

Nuclear Relations in Construing the Character of Percy Jackson

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Abstract— One of the systems within a language is system of ideation. It deals with how human experience is construed in discourse (Martin & Rose, 2007: p. 73). Included in the system are nuclear relations, materializing at the rank of clause and below clause. Through nuclear relations, experiential meaning in a fictional text can be realized. One aspect of experience is how a character is portrayed throughout the story. This research is qualitative research, aimed at studying how the characterization of Percy Jackson, the central figure in the novel Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief, is construed by nuclear relations within clauses and nominal groups. Data in this research cover clauses and nominal groups which construct the portrayal of Percy Jackson in the novel. The data were examined to identify how Percy Jackson is characterized through nuclear relations between elements. The result shows that the character of Percy Jackson is construed by means of 9 types of nuclear relation configuration at clause rank and 4 types of configuration at nominal group rank. This research puts a brief picture about how relations between elements in clauses and nominal groups play a role in how a character in a fictional text is depicted.

Keywords— *nuclear relation; clause; nominal group; characterization*

I. INTRODUCTION

Text, in the perspective of Systemic Functional Linguistics is a semantic unit and in inside a text are various kinds of relations between elements which realize it (Halliday & Matthiessen, (2014). The relations take place between clauses and between lexical elements. Relations formed by the elements in a text (which is a semantic unit) functions more than just to unite the existing elements, which make the text a whole unit but also communicate particular message. A clause contains event, participants and objects involved within, places and qualities. A nominal group is made up of thing, items which classify it, describe it and items qualifying it (Martin & Rose, 2007). The relations between the constituting elements of clause or nominal group convey, among others, meaning related to human experience. One of the messages beyond the relations of the elements is the picture of persons or objects involved in the text.

In a fictional work, particularly prose, nuclear relations in the smaller units in it can reveal how a character is presented in the story. Relations between processes with the other involved elements and between Things and elements which modify them can give clue about how a character feels, behaves, thinks and other features related to the representation of the character in narrative and dramatic works, i.e. characterization (Oxford Dictionary of Literary Terms).

Investigations on how a character is portrayed in fictional have been previously done. Researches investigating how characters are presented in fictional works using the framework of transitivity have been conducted by Mahardika (n.d.), Candra (n.d.) and

Manggala (2017), revealing that processes in the studied clauses reveal the traits of the characters in the stories. As experience can also be reflected by units of other ranks, investigation can be expanded to cover nominal group. Covering wider area of investigation, the analysis in this research is done on clauses and nominal groups, involving not only relations between process and associated participant, place and quality but also relations between Thing and its classifying, describing and qualifying attributes. This research is aimed at revealing how the main character in the novel Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief is portrayed through nuclear relations within clauses and nominal groups, in terms of the types of relation between elements and the general portrayal of the character.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

A. Nuclear Relations within Clause

A clause, in the view of Systemic Functional Linguistics, performs a number of functions. One of the functions is construing experience through a process along with the associated people and things, places and qualities (Martin & Rose, 2007: p. 90). How the clause's constituents

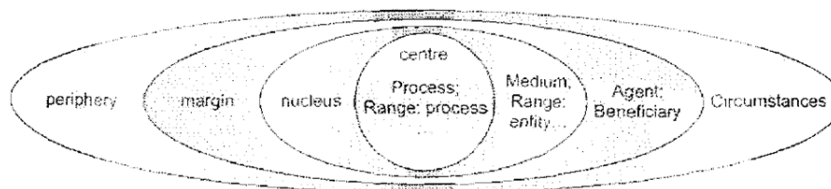


Fig. 1. Nuclear Relations within the Clause

At the center of a clause is the process, which may also include range: process, class or part. Medium is the nuclear participant in the clause and identified as having nuclear role. The process and medium form a relationship taking form of dependency. A process cannot take place without medium. The process and medium/range: entity determine other elements that are available to give details to the clause. Moving further from the center, there are elements which hold lesser degree of significance, namely agent and/or beneficiary (marginal). Agent and beneficiary can be left unexpressed in a clause and thus, they are considered to have marginal role. Meanwhile, some circumstantial elements occupy the role of periphery and some are nuclear (Martin and Rose, 2007).

The understanding of nuclear relations is developed by Martin and Rose from the need to augment the grammatical descriptions in construing experience pointed out in the previous works by Halliday and Matthiessen, and also Caffarel et al. by involving two complementary sets of ideational patterns which are equally necessary. One of them is conjunctive relations and the other is lexical relations. They recognize that "fields of experience consist of sequences of activities involving people, things, places and qualities. These activities are realized by clauses and their elements." (ibid.)

As the idea of nuclear relations is developed from the previous idea, it has a link to Halliday's transitive model and ergative model of transitivity. The roles based on the relation to the degree of involvement (embodied in the ergative model of transitivity) correspond to the other model, the transitive model, which views elements of a clause as process, participant and circumstance. Therefore, there exists correlation between the two, in which elements of a clause under ergative model's view have their equivalents in the view of transitive model. The correlation is affirmed by Halliday (2014) and extracted in the following table.

TABLE I. TRANSITIVE FUNCTIONS AND ERGATIVE EQUIVALENTS

	Typical proposition	Ergative function	Transitive function						
			material	behavioural	mental	verbal	relational: attributive	relational: identifying	Existential
process	—	1 Process							
		2 Medium	Actor [mid.]; Actor or Goal [eff.]	Behavior	Senser	Sayer [mid.]; Target [eff.]	Carrier	Token	Existent
	by	3 Agent	Initiator or Actor [eff.]	—	Inducer or Phenomenon ['please']	Sayer [eff.]	Attributor	Assigner	—
	to, for	4 Beneficiary	Recipient; Client	—	—	Receiver	(Beneficiary)	—	—
	at, on, etc.	5 Range	Scope	Behaviour	Phenomenon ['like']	Verbiage	Attribute	Value	—
circumstances	for, over, across, etc.	6 Extent	duration, frequency (temporal), distance (spatial)				how long? how far? how often?		
	at, in, on, from, etc.	7 Location	time (temporal), place (spatial)				when? where?		
	with, by, like	8 Manner	means, quality, comparison, degree				how? what with? in what way? like what? to what extent?		
	through, for, etc.	9 Cause	reason, purpose, behalf				why? what for? who for?		
	in case of, etc.	10 Contingency	condition, concession, default				under what conditions?		
	with, besides, etc.	11 Accompaniment	comitatus, addition				who/what with? who/what else?		
	as, into, etc.	12 Role	guise, product				what as? what into?		
	about, etc.	13 Matter					what about?		
	according to; to, etc.	14 Angle	source, viewpoint				who says? who thinks?		

This system of nuclear relations stems from the analysis of English and has been proven to be discovered in other languages. Some academic references have proven similar system in Kodava, a South Dravidian language (Rose, 2005); in Indonesian and Javanese (Wiratno: 2018). Despite the existence in more than one languages, nuclear relations in each language may be different from another because of difference in terms of grammar rules.

B. Nuclear Relation within Nominal Group

Nuclear relations also work in the elements within a nominal group. As clause does, nominal group construes experience through an entity along with the associated sub-classification and qualities. How a nominal group's constituents are interconnected is briefly described in the following figure.

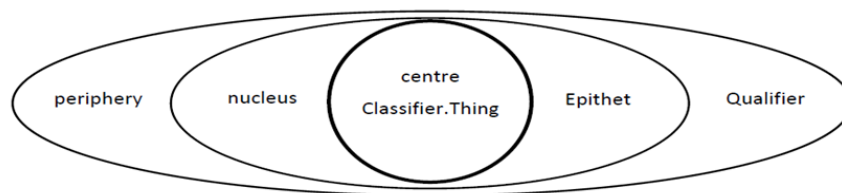


Fig. 2. Nuclear Relations within Nominal Group

The central role in a nominal group is occupied by the Thing. In addition to Thing, the element which classifies the Thing (Classifier) is also identified as having central role. Epithet is the modifier which describes the quality of the Thing and it is considered to have nuclear role. Structurally, epithet is further from the Thing than classifier. Meanwhile, compared to Classifier and Epithet, qualifier occupies more peripheral role in a nominal group (Martin and Rose, 2007).

C. Characterization

The term "characterization", based on the definitions contained in the Oxford Dictionary of Literary Terms, refers to the representation of people in narrative and dramatic works. Characterization is the way an author describes the traits of the characters contained in a work of fiction. Characterization is divided into direct characterization and indirect characterization.

Direct characterization is the method of exposure of the characters in a story that is done directly by the author. This type of characterization only relies on the descriptions and explanations given by the author. Kenan (1983: 60) states that the portrayal of the personality of a character belongs to the category of direct characterization only if the description is sourced from the party that has the most dominant influence in the text (author). Here Kenan gives an example of a narrative that describes the important characters of the main character The Portrait of a Lady as follows: "Isabel Archer was a young person of many theories; her imagination was remarkably active. ... Her thoughts were a tangle of vague outlines ... "Descriptions originating from such authors are more reliable than similar portrayals from other parties, such as other characters in the story.

Meanwhile, indirect characterization refers to the way of describing a character's traits besides portrayal in the form of the author's description of what a character looks like. In addition to being able to find out from the author's description, the traits of a character in a work of fiction appears through static and dynamic elements (Tobler, 2010). Static elements include name, age, gender, facial expression, posture, expression, clothing and objects owned, profession, title and environment. Meanwhile, dynamic elements include actions and physical reactions, movements, behavior, speech and ways of speaking (including what is spoken, tone of voice, choice of words, tempo and dialogue) and what is thought. Related to the utterances made by the characters in the story, when a character talks about another character, what he is speaking about reveals the figure of the person being talked about as well as the picture of himself (Kenan, 1983: 64). The statement implies that the utterance that reveals the figure of a character does not only come from the character itself, but also comes from the words of other figures.

As persona, characters are given human attributes and life backgrounds and are also described in social, historical and cultural spheres (Dolaykaya, 2017: 1016). Fictional character can be seen from how the author portrays the character. The images and imagery that the writer wants to create can be done through the way a character speaks, what he says, his attitude and behavior (Reams, 2015). In addition, fictional character can also be known from its influence on other characters, appearance, reactions of other characters to their actions (whether a character is liked or despised), names and series of emotions related to characters throughout the story (Plescenco, 2014). In general, literary works are used as a medium for the makers to share information and imagination and therefore the involvement of analysis of the creators of literary works is important. In addition, it is also stated that the figure of the work of fiction is an imaginative figure because it was created from the imagination of its creator. However, his personality and character are based on the perception of the creator of figures in real life (Mario, 2013: 3).

More than the creator's perception of what is in the real world, the characters in the work of fiction may carry something wider. Dolaykaya has a view and proves through a study that the concept of "character" has developed along with the times. In an essay, Dolaykaya has revealed the results of a study, which was related to Federman's statement, that the character in the work of postmodern fiction has undergone a transformation. Character in postmodern fiction works has transformed from the concept that character is a reference to a creature called human (human-being) into "word-being". The figure in a story can be as dynamic as the discourse that creates it, more than the character that carries fixed attributes, including name, gender, condition, profession, situation and identity as part of the community (2017, p. 1007).

III. METHOD

This research is a descriptive research aimed at describing how nuclear relations in the data in the forms of clause and nominal group construct the way Percy Jackson is portrayed in the novel. The data consist of clauses and nominal groups which contain the representation of Percy Jackson. The data were collected by means of content analysis. The data were studied through the analysis of the elements constructing the clauses and nominal groups. The analysis was also done on how the relations between elements construct the character of Percy Jackson in terms of: identity, personality and attitude, physiological trait, attitude, reactions of others, special attribute and proficiency.

IV. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Based on the investigation, it is identified that there are several relations between elements in the data in the form of clause and those taking form of nominal group. The following section provides the detail.

A. Elements of Character Realized by Clause

As many as 6 elements building the character of Percy Jackson are identified. The data in the form of clause are classified based on the elements involved in the construal of Percy Jackson's character.

1) Identity

The first element of character is identity, which is further divided into personal identity and kinship.

You're a half-blood.

This clause reveals the personal identity of Percy Jackson. In the story of the novel, Percy Jackson is the son of one of the gods in Greek mythology. Because he thought the gods are not more than a myth, Percy does not yet believe that he is a descendant of one of the gods. Annabeth warned that Percy is not like common children; he is a descendant of a god. The central element in the clause consists of a process "re (are)" and a range: process "a half-blood" while the nuclear element is the medium "you". The configuration of the elements points out Percy's being a half-blood.

I'm saying it's no accident Poseidon has claimed you now.

The clause also reveals the identity if Percy Jackson in terms of his being the son of Poseidon, the god of sea. The meaning is realized by the central element "claimed", nuclear elements "Poseidon" and "you" and the peripheral element "now".

2) Physiological Trait

The second element building up the character of Percy Jackson is physiological trait. This element is classified into life stage, appearance, ability and endurance.

"Hey, Gabe," his friend Eddie interrupted.

"He's just a kid."

The clause uttered by Eddie informs the reader that Percy is at his early stage of life "kid". This part of the portrayal of Percy Jackson is realized by means of the central element "'s (is)" and nuclear elements "he" and "a kid".

You have his black hair, and his green eyes.

The clause points out Percy's physical appearance, particularly how Percy's eyes and hair look like. The description of this feature is realized by the configuration consisting of the central element "have" and nuclear elements "you" and "his black hair, and his green eyes".

Nevertheless, **you made it here alive**, and that's always the first test.

The clause is an indication of how tough Percy as a god descendant is. Many other half-bloods are unable to arrive at Camp Half-Blood without being killed. The point about Percy's physical endurance is suggested in the novel by means of central element "made it", nuclear elements "you" and "alive" and a peripheral element "here".

3) Attitude

The next element of character is attitude, further divided into material action, mental attitude and verbal attitude.

I slammed the door to my room, which really wasn't my room.

The clause indicates how he behaves in terms of material action. Percy is annoyed because his father asks Percy for gambling money. Percy expresses his feeling by slamming the door as indicated by the central element "slammed", marginal element "I" and a range process "door". The construction also comprises a non-restrictive clause.

But I didn't.

In the novel's story, Percy Jackson is portrayed as the person accused of stealing Zeus's lightning and Hades's helmet. Mr. Brunner told Percy that Zeus accused him of stealing his lightning. The clause shows how Percy denies stealing the god's two properties, which shows his insistent nature. The clause construes experience through the relation between the central element (process) "didn't" and marginal element (the agent of the action). The clause contains an ellipsis, which is the part of the clause following "didn't". The full form of the example clause is "But I didn't take it."

... you're not normal, Percy. That's noth-ing to be-

"Thanks," I blurted.

The clause indicates how he behaves in terms of verbal action. He interrupts Mr. Brunner's spoken words. The clause used for realizing the meaning consists of the central element "blurted", the nuclear element "I" and a minor clause.

4) Reactions of Others

This trait is divided into being loved and being hated. Some examples along with a brief description of this trait are presented as follows:

Your mom stayed with him to protect you.

This clause informs a notion about the character Percy Jackson, namely a child who is loved by his mother. The clause is uttered by Grover. The central element in the clause is the process "stayed" while the nuclear element is the medium "your mom" and "him". Meanwhile, the other clause consists of the central element "protect" and nuclear element "you".

Hades had tried to kill me three times so far, with the Fury, the Minotaur, and the hellhound.

The clause informs how Percy is hated by Hades, the Lord of the Underworld. The central element in the clause is the process "had tried". The nuclear elements in the clause are the second event "to kill" and medium "me". Meanwhile, the peripheral element of the clause consists of the circumstantial elements "three times" and "so far".

5) Special Attribute

Special attribute refers to attributes possessed by Percy due to his being a descendant of a god. The trait is divided into disorder and superiority. Both are interrelated since Percy's disorders are at the same time his superiority.

Taken together, it's almost a sure sign. **The letters float off the page when you read, right?**

The statement is uttered by Annabeth and it characterizes Percy Jackson in terms of abnormality. The statement consists of two clauses. The first is comprised of the central element "float", nuclear element "the letters" and peripheral element "off the page". In addition, the second clause is composed of the central element "read" and nuclear element "you".

That's because your mind is hardwired for ancient Greek.

The statement is the one following the previous Annabeth's statement. The clause is about one of Percy's superiorities. The clause informing his superiority is realized by nuclear relation elements of central element "is hardwired". The nuclear element contained in the clause is "your mind". Meanwhile, the peripheral element is "for ancient Greek".

6) Proficiency

Percy's trait in terms of his proficiency is divided into talent and ability. The followings are the examples of clauses indicating Percy's proficiency.

You have gifts you have only begun to know.

The clause is uttered by the spirit of the sea. Percy is at the bottom of the Pacific Ocean. Percy has the ability to breathe underwater because he is the son of the sea god, Poseidon. The nuclear relation elements uncover one of the qualities Percy has. The elements consist of central element "have" and nuclear elements "you" and "gifts you have only begun to know".

The only thing I really excelled at was canoeing.

Percy, as a descendant of a god, attempts to discover his power and he finds out that the only excellence that he has is canoeing. The skill is again related to water as Percy's real father is Poseidon. The clause only consists of central element "was". The other elements are "the only thing I excelled at" and "canoeing".

TABLE II. REALIZATION OF PERCY JACKSON'S CHARACTER (CLAUSE)

Category of Characterization		Nuclear Relation Elements								Number
		C-N	C-N-M	C-N-P	C-N-M-P	C-M	N	C	P	
identity	personal	22	4	6			2			53
	kinship	16		2			1			
physiological trait	life stage	4		1			1			21
	appearance	2		1			1			
	ability	3	1							
	endurance	3	2	2						
attitude	material	17	6	9	6		5	4		377
	action									
	mental	149	63	43	23	2	9	10	6	
reaction of others	verbal	10	5	5				5		109
	loved	31	7	19	13	1	6			
	hated	12	8	12						
special attribute	disorder	36		9						138
	superiority	54	9	12	18					
proficiency	potential	12	2	1						33
	skill	10		3				5		

Percy's features building up his character are in part revealed through clauses. Within the clauses, relations between central element and nuclear element(s) are frequently identified. The relations between processes and participants convey information about how the main character is portrayed in the story. All categories of Percy's characterization are realized through the clauses constituted by central and nuclear elements. All categories of Percy's traits and features can be realized through clauses consisting of central and nuclear elements because this type of configuration construe experience in terms of relations between process in the clause and the participants directly involved in the process. All features excluding ability are realized by means of clauses with central - nuclear - peripheral configuration. This type of clause also construes relationship between process and directly-involved

participants but this type of clause also involves time, place and cause as circumstantial elements. There also exist clauses containing only a single element. This happens because the other elements building up these clauses are made implicit, which can be uncovered from their surrounding clauses.

The identity of Percy Jackson is realized by means of clauses comprised of other configurations, namely central - nuclear - marginal, central - nuclear - marginal and clauses containing only nuclear element. His physiological trait is realized through central - nuclear - marginal, central - nuclear - marginal, central - nuclear - marginal - peripheral and clauses containing only central element and only nuclear element. Percy's attitude is portrayed in the novel by all identified configurations of nuclear relation elements. Percy's figure is realized through four other configurations than central - nuclear. In addition, the special attribute and proficiency share similar realization, namely clauses consisting of central - nuclear - marginal and central - nuclear - peripheral, except special attribute is also realized through the configuration of central - nuclear - marginal - peripheral while proficiency is also realized through clause of only central element, instead.

Elements of static character, like appearance, disorder and skill tend to be realized without involving marginal element. This can be linked to the nature of marginal element itself, which is obliquely-involved participant. These types of element of character are different from other elements which can be associated with obliquely-involved participants, like the attitude of the main character in the story.

B. Elements of Character Realized by Nominal Group

Different from the elements identified at the rank of clause, 5 elements building the character of Percy Jackson are identified in the data taking form of nominal group. Nuclear relations in the nominal groups that build the characterization of Percy Jackson are described in detail as follows:

1) Identity

Identity of the main character in the novel is also realized by nominal groups. Percy's identity realized by nominal groups is also divided into personal identity and kinship.

Oh, I love **mortals**-they have absolutely no sense of perspective.

The nominal group shows that Percy has the attribute of being a mortal, not completely god. Percy is talking to Mr. D, who calls half-bloods like him "mortals". The nominal group consists only of central element "mortals".

Poseidon-my dad-he didn't really have this master bolt stolen, did he?

The nominal group acting as the subject of the clause indicates that Percy is Poseidon's son. Percy is told that Poseidon is the one accused of stealing Zeus' master bolt. Percy cannot believe that his father really has the bolt stolen by Poseidon asks for clarification that the accusation is false. The nominal group consists of central element "Poseidon" and a peripheral element "my dad".

2) Physiological trait

The physiological traits of Percy Jackson is divided into life stage, appearance and endurance. The following section presents the detail.

"No such floor, **kiddo**."

The nominal group "kiddo" is the casual variation of "kid". The clause containing the nominal group is uttered by the guard of the entrance to the palace of the gods when they have conversation during Percy's attempt to meet Poseidon and Zeus. The nominal group consists only central element.

"Such a pity to destroy **a handsome young face**," she told me soothingly.

The nominal group gives the readers information about Percy's appearance, particularly his handsome face. The clause is uttered by a monster when she is about to turn Percy into stone. The nominal group is composed of the central element "face" and nuclear elements "handsome" and "young".

I find **the two most powerful half-bloods of the century, Thalia and Percy**.

The nominal group describes Percy's physiological trait, particularly his endurance as he is considered to be one of the strongest half-bloods of the century. The nominal group is part of the clause uttered by Grover when he compares himself to Percy. Grover feels that he is inferior to Percy. The nominal group consists of the central element "half-bloods", nuclear element "most powerful" and peripheral element "of the century".

3) Attitude

Nominal group is also a means of depicting Percy's attitude. This feature is divided into material action and mental attitude.

... he sent me here. Half-Blood Hill. Summer camp for **brats like you**.

The nominal group can be viewed as revealing Percy's action. Almost in the entire part of the story, Percy is considered to be a troubled kid. The clause is the one expressed by Mr. D when he tells Percy about how he gets his duty at Camp Half-Blood. Mr. D considers Percy a brat like other half-bloods at the camp.

I could start at any point in **my short miserable life** to prove it, ...

This nominal group shows Percy's mental attitude in the way that it reveals how Percy views his own life negatively. The clause containing the nominal group is the one appearing in the early part of the novel. The nominal group consists of central element "life" and nuclear elements "short" and "miserable".

4) Reaction of Others

The same as the classification at the level of clause, this feature is divided into Percy's being loved and his being hated.

"No, **honey**. He knew I was expecting a baby, but he never saw you.

The nominal group "honey" in the clause points out how Percy is loved by his mother. She is telling Percy that his father realizes the pregnancy but his father never even sees Percy for once. The nominal group indicating that Percy is a beloved person.

Also, I should tell you that we have a new camper today, **Peter Johnson**.

The nominal group "Peter Johnson" is in contrast to the previous one. It shows how Percy is hated by the person uttering the clause, Mr. D. Driven by his dislike, Mr. D. does not even memorize the name "Percy Jackson". The nominal group consists only one element, namely central element.

5) Special features

This feature possessed by Percy is divided into disorder and power. Percy's having disorder and power is due to his being the son of the sea god.

The card was in fancy script, which was murder on **my dyslexic eyes**, but I finally made out something.

The nominal group indicates a disorder that Percy has, which is actually closely associated to his special power. Percy and Grover is on a bus and Grover gives Percy a name card. Percy tries hard to read the writings on the name card. The nominal group pointing out Percy's disorder is comprised of the central element "eyes" and a nuclear element "dyslexic".

Sure enough, **my usual waterproof magic** had abandoned me.

The nominal group appears at a different section in the novel. It gives information about Percy's special power, i.e. waterproof magic. The nominal group consists of the central element "waterproof magic" and a nuclear element "usual".

TABLE III. REALIZATION OF PERCY JACKSON'S CHARACTER (NOMINAL GROUP)

Category of Characterization		Nuclear Relation Elements				Number
		C-N	C-P	C- N - P	C	
identity	personal	4	5	1	7	25
	kinship	1	4	1	1	
physiological trait	life stage	3		1	4	14
	appearance	1	1			
	endurance		3	1		
attitude	material	1	4		1	17
	action mental	5	3	2	1	
reaction of others	loved				1	7
	hated	1			5	
special attribute	disorder	2		1	2	8
	power	2	1			
Total						71

Percy Jackson's character is revealed by means of nominal groups, in which combination of central element and nuclear element is frequently identified. The nominal group's Thing as the central element is added up with nuclear elements signifying attributes and qualities. All identified categories of characterization are realized by the configuration of central and nuclear elements as nuclear element in nominal group can cover a range of types of attribute attached to Percy. The nuclear element of a nominal group may contain Thing alone or Thing along with its classifier and the nuclear element slot can be occupied by epithet, which has the function of describing Thing. The elements of Percy's character are also realized by means of the use of the peripheral element, qualifier. This element can function to incorporate items which indicate how Percy is characterized in the

story. In addition, Percy's features such as identity, attitude and reactions of others are also construed through the use of nominal group consisting only of Thing. The use of this type of nominal group is prompted by the fact that the Thing itself suggests sense related to Percy's character.

In addition, identity is realized by other different configurations of nuclear relation elements, namely central - peripheral, central - nuclear - peripheral and configuration consisting of central element. Physiological trait is realized only by two other configurations, namely central - peripheral and central - nuclear - peripheral. Percy's attitude is conveyed through nominal groups consisting of the other three configurations. Meanwhile, the element of reactions of others is realized by nominal groups consisting only of central element and special attribute is conveyed within the other three types of configuration.

The identity, physiological trait, attitude and special feature of the main character are exposed to the readers through the use of Thing together with describing and qualifying modifiers. Meanwhile, Percy's character of being loved or hated is dominantly realized by means of nominal groups consisting only of Thing since nominal group like "honey" and "brain boy" already contain the sense of affection or hatred.

All elements building up the characterization of Percy Jackson contain clauses and nominal groups consisting of the configuration of central and nuclear elements. This is because at the clause rank, this type of configuration shows a variety of relations between processes and the participants involved in the processes. The relations may take forms of material action, verbal action, attribution etc. In addition, at nominal group rank, relations are formed between the core of the group, the Things and the elements describing them. Through the descriptive nature of the modifiers, different elements of Percy Jackson's character can be deduced.

When the experience reflected by the studied clauses and nominal groups is unified, the traits of Percy Jackson are uncovered. Percy Jackson is a half-god teenage (son of Poseidon) who has serious problem with his attitude. At the same time, he is a caring and responsible individual. He is both loved and hated as well: loved by his mother and his best friends and hated by some other friends, some gods and monsters. In terms of physical traits, he is a teenage with normal height and lack of weight, black hair and green eyes. In addition, as the son of the Sea God, Percy has disorders which are actually special abilities, particularly water-related extraordinary powers. This picture is not only realized by means of narration in the story, Percy's action, speech and thought presented throughout the story. The picture is also constructed from other sources, namely other characters' speech and respond to his physical and verbal actions.

Relations between elements can reveal the traits of characters in fictional stories as already briefly indicated in the previous section. The findings of this research can be linked to the findings of the previous researches, revealing certain similarity. In the researches conducted by Mahardika (n.d.), Candra (n.d.) and Mangala (2017), a range of types of process are exploited to reflect characters' features related to their personality. The types of process cover material, verbal, mental, relational and behavioural. In addition to uncovering personality of the studied character, the analysis in the research conducted by Candra also reveals moral values held by the character.

In comparison, this research investigates nuclear relations formed in clauses and nominal groups. The analysis in this research also attempts to see how not only clauses but also nominal groups in a text play a part in construing how Percy Jackson is described in the story. The notion of nuclear relations at the rank of clause is closely associated to the transitive model of analysis in the previous researches since elements involved in nuclear relations are identified based on ergative model, which is also part of transitivity system. As it is noticeable in the clause "I slammed the door to my room, which really wasn't my room." The agent "I" (Percy) performs the action "slammed" involving range: process "the door to my room, which really wasn't my room". Linked to the situation, it shows how Percy behaves when he is annoyed, in terms of material action. In addition to its close association to the previous researches, this research is different as it involves actions performed by other characters, for example "That's because your mind is hardwired for ancient Greek," a clause stated by Annabeth. Relations between the nuclear element and the central element in the clause indicate that Percy has a special feature because he is the son of a god. In addition to existing within clause, nuclear relations also exists at the rank of nominal group. Shown in the nominal group "brats like you" is the relation between central element and peripheral element, showing the character's attitude as he is considered to be a kind of brat (troubled child).

In relation to how the traits of a particular character in a story are conveyed, it is noticeable that the analysis conducted in this research can comprise not only clauses, but also nominal groups. Nuclear relation configuration, thus, can involve wider scope of resources in revealing character of a figure, and potentially other features of experiential meaning, in a text.

V. CONCLUSION

This researches points out that there are 9 types of nuclear relations identified within the clauses taken as the data. Meanwhile, there are 4 types of nuclear relations within the nominal groups. The studied linguistic units form the general character of Percy Jackson, revealing his identity, physiological traits, attitude, reaction of others, special attributes and proficiency. The picture of Percy Jackson is uncovered through the relations between elements in the clauses and nominal groups. This study confirms that lower-rank elements of a text and their relations not only unifies the text but they also construe experiential meaning as nuclear relations is part of the system of ideation: the one construing human experience.

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