope's bully. And also, self-discovery and growth are in this season, it explores how both Colin Bridgerton and Penelope Fetherington grow. Penelope seeks independence and confidence, while Colin grapples with his own desires and strives to become a better man.

The characterization of the characters in this series are more complex.

In this research, the writer found some characters with the most screen time. There are Colin Bridgerton, Penelope Fetherington, Lord Debling, Eloise Bridgerton, Cressida Cowper, Francesca Brdigerton, Portia Fetherington, and Violet Bridgerton. The analysis is as follows:

1. Colin Bridgerton

- Indirect: Colin Bridgerton is an indirect character because through his appearance, way of talking, physical transformation as well as how he flirts and treat woman in the society. Other than that, Penelope's conversations with Colin and her inner monologue demonstrate his lack of self-awareness by showing his ignorance of her emotions.
- Dynamic: he is a dynamic character because Colin undergoes a significant transformation throughout the season. He starts out oblivious to Penelope's feelings and unsure of his own desires. By the end, he shows signs of growth, becoming more assertive and expressing a desire for love.
- Round: Colin is a round character because he is complex and have many sides of personality. He is a nice and kind guy, but in this season, we can see how he changes, becomes flirty. How he is willing to help Penelope to find a husband show how he is a good friend. But then, it is shown that he is arrogant and lacks self- awareness. The writer can also see his struggle, desire, journey towards self-discovery.

2. Penelope Fetherington

- Indirect: Just like Colin, Penelope is also an indirect character. Her appearance, way of talking, way of thinking and her secret life as Lady Whistledown show how she is an intelligent woman.
- Dynamic: she is a dynamic character. In the first episode, we can see that her style is still based on her mother, but then she changes her appearance. Writer also notices how she changes from a shy and awkward girl when it comes to talking to man, to a more confidence person.
- Round: She is a round character because throughout the season, we can see how Penelope is not a confident person and awkward. But deep down she can be smart, clever, funny and a fun person. Her secret life as Lady Whistledown is also proof that she is a round character.

3. Lord Debling

- Indirect: Just like any other character, Lord Debling is also described indirectly through his appearance, choice of words and how he acts. How he talks to Penelope, how other characters describe him is proof that he is actually a good person. In the

fourth episode, Portia Fetherington explains to Penelope about the fortune that he has also indirectly proved that he is rich.

- Static: In this season, there is a lack of backstory of Lord Debling. It makes the audience not know about her traits. But, throughout this season, he remains a static character. He comes with the intention of finding a wife and his love of nature and animals. He also has a friendly personality. It stays the same in the first part of the season.
 - Flat: his lack of background also makes him a flat character. Throughout the season, we are shown by his love of nature and animals. His intention to find a wife this season is also shown.
4. Eloise Bridgerton
- Indirect: Her traits, way of thinking, choice of words and her appearance show how she is different from other girls in society.
 - Dynamic: in the first episode, it is shown that Eloise does not want anything to do with Penelope anymore. But, then in the next episode when Penelope was in a scandal because she accidentally told people, she came and apologized. She also shows how she actually wants the best for herself.
 - Round: The writer found out that Eloise is a round character, because we can see that she is actually fun and really good at talking. She is also different from other girls that wish to marry. She has a lot of tough on that. The writer can also see how Eloise does not like fashion and is really close to her family. But we are shown how Eloise can be careless and despite her activeness, she can be a quiet person sometimes.
5. Cressida Cowper
- Indirect: Just like any other character, how Cressida dresses, how she talks, how she acts really shows her personality indirectly. How she treats Penelope shows that she is a mean bully.
 - Dynamic: At the first episode, we are shown how Cressida is mean to Penelope. But then, later Eloise reminded Cressida about sympathy. Cressida then change to a better person. She still does not treat Penelope with kindness, but at least she did not do mean things or say mean things to Penelope anymore.
 - Round: it is shown in this season that despite of her in the society that always likes to talk and active. Deep down she really wanted a friend. It also explains in this season that Cressida showed little care to Eloise when she was excluded from society because of her scandal.
6. Francesca Bridgerton
- Indirect: her trait and personality are shown by how she speaks and acts.
 - Dynamic: Throughout the first part of season 3, Francesca shows how she only wants to find a husband. She does not care for love. But, later in the next episode, it is shown that she finds her love and wants to fight for it.
 - Round: it is explained in the season that she actually loves her family despite her quiet and introvert personality, but sometimes she wants to get out of her siblings and have a little quietness.
7. Portia Fetherington
- Indirect: Her choice of words and how she tells and teaches her children show her personality and how she thinks.
 - Static: from the first season until the last episode that have been released, Portia is always a mother that wants her daughter to marry. She also always tells and teaches her daughter everything, even though she sometimes is not a wise mother.
 - Round: Portia can be careless and not a wise mother, but it is also shown that she actually cares for her daughter in her own way. How she teaches her daughter in every of their steps shows it.

8. Violet Bridgerton

- Indirect: Her choosing of words and how she tells and teaches her children show her personality and how she thinks.
- Static: Violet Bridgerton always have the same intention. Her intention is for all her children to marry for love. How she encourages her children to fight for their love stay the same from the first episode until the last in part A.
- Flat: She is a flat character. She is always portrayed as a tender, loving and wise mother in this season. Penelope seeks independence and confidence, while Colin grapples with his own desires and strives to become a better man.

There are still other minor characters that appear in this series; however, they have a lack of background and they do not really appear in the season. Almost all of them are described indirectly by their appearance and choice of words. What makes them different is that they tend to be static and flat as they do not appear much in the series.

Discussion

Based on the analysis of the theme and characterization of some major and important characters of the movie series entitled *Bridgerton* in Season Three Part A found that the themes of the movies are unrequited love, self-discovery, growth, and friendship. Meanwhile from the analyzing of the main characters, it is found that Colin Bridgerton and Penelope Fetherington have dynamic and round personalities which makes the story more interesting. As well as other characters also support and make the story more desirable.

Conclusion

After observing and analyzing a major character of the *Bridgerton* in Season Three Part A especially viewed from characteristic theory. The writer realizes that the process of its analysis is a little bit difficult because of worries and nervousness. This movie explains that the themes of the movies are unrequited love, self-discovery, growth, and friendship. However, from the study above also be concluded that some of the most screen time are Colin Bridgerton, Penelope Fetherington, Lord Debling, Eloise Bridgerton, Cressida Cowper, Francesca Brdigerton, Portia Fetherington and Violet Bridgerton. And the main characters found are Colin Bridgerton and Penelope Fetherington that have dynamic and round personalities which makes the story more interesting.

Suggestion

At the end of the research, the writer would like to give some suggestions that watching the movie is interesting, it entertains us, gives us information, and especially the movie gives us some message. A good message can be applied in our daily life. We have to be a wisdom audience. For the moviegoers, the writer assumes that some people in the world like watching movies. Watching movies has many functions, this is not only as an entertainment medium, but we can get many messages from it. Because in the movie the author wants to convey something useful and valuable, and we can guide the children's attitude. Usually watching movies can give us inspiration, morals, education, and motivation. The writer hopes that moviegoers can see the positive side and take it to imply their life. And finally, the writer hopes this research will enrich the readers' knowledge or science and useful as a reading reference.

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