

ANALYSIS OF THE CHARACTER AND MAIN CHARACTER IN THE NOVEL TOWARD ZERO BY AGATHA CRISTIE

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Abstract: This research is analyzing a novel entitled Towards Zero by Agatha Christie. The problem that will be analyzed is who are the characters in the novel and who are the main characters in the novel Towards Zero by Agatha Christie. This study aims to find out the characters involved in the story of the novel Towards Zero, and who is the main character in the story of the novel. This study used the descriptive qualitative method. The characters in Agatha Christie's novel Towards Zero include Mr. Treves, Andrew MacWhirter, Inspector Battle, Mrs. Amphrey, Sylvia Battle, Nevile Strange, Kay Strange, Lady Camilla Tressilian, Marry Aldin, Audrey Strange, Thomas Royde, Ted Latimer and Inspector James Leach. The main character in the novel Towards Zero by Agatha Christie is Nevile Strange, a handsome, athletic, and rich man whose life is well-off.

INTRODUCTION

Literary works have their forms, characteristics, and various conditions. Literature has many types including novels, poems, romances, and short stories. Among the most popular forms of literature are short stories and novels. Literary works in prose form are divided into two, namely old prose and new prose. One of the new forms of prose is the novel.

The term novel comes from the Latin novellas which was later revealed to be novies, meaning new. This word was later adapted into English to become the term novel. This new word is associated with the fact that novels are a type of fiction that appears later compared to short stories and romances (Herman. J. Waluyo, 2002: 36). Henry Guntur Tarigan (2003: 164) in "The American Colege Dictionary" said that novels are prose fiction with a certain length, the contents of which include: depicting characters, movements and scenes of representative real-life events with a plot or a complex situation.

Novels are one of the results of art created by the author based on experiences he has seen or experienced. Therefore, in writing a literary work the author must refer to the environment and circumstances he has experienced. This is following the opinion of Wellek (1995: 276), who said that novel literature must have a visible relationship with life.

Wellek and Warren (1995: 283), also reveal that novels refer more to higher reality and deep psychology. So, the story raised in the novel is an event or occurrence that is common in human life both physical and psychological. The conflicts experienced by characters are varied, such as inner conflicts of characters, social conflicts, and so on. Therefore, novels are often called depictions of the circumstances that occur in human life.

Based on the description above, it can be concluded that novels are works of art whose contents tell events or events in humans where those events can change their character or personality. Intrinsic and extrinsic elements are elements

Towards Zero novels are one type of detective novel that is much loved by the public. Detective novels are one of the genres of fiction that emphasize mystery and puzzle stories that cause tension for readers. The entire content of the story is a matter

of mystery based on a certain event and an investigation is held against that event.

The novel *Towards Zero* is Agatha Christie's last work to be played again by the character Inspector Battle. This detective fiction novel was written in 1944 and in 1995, a film company poured the story into a film. Rosalind Hicks, her daughter, reviewed the content of the script and changed the original title to *Innocent Lies*.

This novel tells the story of the murder of two elderly people, namely Mr. Treves, a veteran lawyer who knows of a murder in the past, and a big mistress in a coastal area.

The author is very interested in dissecting the character of the *Towards Zero* novel because the story of this novel is unexpected. The way the story is presented which looks unimportant, turns out to play a very decisive role at the end of the story. The results of this novel's character review will be written in a thesis entitled "*Analysis of Character and main character Novel Towards Zero by Agatha Christie*".

The analysis used by the author is qualitative descriptive analysis is expected to be used to analyze the novel in depth and reveal the meaning of the novel as a whole through the characters in the novel *Toward Zero* by Agatha Christie.

METHODOLOGISTS

The method used in this research is the descriptive qualitative method. A qualitative research method is a certain tradition in social science that fundamentally depends on the person and his surroundings through his language. The results of qualitative research are descriptive rather than predictive. Mason (2002, p.199) stated that qualitative is an analysis, explanation, and argument-building method that involves an understanding of complexity, detail, and context. The purpose of this method is to produce rounded and contextual understandings based on rich, nuanced, and detailed data. Since the data of this research is in the form of words which is transcribed from *A Story of Novel*, this research used a descriptive-qualitative method. According to Taylor, Bogdan & DeVault (2015, p.7-11), the qualitative method is more than a set of data-gathering techniques, it is a way of empirical world approach. This approach focused on identifying the character and main character in the story of the novel "*Towards Zero* by Agatha Christie"

TECHNIQUES OF DATA COLLECTION

The data of the research were collected by doing the following steps: Reading the novel twice or more is very important. In reading it, the writer applied a comprehensive strategy which means that the writer read carefully to understand the whole story of the novel. To understand and gaining the meaning, the writer read the novel many times. Identifying the novel to find the data related to the study. The writer identified and wrote the data based on the story which related to the data. Classification data. In writing the related data, the writer also wrote which part of the novel and in what duration the data were found to make it easy to find the data. Selecting the relevant data. In selecting the data, the writer read the theories that were written in chapter two to make sure whether the data applied to the theory or not in order to confirm that the sorted data were based on the theory.

Reporting selected data. After data was selected, the writer reported the data descriptively in paragraphs.

TECHNIQUES OF DATA ANALYSIS

Since the method used is descriptive qualitative, the writer used textual analysis since the data were from the dialogues and words. Vanderstop and Johnston (2008, p.210) explained that textual analysis is about the identification and interpretation of verbal and nonverbal signs. The data which were taken are categorized character and main character. The writer analyzed them by reading the story of the novel, then describing and presenting it descriptively. The writer used the theory explained in chapter two in presenting the data of the research.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

1. Character

In the novel *Towards Zero*, there are several supporting characters and their characters, as follows:

No	Character	Role in the story
1	Mr. Treves	A lawyer with a wealth of experience. He is eighty years old. His memory of a murder in the past led to his death.
2	Andrew MacWhirter	Suicidal but failed when he was caught in a tree and rescued by the Coast Guard. A few months later, in the same place, he saved the life of a desperate woman.
3	Inspector Battle	A Scotland Yard detective whose face is like a wood, expressionless. His habit of always being methodical paid off, although his vacation was forced to be filled with the task of uncovering murders.
4	Mrs. Amphrey	A successful headmaster and a vivid example of a pretentious person who knows psychological theories and misestablishes them.
5	Sylvia	Battle Inspector Battle's daughter. Her experiences at school helped her father save the life of an innocent woman.
6	Nevile Strange	As handsome as Apollo and a versatile sportsman. Worthy of being called the luckiest man, rich, his reputation is impeccable, and he has two beautiful wives, but he is not happy.
7	Kay Strange	Young, beautiful, with an explosive temperament, more so when dealing with Nevile's first wife.
8	Lady Camilla Tressilian	Invalid old woman. Love to entertain guests at his house. But his hobby became disastrous when once in his house gathered what he called the <i>eternal triangle</i> .
9	Marry Aldin	Patient, attentive, efficient, and a good hostess. Faithfully accompany Lady Camilla and attend to her needs. This time, his patience was really tested.

10	Audrey Strange	classic but unobtrusive beauty disturbs Gull's Point's calmness, and makes Nevile's young wife unable to control herself.
11	Thomas Royde	Nicknamed "Thomas the Straight" by his adoptive sister, Audrey. Behind his clumsy and quiet appearance, he harbors a burning romance.
12	Ted Latimer	Handsome young man. Kay Strange's old friend, who always appears every time disturbs her life.
13	Inspector James Leach	Nephew of Inspector Battle. He was not long on duty and was authorized to uncover the murders at Gull's Point. His cooperation with his uncle led him to learn many things that he never learned at the Police Academy.

2. The Main Character

The main or central character is a figure who holds a leadership role (Panuti Sudjiman, 1991: 17). The novel *Towards Zero* by Agatha Christie, it features the main character of a sportsman named Nevile Strange, a famous tennis player. Nevile is also well known to the British public, he is handsome, has a lot of money and has an amazingly beautiful wife whom he just married. His life seems happy even though he is not happy at all and holds a grudge against his ex-wife, Audrey Strange because he feels betrayed. Nevile plans to avenge her heartache by framing Audrey for the murder of Lady Tressilian and seeing her die on the gallows. But who would have thought, that the plan that had been prepared in detail and almost succeeded turned out to be a failure.

CONCLUSION

In the novel *Towards Zero* has interesting intrigues that happen to the characters in the story, ranging from betrayal, and deception to murder. This makes readers more intrigued to read the novel *Towards Zero*.

Unlike other detective stories that mostly tell the story of archery first and then tell the cause of the murder. The novel *Towards Zero* is arranged in chronological order. Tells the events that happened long before the murder occurred. Only at the exposure is told about the life of jurists, represented by Mr. Traves. In Stimuli are told one by one the characters support the story, leading the reader to conclude some clues to solve the murder puzzle.

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