# AN INTRINSIC ANALYSIS IN WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S TALE FROM THE PERSPECTIVES OF CHARACTER'S PERSONALITIES, PLOT AND SETTINGS

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**Abstract**

This research is aimed at finding out character's personalities, plot and settings of a tale, *The Merchant of Venice* by William Shakespeare. The descriptive-qualitative method was used. The documentation technique was applied in collecting the data. To analyze the data, the researcher used an intrinsic approach. The results showed that there were three sorts of character's personalities in the story (i.e. round character, flat character, dynamic character). In this research, round characters (major characters) had something to do with Antonio and Shylock. In addition, flat characters (minor characters) had connection with Bassanio, Gratiano, Portia, Nerissa, Jessica, Lorenzo, Morocco and Arragon, and dynamic characters (double characters) had been in line with Portia and Nerissa. In addition the plot of the story had something to do with sirkuler, linear and foreshadowing. Furthermore, the settings of the story related to setting of the time, in terms of long ago and three months, while setting of place, in terms of a court and at Portia's house as well as at Belmont in Italy.

**Keywords**:  Tale, Character's Personalities, Plot, Settings

## INTRODUCTION

At the beginning of this writing, it is much better to define what language is.  Language is such an expression of human being life that it hardly seems crucial to define it. Whatever else people may do, when they come together, whether they play, fight, make love, or make automobiles, they talk and use a language (Fromkin, Rodman  & Hyams, 2003, p. 3). Furthermore, Richards, Schmidt, Kendricks  & Kim (2002) define language as the system of human communication which consists of the structural arrangement of sounds (their written representation) into large units, e.g. morphemes, words, sentences, utterances, etc." It means that language is a means or instruments of communication, which consists of spoken and written forms, and they are arranged structurally into parts mentioned before. (p. 283)

One of the language components is that literature. Ade and Okunoye (2008) say that literature refers to some certain facts, as follows:

1) Literature is imaginative.

2) Literature expresses with life experiences.

3) Literature deals with life experiennces.

4) Literature uses words in a powerful, effective and yet captivating manner.

5) Literature promotes recreattion and revelation of hidden facts. (pp. 2-3)

Additionally, Hornby (2010) states that literature is pieces of writing that are valued as works of art, especially novels, plays and poems in contrast to books, newspapers and magazines. (p. 869). In this case, the researcher thinks that literature is such a human's cultural creations in which people afford to express their ideas entirely. In other words, literature in reading helps readers clarify their own identities. It also helps us shape our assessments on the comparison of the good and the bad things, and enables us to develop the events happen around us and in the world.

The researcher further states that the main objective of learning literature is to build the awareness of human, and to compare the real life to the literary works itself. On the other hand, most readers or students read literary works such a tale only for fun. They tend not to ponder with good lesson inside the character's personalities that can change their personalities. They even do not know the intrinsic elements in the story such as characters, plot and setting. That is why, the researcher was interested in conducting a research under the title*"An Intrinsic Analysis in William Shakespeare's Tale from the Perspectives of Character's Personalities, Plot, and Settings"*.

## LITERATURE REVIEW
### Tale

According to Baldick (2001), tale is a humorously exaggerated story of impossible feats. (p. 256).  In this case, tale is like a story which shows humour to readers which has been too much to be to be believed. Additionally, Quinn (2006) elaborates tale as a loose term for any type of story, frequently used to describe very simple Narratives, such as a fairy tale which is regarded as an exaggerated or fantastic story, usually comic in its intention (p. 411). In this context, tale is considered as a story which contains of imagination of the author that is written to amuse readers.

Cuddon (2013) says that tale is a narrative, written (in prose or verse) or spoken, and in prose, it is barely distinguishable from a short story, and If there *is* a difference, then a tale perhaps suggests something written in the tone of voice of someone speaking. (p. 710). In brief, tale is such a narrative writing in terms of literary works yet the tone of the characters make it different from short story.

### Character

Quinn (2006) states that character is a person depicted in a narrative or drama or traditional fiction and usually includes a physical description of a character's appearance, but

many modern and postmodern novels dispense with the physical description and focus on the state of mind or motivation of the character. (pp. 72-73). In conclusion, character is figure who involves in the story related to character's performance or appearance. In addition, Baldick (2001) states that character is a personage in a narrative or dramatic, describing some recognizable type of person. (p.37). It means that character is sort of person who takes the role in the story in a special type of literary work, such a dramatic narrative.

On the other side, Cuddon (2013) says that character refers to the person portrayed in a narrative or dramatic work, and also a short prose sketch of a particular individual type. (p. 116). Mikics (2007) says that character is from is the Greek word for a mark or stamp: and, by extension, a distinctive feature. It comes to mean an individual, named personality, in literature or in life and presents a brief sketch of a familiar social type: (pp. 53-54). In this research, character has something to do with distinctive figure in terms of personality of social category.

Abrams and Harpham (2009) itemize character as the name of a literary genre. It is a short, and usually witty, sketch in prose of a distinctive type of person. It is also represented in a dramatic or narrative work, who are interpreted by the reader as possessing particular moral, intellectual, and emotional qualities by inferences from what the persons say and their distinctive ways of saying it—the dialogue—and from what they do—the action. (p. 42). In other words, character means has been in line with the persons who involve in the story, like in a prose uttering dialogs.

Childs and Fowler (2006) scutinize character as the fictional representation of a person, which is likely to change, both as a presence in literature and as an object of critical attention, much as it changes in society. Ideas of the place of the human in the social order, of human individuality and self-determination, clearly shift historically; and this is often mimed in literature (p. 23). It means that characacter refers to person who takes in part in the story as the representation of such a self-determination.

**Characterization**

Baldick (2001) defines characterization as the representation of persons in narrative and dramatic works which include direct methods like the attribution of qualities in description or commentary, and indirect (or 'dramatic') methods inviting readers to infer qualities from characters' actions, speech, or appearance. (p.37). In conclusion, characterization is regarded as the method of getting the description of the character's quality. Endraswara (2003) also says:

characterization derives from character is which refers to attitude or personality that rolled by the actor or actress in a story. Character is a clear illustration about a person which performs in a story, and it has strength and clearness will help to understand the theme or message in that story and described in three dimensions (dimensional character). The description can be based on the physics (tall or short, face, thin or fat, gender, age, etc), psychical (hobby, the mentality, morality, ambition, etc), and social (occupation, religion, nationality, etc).200 (pp. 9-10).

It means that characterization has relationship with the personalities of the characters in the story, in terms of good or bad characters that make the story become much stronger and it is also connected to the appearance of the actors or actresses inside the story.

**Plot**

According to Quinn (2006), plot is the design and ordering of incidents in a narrative or dramatic work. It should not be confused with a simple outline of the events in a narrative. It requires characters to enact it; characters always engage in acts, however minimal. (p. 324). In this case, plot means an outline of series of a story that has something to do with the character's role inside the running of the story.

Baldick (2001) says that plot is the pattern of events and situations in a narrative or dramatic work, as selected and arranged both to emphasize relationships usually of cause and effect between incidents and to elicit a particular kind of interest in the reader or audience, such as surprise or suspense. It refers to that sequence of chief events which can be summarized from a story or play, modern criticism often makes a stricter distinction between the plot of a work (p. 195). In this research, plot is series of condition that show dramatical running that stimulate readers interest to read more.

Mikics (2007) elaborates plot as "the intelligible whole that governs the succession of events and orders events as the narrative sequence presented by a book as we read it from first page to last. It often begins at a later chronological point and doubles back to an earlier one. (p. 236). It means that plot is such an order line of narrative sequences in the story or play that is appeared chronologically. Meanwhile, Cuddon (2013) defines plot as the plan, design, scheme or pattern of events in a play, poem or work of fiction; and, further, the organization of incident and character in such a way as to induce curiosity and suspense in the spectator or reader. (p. 540). In this reserach, the reseracher assumes that plot is such story organization which is made to make the tension of what readers read about the story or play.

Childs and Fowler (2006) testify plot as a term of highly varied status which can mean as story of a work–the simple narrative line which can then flesh out by considering character

and description, tone and texture, pattern and myth. (p.177). In other words, plot refers to a point of story running which can emphasice the characters' role in the story or play.

Like other experts, Endraswara (2003) illuminates plot as all of the series of the events or scene from the start until the end of the short story or novel and often regarded as story construction that built in the story. Endraswara (2003) further states that plot can be divided into three parts, for instances:

1. Sirkuler in which the story concerns with one topic or problem.
2. Linear, in which the story continues from the beginning to the end
3. Foreshadowing, in which the story tells about something that happened in the past. (pp. 9-10)

It means that plot is considered as a series of scene in a story either in a novel or another literary term that divided intro three core part such as sirkuler, linear and foreshadowing which can not be seperated in the story since it builds readers' emotional reading interest.

**Setting**

According to Quinn (2006), setting is the time and place of a narrative and drama and, by extension, the social and political context of the action. (p.384). In this case, setting has something to do with where and when the story takes place. In addition, Cuddon (2013) says that setting has been in line with where and when of a story or play; the locale, and in drama it may refer to the scenery or props. (p. 650). In this context, setting has been regarded as the place and time of the story happens.

**METHODS**

This research was conducted to find out character's personalities, plot and settings in William Shakespeare's tale, *The Merchant of Venice*. Thus, the researcher used the descriptive-qualitative method, since he wanted to describe the existing phenomenon without manipulating. According to Indawan, Sulaiman & Susanti (2017) descriptive-qualitative is such a research design which is used to conduct a research which does not have something to with two or more variables, such a treatment. (p. 54). Additionally, Tavakoli (2012) states:

> A descriptive method in descriptive research is to describe, compare, contrast, classify, analyze, and interpret the entities and the events that constitute their various fields of inquiry. It is concerned with conditions or relationships that exist; practices that prevail; beliefs, points of views, or attitudes that are held; processes that are going on; effects that are being felt;or trends that are developing. At times, descriptive research is concerned

with how what is or what exists is related to some preceding event that has influenced or affected a present condition or event. (p. 160)

In this case, descriptive research was used to establish the existence of phenomenon by explicitly describing them. It is important to emphasize that while this type of research may begin with a question or hypothesis, the phenomenon it describes are not manipulated or artificially elicited in any way. Indeed, in collecting the data, the researcher used triangulation technique, namely: documentation, observation and interview to get the trustworthiness from the experts.

**FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

This research has two kinds of data sources to be analyzed. The primary data and the secondary data. The primary data was a story book of six tales from William Shakespeare which was retold by Dodd (1986), and the secondary data were some other books or journals that used to be references to support the primary data. After the data got from the docummentation technique, the reseracher analyze the data through a literary approach, in term of intrinsic apporach which relates to collecting the data, identifying the data, classifying and categorizing the data, interpreting the data and drawing conclusions. (Indawan, Sulaiman & Susanti, 2017, p. 96)

In this case, there were two core character's personalities related to round characters (major characters) and flat characters (minor characters). To be clear, Table 1 presents character's personalities of William Shakespeare's tale, *The Merchant of Venice* in terms of round characters and flat characters.

**Table 1. Character's Personalities in William Shakespeare's Tale**
   ***The Merchant of Venice* in Terms of Round Characters and Flat**
   **Characters**

| Round Characters | Flat Characters |
|---|---|
| 1. Antonio, a merchant from Venice, a town in Italy | 1. Bassanio, a friend of Antonio who married Portia, a rich lady at Belmont |
| 2. Shylock, a Jew money-lender | 2. Gratiano, another of Antonio who came along with Bassanio to come to see Portia |
| | 3. Portia, a rich wife of Bassanio |
| | 4. Nerissa, a good maid servant of Portia |
| | 5. Jessica, a daughter of Shylock |
| | 6. Lorenzo, a husband of Jessica |
| | 7. Morocco, a prince of Africa |
| | 8. Arragon, a prince of Duke of Venice |

(Dodd. 1986)

Table 1 shows two core of round characters or major characters related to Antonio, a merchant from Venice in Italy regarded as a protagonist character and Shylock, a money-lender from Venice in Italy regarded as an antagonist character of the story. In addition, there were eight other characters who were considered as flat or minor characters, such as Bassanio, Gratiano, Portia, Nerrisa, Jessica, Lorenzo, Morocco and Arragon who were all friends of Antonio.

In stead of round or major characters and flat or minor characters, there are also other characters found in the story, considered as dynamic characters who had double roles. Not only as flat or minor characters but also as back-up characters. To be detailed, Table 2 Illustrates other character's personalities of William Shakespeare's tale, *The Merchant of Venice* in terms of dynamic characters

**Table 2. Other Character's Personalities in William Shakespeare's Tale, *The Merchant of Venice* in Terms of Dynamic Characters**

| Dynamic Characters |
| --- |
| 1. Portia, a wife of Bassanio who under covered as a lawyer to defend Antonio in a court |
| 2. Nerissa, Gratiano's wife as well as the maid servant of Portia, who also under covered as the assistant of the lawyer in a court |

(Dodd. 1986)

Table 2 shows other character's personalities in line with dynamic characters (double characters) which had something to do with Portia who had double roles in the story. Once she became a good wife of Bassanio, as soon as she became a lawyer in a court who suddenly came up to help or defend Antonio but he did not realize it. Another one was Nerrisa, a wife of Gratiano who also had double roles in the story. Once she became a loyal maid servant or home assistant of Portia, as soon as she became a lawyer assisten who also defend Antonio in a court.

In addition, the researcher also found three sorts of plots in William Shakespeare's tale *The Merchant of Venice*, for instances: plot of sirkuler, plot of linear and plot of foreshadowing. To be detailed, Table 3 illuminates plots found in the story.

**Table 3. Plots in William Shakespeare's Tale *The Merchant of Venice***

| Plots | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Sirkuler** | **Linear** | **Foreshadowing** |
| It relates to one topic or one problem, in term of loan that Antonio borrowedfrom Shylock to help Bassanio. As he could not return it on the hey day he was sued to the court to give his flesh. | It tells the series of events from beginning till end. It is introduced by orientation in term of describing the major characters, Antonio and Shylock, and some other people.In the end, it was closed by a happy ending in which Antonio was safe. | It tells about a tale in the past which initiated by the expression"long ago, there lived". It also tells about a past revenge of Sylock, a money lender who hated Antonio since few years ago. |

Dodd (1986)

Table 3 shows three types of plots, such as sirkuler, linear and foreshadowing. In this case, sirkuler plot has something to do with one problem between Antonio and Shylock. Linear plot has been in line with such a complete tale of *The Merchant of Venice* in which is begun with orientation and ended with conclusion. While, foreshadowing plot bears on a series of past event of such a tale *The Merchant of Venice* in which initiated with past time maker" Long ago, there lived". On the other side, the researcher also found the settings of the story which illustrated the running of the story in terms of setting of time and setting of place. To be vivid, Table 4 describes the settings of William Shakespeare's tale, *The Merchant of Venice*.

**Table 4. Setting of William Shakespeare's Tale *The Merchant of Venice***

| Settings | |
|---|---|
| **Time** | **Place** |
| 1. Long ago<br>2. Three months | 1. In Venice, a town in Italy<br>2. At Belmont<br>3. In a court<br>4. In Portia's house |

Dodd (1986)

Table 4 shows two characteristics of settings found, setting of time referred to *long ago* and three months, while setting of place is changed from one place to other places such as *in Venice, at Belmont, in a court and in Portia's house*.

## CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

In this research, the researcher concluded that there were two core of round characters or major characters related to Antonio, a merchant from Venice in Italy regarded as a protagonist character and Shylock, a money-lender from Venice in Italy regarded as an antagonist character of the story. In addition, there were eight other characters who were considered as flat or minor characters, such as Bassanio, Gratiano, Portia, Nerrisa, Jessica, Lorenzo, Morocco and Arragon who were all friends of Antonio.

Other character's personalities were also found, in line with dynamic characters (double characters) which had something to do with Portia who had double roles in the story. Once she became a good wife of Bassanio, as soon as she became a lawyer in a court who suddenly came up to help or defend Antonio but he did not realize it. Another one was Nerrisa, a wife of Gratiano who also had double roles in the story. Once she became a loyal maid servant or home assistant of Portia, as soon as she became a lawyer assisten who also defend Antonio in a court.

Additionally, three types of plots were found such as sirkuler, linear and foreshadowing. In this case, sirkuler plot has something to do with one problem between Antonio and Shylock. Linear plot has been in line with such a complete tale of *The Merchant of Venice* in which is begun with orientation and ended with conclusion. While, foreshadowing plot bears on a series of past event of such a tale *The Merchant of Venice* in which initiated with past time maker" Long ago, there lived". Moreover, two characteristics of settings found, setting of time referred to *long ago* and *three months,* while setting of place which were often changed from one place to other places such as *in Venice, at Belmont, in a court and in Portia's house*. Knowing how important this research is, the researcher further states some suggestions, as follows:

1) It is wise for readers to read a short story in order to be able to get more lessons about human's life, characters and the events which probably happened.

2) It is suggested that all of students of English Study Program, and those who take literature lesson to read the short story *The Merchant of Venice*, since it carries a moral massage.

3) Eventually, the researcher suggests that there will be someone who will continue his or her study and make it more qualified, complete and useful to those who read and analyze it.

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