

The Struggle of the Main Character to Solve Her Great Problems as Reflected in Stephenie Meyer *New Moon*: a Psychological Approach

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Abstract—This research is intended to describe characterization of the main character (2) the struggle of the main character to solve her great problems (3) moral values that can be taken from the novel. This research is dealing with the psychological approach of the main character in the novel *New Moon* by Stephenie Meyer, focusing on her struggle to solve her great problems. In this research, the researcher presents the descriptive qualitative method to analyze the novel. The subject of the research is the novel entitled *New Moon* written by Stephenie Meyer, while the object of the research focuses on the struggle of the main character to solve her great problems in *New Moon*. To collect the data, the researcher does some steps such as visiting library, reading sources, making notes, categorizing data, and exploring the internet to find the supporting data. To analyze the data, the researcher uses the psychological study by Subhan and Wellek and Warren. After conducting the research, the researcher found some research findings. They are as follows: First, the characterizations of the main character are attentive, beautiful, brave, clumsy, intelligent, loving, numb, reckless, and stubborn. Second, the struggle of the main character to solve her great problems such as the struggle of the main character to solve her life problems, the struggle of the main character to solve her love problems, the struggle of the main character to solve her family problems, and the struggle of the main character to solve her economic problems. Third, some moral values that can be revealed, such as positive moral values, they are struggle to solve great problems, friendship, and love, while negative values such as atheism, battle, and out of control.

Keywords—*struggle, solve problems, psychological approach.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Human beings in the world need to struggle to survive their life, people have to do something to struggle their life for better life. They do it with many kinds of ways. Sometimes, they do struggle to get better living with education, skill, and increasing their knowledge. In fact, one's life will be changed with struggle and it cannot be changed without struggle. Struggle is closely related to a problem. If there is no problem, there will not be struggle. If one wants to achieve something, he or she must overcome some problem. Although the problems are difficult to be faced, one should believe that there are difficult things if she or he tries to do best, because everything is possible to happen in the world. According to the wise word above, people have higher motivation to try hard for their better life

in their future. Many problems always come up in real life and people should look for the ways to solve their problems. One should find the solution to solve the problem or question or to understand the meaning of something. To solve problems one needs to struggle against the problem wisely and carefully to get her or his wants.

One of four sequels to *Twilight* is *New Moon*. *New Moon* is a young adult fantasy-romance novel by author Stephenie Meyer and is the second book in the *Twilight Saga*. According to Meyer, this book is about losing true love. *New Moon* is the continuing story of Bella Swan's unusual life in Forks, Washington. The title refers to the darkest phase of the lunar cycle, indicating that *New Moon* is about the darkest time of the protagonist Bella's life. In relation the intrinsic elements of literary works, the researcher goes to analyze the character of Isabella Swan to solve her great problems as reflected in the novel *New Moon* written by Stephenie Mayer. The literary approach that will be used to analyze this study is psychological approach.

There are three objectives of the study can formulate, describe characterization of the main character, the struggle of the main character to solve her great problems, and moral values that can be taken from the novel. The researcher expects the result of the study will give great benefits for several components, it is expected to be able to give contribution in comprehending on analyzing the novel, to give some information about the background of Stephenie Mayer related with her literary work, it is expected the readers know about the struggle of the main character to solve her great problems, it is expected to giving more information about psychological approach.

The rest of this paper is organized as follow: Section II describes the theoretical background. Section III describes the research method. Section IV presents the obtained research finding and discussion. Finally, Section V concludes this work and highlights future work.

II. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

A. Character and Characterization

1). Character

Abrams in [1] stated that the way of an author describes a character is various. Occasionally, an author describes a character as a personage that exists only in illusion and has

high spirit of struggle to survive. Furthermore, frequently an author describes a character that has almost similar ways with a person in real human life. According to Abrams in [1] character is the persons represented in a dramatic or narrative work, who are interpreted by readers as being endowed with moral, intellectual, and emotional qualities by inferences from what the person say and from what they do.

Character in the novel can be divided into two groups: Main or major characters and minor characters. The reader will usually pay more attention the major characters because the major characters play an important role in the story of the novel [2]. According to Subhan in [2] the major character can further be analyzed into three groups:

- a) The protagonist
- b) The antagonist
- c) The Companion or Partner

2). *Characterization*

Abrams in [1] classifies characterization as process for distinguishing the person in a narrative. This process may use two techniques, they are showing and telling. According to Subhan in [2] based on the characterization, characters in the novel can be divided into two groups:

- a) Flat Character
- b) Round Character

B. *Theory of Struggle*

Struggle can be defined as trying to overcome a problem or prevent something undesirable from happening or continuing. In other words, struggle is the action that someone done in order to achieve what she or he wanted and try to overcome difficulty that follow it [3].

There a lot of meanings from the word “struggle”, there are last five meaning, such as;

1. Struggle is an energetic attempt to achieve something.
2. Struggle is strenuous effort.
3. Struggle is an open classicist between two opposing group and individual.
4. Struggle the condition during engaged in a light.
5. Struggle to exert strenuous effort against apposition.

One who struggles with himself first is the wisest, the easier struggle is that he or she has struggles with himself or herself, and the other struggles will become more difficult for him. The meaning of struggle is very wide because there are round up with many fields of life, for example struggle for economic, struggle for social, struggle for religion, or even struggle for person. Everybody should study the nature of life, one must understand the psychological of struggle.

C. *Theory of Solving Great Problem*

Every problem asks for an answer or solution. Solve the problem is trying to find a solution of a problem. The time takes to solve a problem is a way of measuring complexity. Many problems have no discovered solution and it is classified as an open problem. The conclusion about definition of solving the problem is the way of thinking. Problem solving is a part of finding and shaping the large problem.

The definition of problem which related to research is a thing that is difficult to deal with or understand or unsolved

question to be decided on, when it is difficult [3]. A problem is something difficult which is faced by a person or people who live in a certain community and need to be solved as soon as possible. The problem may be related to society, economy, politic, social, religion, education, etc. the conclusion about a great problem is a situation that causes difficulties very much or a lot a condition or something that is very difficult to handle by people and it will make people try hard to solve it.

D. *Theory of Psychological Approach*

The researcher employs the psychological approach to help her analyzing the novel because this approach considers psychology as a mean to criticize a literary work. It can be used to explain, interpret and evaluate a literary work. It can help the reader or the author to explain about character and characterization and explain the psychology of the author. Psychology (the science or study of mind and its processes) can be used to help a literary critic or a literary researcher to explain, interpret and evaluate literary works. The psychology of the author, the habits of the author in revising and rewriting his draft, the genesis of the work of art are examples of psychological studies towards a writer. One should know that a draft of a novel can sometimes be rejected by a publisher and the author should do revision and even a significant change in the story and character of the novel [2].

Wellek and Warren in [4] stated that the science is often termed as the psychological approach, this approach refers to the study of literary works by using the science of psychology to help the reader or literary critic (to) understand, explain, interpret or illuminate the psychological factors or aspect (of the author, of the characters of the society) that are implied in the literary works being investigated. Through this approach a descriptive research can be developed into an explanatory one. A literary work which usually talks about human life can be analyzed by using psychological analysis. Wellek and Warren in [4] stated that psychological of literature has four branches:

- a. The psychological study of the writer as type and as individual. The writer shows the life obsession in the work that makes will be full application; carefulness and consciousness also know show the natural type in writing.
- b. Psychological approach to the creative process building a literary work. The creative process of literary works contains all the stages, starting from pushing which is not conscious condition, that born the literary work as to the last correlation that done by the writer.
- c. The study of psychological types and law present within works of literature. Literary works is the social institution that makes language medium, the technique of traditional like’s symbolism and social aspect. It presents as conventional and society law. Besides that, literature shows fact in the life event of human being.
- d. Psychological study to the influence of literary works has a power to motivate the readers’ heart or stir emotion. Literary work shows the life event human being so the reader’s interest to read it. And literary

works will interest of the readers if it shown more professional by the writer.

In analyzing Stephenie Meyer's *New Moon*, the researcher uses the psychological approach as rules and the norm that can be gained from the literary works as the matter of discussion in her thesis. The psychological science used as one of the approach an analyzing the literary work, particularly to study or learn the character.

E. Theory of Moral Value

According to Yolkowsky in [5] the ways in which literature affects us emotionally can make ineliminable contributions to fully rational moral thought.

According to Hornby in [3] moral is:

- a. Concerning principles of right and wrong: good and virtual: able to understand the difference between right and wrong; teaching or illustration good behavior launched with the sense of what is right or just.
- b. That which of a story; standards of behavior, principles, of right and wrong.
- c. Standards principles of good behavior, particularly system of moral. Moral lesson are something which given by the author to the reader as suggested tough the story in the novel. Usually author is interesting moral lesson in the main character's attitude.

III. RESEARCH METHOD

A. Type of the Study

The type of this research is a library research, since all sources are taken from library collections. The sources are divided into two kinds: primary and secondary sources.

1). Subject of the study

Subject is a person or thing that is being discussed, described, or dealt with [6]. In literary works, there are many things that can be studied, because a literary work itself is very wide to describe. In this research the researcher discusses about a novel as one of the literary works. The subject of this research is the novel *New Moon* by Stephenie Meyer.

2). Object of the study

According to Oxford in [6], object is a person or thing to which a specified action or feeling is directed. The object is internal conflict of the main character. The writer focused on the struggle of the main character to solve her great problems. The novel is *New Moon* by Stephenie Meyer and it was published in 2006. The novel consists of 563 pages and is divided into 24 chapters.

B. Source of Data

1). The primary data

The primary data used in this study are from novel itself. The novel is *New Moon*. The researcher reads and observes the novel carefully and critically. The activity to read the novel is not only once but many times. From the novel, the researcher makes documentation and makes notes into the data cards.

2). The secondary data

Secondary data are data that are gathered to support the primary data. They were taken from the sources like collection or critical books, reviews, and some essays about all that related to the novel. The secondary data of this research are taken from other sources such as some critical books, library, and internet to help the researcher interpret *New Moon* novel easier.

C. Data Collecting Method

In collecting the data, the researcher does some steps;

1. Visiting some libraries

The researcher visits the libraries; reads the primary source and the secondary sources and makes some notes.

2. Reading books

It means that the writer reads the novel titled *New Moon*, and reads other books in relation to the topic research.

3. Making notes

After reading books, the researcher writes down the data needed from the books to complete or support the researcher's statements related to the topic.

4. Categorizing Data

After the researcher performs the steps above, the important thing that the researcher must perform is categorizing the data into appropriate parts.

D. Data Analyzing Techniques

After the data are collected, they are analyzed by using descriptive qualitative method and psychological approach. A technique is started by statements, or sentences, or is described by explanation. It is used to give the clear description about the study qualitatively by choosing, considering, defining, and arranging the fixed data. After the data collected, they are classified according to the subject to be discussed.

The researcher tries to provide clear information and describes the struggle of the main character to solve her great problems in the novel *New Moon*. The researcher uses psychological approach as a technical description of this research. Before analyzing the novel, the researcher examines carefully the psychology influences of the struggle of the main character in the novel *New Moon*, describes them and then finds the relation and interrelation between them. The researcher makes an analysis by using the theory of psychology and literature by [7] and [4].

IV. RESEARCH FINDINGS

The researcher presents the research finding. It contains of characterization of the main character, the struggle of the main character to solve her great problems, and moral values.

A. Characterization of the Main Character

According to Peck and Coyle in [7], another contribution of psychology towards literary criticism is related to the characters and characterization. Psychology can explain why a certain character in the novel becomes bad, good, frustrated, illuminated, or killed by someone.

Psychological learns about the physical function of healthy people. It contains something that is related to the feeling, fantasy, though, ideas, behavior, etc. struggle is closely related to a problem. If there is no problem, there will not be struggle. If one wants to achieve something, he or she must solve some problem. When people try to struggle to solve her or his great problems, they will experience something that is related to the feeling, though, ideas, behavior, etc., so it has correlation to psychology.

In the novel *New Moon*, there are three main characters, such as Isabella Swan, Edward Cullens, and Jacob Black. The researcher only focuses on the main character, namely Isabella Swan. Isabella Swan has some characterization that can be seen in detail in the following parts:

B. Beautiful

Bella is a beautiful girl, she makes some boy fall in love with her and wants to give everything to get her love. Bella is very beautiful, and it makes Edward Cullen committing suicide because he believes that Bella has died. He doesn't want to live in a world without the beautiful girl, Bella.

C. Brave

Bella is depicted as a brave girl. She knows her courage to do things that are difficult, dangerous, and painful. She is brave to spot a group of men in an alleyway, she remembers a time when Edward saved her before, and decide to approach the men. Bella is not afraid although her life is in danger of the stranger men. She was brave to come to men in front of the bar when she remembered the time when Edward saved her from a brutal man.

D. Loving

Bella has strong feeling of affection for Edward. She really loves Edward and must do anything for him. Also, she can know Edward's voice however she slept and did not see him.

E. The Struggle of the Main Character to Solve Her Great problems

The researcher tries to convey the struggles of the main character to solve her great problems. Some descriptions are related to the fact described by the author and related to the content of the novel.

F. The struggle of the main character to solve her life problems

Bella wants to be vampire. It is the great problem. It becomes great problem because Edward does not want her to be a vampire, he wants Bella to be a human. Bella struggles to solve her life problem. She wants to live with Edward forever. It is the thing which Bella really wants.

G. The struggle of the main character to solve her love problems

It is four months passing after Edward leaves Bella, and Bella has become a zombie, existing but not really living. Bella struggle to please her father Charlie, Bella goes to a movie with her friend Jessica. It means to make Charlie not to worry about Bella's condition.

Bella accepts the presence of the other love in the main character's life who is a werewolf. Jacob and Bella become very close friends, with Bella relying on his warmth and friendship in order to heal from Edward's leave. Jacob is romantically interested in Bella, Bella also cares him but says sorry because she does not love him more than friend. Even though she makes it clear that she wants nothing more than friendship with him.

H. The struggle of the main character to solve her family problems

Bella solve her economic problem with working hard. She wants to continue her study into university, so she works hard at the local sporting goods store to get money to pay her study in the future.

Bella prefer living in Forks with her father and Edward to living in Florida with her mother. She really loves her mother and wants to live together like a complete family, but she cannot. Since Edward go away from her life, she does not want to leave Forks because there are many things can remind her to her true love.

I. The Moral Values in the Novel New Moon

1). Positive values

Positive values refer to good attitude and moral value that should be done by the readers. It will be a good example for the readers who apply them in a real life. The positive values are stated as follows;

2). Struggle to solve great problems

Life problems are about the choices if the main character wants to be vampire forever. It is the great problem for Bella because Edward does not want her to be a vampire, he wants Bella to be a human. Finally, she has a meeting with the Cullen, she wants their arguments about her willingness to be a vampire, so she makes a vote meeting.

Love problems are about the main character that falls in love with a good vampire and how great the main character struggle to survive when she loses her true love, Bella tries to reckless things to solve her problems. She thinks that the delusions are triggered by recklessness or being in a dangerous situation, she seeks other ways to trigger Edward's voice by breaking her promises to Edward.

3). Friendship

Friendship is needed by everyone. A good friendship is shown in this novel between Bella and Jacob. They give each other attention. Bella tries to keep her friendship and only thinks Jacob is her good friend.

4). Love

Bella will do everything for her love, especially when Edward is in a danger. She decides to go to Volterra to save Edward from his suicide. It is very difficult for her, but she has no another choice. She prefers to sacrifice her life to safe her love in a danger.

J. Negative Values

1). Atheism

Bella does not believe in god. She also confuses in what the religion of her parents is. So, religion becomes the last thing on her mind.

2). *Battle*

Bella is victim of a battle between Edward and Victoria and friend. She is very weak because of Laurent attack. Victoria sees killing Bella rather than killing Edward because Bella is Edward's mate.

3). *Out of control*

Bella is out of control in facing a problem. Bella tries to decide by herself without sharing it to others. She cannot consider the effect of her decision. She thinks many ways to trigger Edward's voice by recklessness or being in a dangerous situation.

V. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

The novel *New Moon* is written by Stephenie Mayer and it was published in 2006. The novel consists of 563 pages and is divided into 24 chapters. In this novel, Isabella Swan is the main character. She is categorized as the protagonist character. The characterizations of Isabella Swan are attentive, beautiful, brave, clumsy, intelligent, loving, numb, reckless, and stubborn. The struggle of the main character to solve her great problem such as: her life problems, her love problems, her family problems, and her economic problems. There are moral values of the novel which can be distinguished in two kinds of moral values namely; positive values and negative values. The positive values are struggled to solve her great problems of life, friendship, love. The negative values are atheism, battle, and out of control.

The researcher suggests other researcher to do further study to discuss and carry out the others side of this novel to reveal the other important and useful thing.

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