

**THE MAIN CHARACTER'S PERSONALITY IN DANIEL KEYES'  
FLOWERS FOR ALGERNON**



*A THESIS*

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Makassar, Juni 2014

The Writer

## ABSTRACT

**SUSI ASTIANTIH, 2014.** *The Main Character's Personality in Daniel Keyes' Flowers for Algernon*, ( supervised by **H. A. Lukmanulhakim Jaya** and **M. Amir P.**)

*Flowers for Algernon* is a well-known novel written by Daniel Keyes. It had gotten Nebula awards and Hugo awards. The novel focused on the main character, that is Charlie, a 32-year-old man with disablementality who joined a surgery to increase intelligence.

The purpose of this study is to clarify the description about the main character in *Flowers for Algernon*. In analyzing the work of Daniel Keyes, the writer uses Structural approach to analyse the literary work more profoundly because this method reveals as careful, as thorough, as detail, and as deep as possible the linkages and the entanglement of all elements and aspects of literary works.

The result of the study shows that every human is born with his or her own special characteristics, talents, and flaws. Although sometimes many people attempt to change various aspects of their own lives, they should accept who they are and be themselves.

## ABSTRAK

**SUSI ASTIANTIH, 2014.** *The Main Character's Personality in Daniel Keyes' Flowers for Algernon*, ( dibimbing oleh **H. A. Lukmanulhakim Jaya and M. Amir P.**)

*Flowers for Algernon* adalah salah satu novel terkenal, karya Daniel Keyes dan pernah mendapatkan penghargaan Nebula dan Hugo. Novel ini fokus pada karakter utama yaitu Charlie, seorang lelaki penderita keterbelakangan mental berusia 32 tahun yang menjalani operasi peningkatan kecerdasan.

Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk memperjelas gambaran dari karakter utama dalam novel *Flowers for Algernon*. Dalam menganalisa karya Daniel Keyes, penulis menggunakan pendekatan Struktural untuk menganalisa sebuah karya sastra secara lebih mendalam, karena metode ini mengungkapkan secermat, seteliti, sedetail, dan sedalam mungkin keterkaitan dan keterjalinan semua unsur dan aspek karya sastra.

Hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa setiap manusia terlahir dengan karekter masing-masing, kelebihan, dan kekurangan. Meskipun terkadang banyak orang mencoba untuk mengubah berbagai segi dari kehidupan mereka sendiri, mereka seharusnya dapat menerima keadaan mereka dan menjadi diri sendiri.

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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

Literature is a part of our life. It is a form of expression of a person that is described by words, action, writing, or language. Literature is used to describe anything from creative writing to art work, engineering, culture, or scientific works.

Literature is created by using language as a medium and art as part of it. Through the language, the authors can express their experience, feelings, ideas, and insight about social realities, so we can get the meaning that occurs in the literary works.

Rene Wellek and Austin Warren stated in their book Theory of Literature that :

Literature is a social institution using language as its medium and social creation. Such traditional literary devices as symbolism and metre are social in their very nature, they are conviction and norms which could have arisen only in society. (Wellek and Warren 1962:123)

Literature is divided into several different categories, they are poetry, play, novel, short story, etc. For this thesis, the writer discusses a novel as the object of research. Novel is one of the literary works which has some elements that support to build up the story it self. The elements of a novel are plot, characters, setting,

and theme. These elements support each other to develop the story.

The existence of characters is an important thing in a story. It is important because it is interconnected by its function to describe and to represent the conditions of society and also their various immeasurable problems. Every novel may present some characters in a story imaginatively, yet it takes mostly reference from the reality of life.

Analyzing character in a novel can be conducted by researching the attitude that influences his or her behaviour. Then, in describing the character, the author involves the reader's emotion and excites their imagination or even interpretation. Therefore, it can be said that character is the main factor to determine the plot of a novel.

Novel entitled *Flowers for Algernon* is one of the great literatures written by Daniel Keyes (born on August 9<sup>th</sup>, 1927 in Brookline and died in 1988), an American author and most of his works talk about someone's personality. This novel tells about Charlie Gordon, someone who wants to be normal and smart, someone who does not want to be abused, someone who wants to have the opportunity to love and to be loved. This novel has been sold more than five million copies and has ever won the *Hugo Award* and *Nebula Award*.

This novel tells the story of a man named Charlie Gordon. He is a 32-year-old developmentally disabled man who has the opportunity to undergo a surgical procedure that will dramatically increase his mental capabilities. This procedure had already been performed on a laboratory mouse, Algernon, with remarkable result and Charlie will be the first human subject to increase his IQ.

From the explanation above the writer chooses to analyse the main character of Charlie Gordon in novel *Flowers for Algernon*. The writer also wants to show the character's feeling, relationship, dream, and motivation.

The way of Daniel Keyes describing Charlie Gordon and his personality makes the writer interested to analyse the personality of Charlie by using the Structural approach. Therefore, the writer chooses ***The Main Character's Personality in Daniel Keyes' Flowers for Algernon*** as the title of this thesis.

## **1.2 Identification of The Problem**

It is common that many literary works, especially novel, contain a lot of problems that may affect the readers' mind and then will raise curiosity to find out the answer of the problem. For the writer, there are several problems that come up in *Flowers for Algernon*, which are necessary to be settled out.

Based on the fact above, the writer tries to analyse the novel of Daniel Keyes from different side by using structural analysis as the basic elements of Structural approach, such as theme, plot, setting, point of view and character. The writer tries to carry out the problems which are identified as follow:

1. To describe the character's personality of Charlie Gordon and others character
2. To show the impact of main character's transformation from dumb to genius

### **1.3 Scope of The Problem**

In order to avoid misinterpreting and misunderstanding for the discussion because of broadness of the problem, the writer limits the scope of this investigation only on discussing the main character's personality in novel *Flowers for Algernon* written by Daniel Keyes and noticing the intrinsic elements that develop the story.

### **1.4 Statements of The problem**

The problems that will be discussed in this study are formulated as follows:

- a. How is the main character's personality before surgery and after surgery to increase intelligence in novel *Flowers for Algernon*?
- b. What are the impacts of main character's transformation from dumb to genius in his life ?

### **1.5 Objective of The Study**

Every discussion has certain purpose. The purpose of this study or discussion is to grasp the content of the novel, find out the description and :

- a. To describe the personality of the main character before and after surgery to increase intelligence in novel *Flowers for Algernon*.
- b. To analyze the impact of main character's transformation from dumb to genius in his life.

### **1.6 Significance of The Study**

- a. Theoretical significance

The writer hopes that this research can enrich knowledge by giving an extra contribution to literary study especially in novel analysis for English Department students, Hasanuddin University.

b. Practical significance

The writer expects that this research will be useful for fellow students, especially those in the English Department of Hasanuddin University that are also interested in analyzing literature using structural approach. The writer also hopes that this research can offer further understanding of Daniel Keyes novel” *Flowers for Algernon*” which are there are many lessons can be taken on the novel such as how to respect each others.

### **1.7 Sequence of Chapter**

The first chapter presents background, identificaton of the problem, scope of the problem, the statement of the problem, the objective of the writing, and sequence of the presentation. In this chapter, the writer expresses various reasons for choosing a topic.

The second chapter presents the literature review. Some reviews get from structural approach.

The third chapter presents the research method that will be used by the writer. This method is divided into two methods, namely method of collecting data, divided into primary and secondary data, and method of analyzing data. Both methods will be used by the writer in conducting research and writing the thesis.



The fourth chapter presents the analysis of the data. The analysis of the data consists of analysing the main character and still paying attention to other characters and plot that develop the story.

The fifth chapter presents conclusion and suggestion regarding this discussion. In this chapter, the writer explains her views on the topic by giving criticism and also concluded the result of research that are made during the presentation of the thesis.

## CHAPTER II

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.1 Related Study

After the writer finding out and reading several theses written earlier, the writer has not found any thesis written with the same title or topic that talks about the main character's personality in novel *Flowers for Algernon*. The writer only finds some theses that discuss the analysis of the main characters as well as its aspects within different novels as follows:

- 1) *The Analysis of Major Character in Drama "Othello" by William Shakespeare*. In this thesis, the writer analysed the major character and other characters, and other aspects that influence major character's life.
- 2) *The Main Character's Lifesyle in Louisa May Alcott's "An old-Fashioned Girl"*. In this thesis the writer analysed the lifestyle of main character.
- 3) *The Major Character's Motivation in Thomas Hardy's "The Mayor of Casterbridge"*. In this thesis, the writer analysed the motivation of major character and others aspects that related in the novel.

Relates to all the researches above, this thesis tries to arrange the different one. The writer would like to analyse the Personality of Main character in the novel *Flowers for Algernon* written by Daniel Keyes.

## **2.2 Theoretical Background**

In this chapter, the writer intends to explain about theoretical background that is used in analysing the literary work. The writer uses descriptive method and applies Structural approach to analyze the intrinsic elements in the novel.

One of the characteristics of Structural approach is the literary work is an autonomous structure. It describes the origin of the approach itself. Aminuddin in *Pengantar Apresiasi Sastra*, stated that: Suatu konsep dasar yang menjadi ciri khas teori struktural adalah adanya anggapan bahwa di dalam dirinya sendiri karya sastra merupakan struktur yang otonom yang dapat dipahami sebagai suatu kesatuan yang bulat dengan unsur unsur pembangunannya yang saling berjalanan. (2008:27). Aminuddin in *Pengantar Apresiasi Sastra* pointed that a basic theory that becomes a special characteristic of the theory of structuralism is the existence of an assumption that in the theory of structuralism itself, a literary work is an autonomous structure that can be understood as a rounded unity with the interconnection of the elements.

In Jean Piaget's *Autonomy Structuralism or A History Structuralism*, Aminuddin (1970:72) pointed out that "structure" word has three main ideas, they are :

1. Wholeness, means that the parts of structure itself adjust to the concept of intrinsic, which determine the overall of structure and also its parts.
2. Transformation, means that structure conducts continuously transformation procedure to product some new ideas
3. Self-regulation, means that structure does not need other elements outside of itself to keep the transformation procedure.

The explanation above gives us assumption that structural approach considers the text of literary work as an unity and wholeness, which refuses the involving of extrinsic aspects. It uses a basic principal in analysing the novel. By using structural approach, the writer will focus on the main character in novel *Flowers for Algernon*. In addition, the writer also pays attention to another intrinsic elements, such as plot, setting, theme, and minor characters.

### 2.3 Defenition of Personality

The word *personality* comes from Latin language “persona“ means *mask used*. Personality are (a) individual characteristic totality, especially relating to other person, (b) a group of integrated emotional tendency interests, tendency of behavior, and also split personality (Wilcox, 2006: 272).

From the story of the meaning, it is interpreted by its actor that act as the action in the mask. Finally, the word *persona* shows the meaning of quality from a character played in drama. Now the word “personality” by experts of psychology is used to show something real and can be enriched about individual to describe how and what the real of individual is.

Personality term shows an organization or formation or characteristic and aspect characterized psycho-physic can cause an individual to do and act as like he does. In addition, shows distinctive character distinguishing an individual among others. It is concluding his behaviour, confidence, values and his ideal, knowledge and his skill, variations of the way of his gesture, and so on. Personality is the characteristic patterns of behaviour, thought, and emotion that determine a person’s adjustment to the environment. The study of personality is the study of the psychological characteristics that mark resemblances and differences between individual human beings.

Parts of the differentiation of definitions are formulated by psychology expert, especially personality theorist, have the basic similarities (Lynn, 2006:22), they are:

- 1) In general, definition of personality refers to understanding the meaning of individual differentiation. In term “personality”, each individual has uniqueness through study of personality, it is hoped that characteristics that different from other individual become clear or easily to understand. In short, theorists of personality consider personality as something unique or special in each person.
- 2) In common, definition of personality shows personality as structure of hypothesis organization, and behaviour as something organized and integrated by personality. In other word, personality considers as “organization” that becomes determiner and set of behaviour.
- 3) In general, definition of personality appropriates the important one to see personality from “historical life” development and perspective. Personality, according to the personality theorist, represents a subject complicity process or individual for internal and external influence concluding biology term, social experience, and environment change. In other word, motive and uniqueness of an individual personality is influenced by nature and nerture.

It can be concluded that personality is a part of soul founding of the existence of human to be unity, unbreakable in functions, and understanding personality means understanding me, self or, totally understanding human.

## **2.4 Structure of The novel**

Those structures describe in details as follow :

### **2.4.1 Character**

Character is figure of someone in literature. Character is very important in a story to create a story comes alive. Charters (1987:68) emphasized that:

The action of the plot is performed by the characters in the story. The people who make something happen or produce an effect ( and not always just people. Various authors have experimented with other animals, such as cows, cats and bugs and with trees, chairs and shoes as character-even as narrator with varrying degress of success. But when we say character, we usually mean a person).

The character which exists in a play or story have various kinds of role. A major character is a character who plays an important role or character who often appears in the play and gives some commentaries from the author and playwright. Gill (1995:129) stated that: A character is someone in a literary what who has some sort of identity (is needn't be strong one ), and identity which is made up by appeareance conversation action, name and possibly thoughts going on the need."

The character is also divided into two kinds, they are the protagonist and the antagonist. The protagonist is the hero's character of the story. This character shows something which agrees with the reader's view or hope. Meanwhile, Antagonist is the character which causes the conflict in the story. Sometimes the antagonist called the enemy of the protagonist because believed as the opposition of protagonist, directly or indirectly, physically or spiritually. Both of these characters are possibly becoming the main character because sometimes there are several stories where the protagonist and the antagonist take the same portions in the story.

Character gives a certain situation in the story because there are emotions in it. The author has already known what character looks like, name, life, and also their biographies. Therefore, the author can be the main character and support character in the story. Koesnosuebrotto divided the characters into two kinds, they are :

Major character is the most important character in a story. Basically, a story is about this character, but he cannot stand on his own; he needs other characters to name the story more convincing and life like. Minor characters are characters of less important than those the main. (1988:67)

The characters in a fiction are just like human in real life, like all around which usually have specific traits character. Trait will be recognized through the comment or reaction from the others, of course one character may misjudge another one. The following



quotation is Semi's statement about the definition of a character trait in his book which entitled *Anatomi Sastra*: "Tokoh cerita biasanya mengemban suatu perwatakan tertentu yang diberi bentuk dan isi oleh pengarang. Perwatakan (karakterisasi) dapat diperoleh dengan memberi gambaran mengenai tindak tanduk,ucapan atau sejalan tidaknya antara apa yang dikatakan dengan apa yang dilakukan. Prilaku para tokoh dapat diukur melalui tindak tanduk, ucapan, kebiasaan dan sebagainya. Sebuah karakter dapat diungkapkan secara baik bila penulis mengetahui segala sesuatu mengenai karakter itu...Karakter itu sendiri boleh dipahami oleh pengarang melalui pengalaman langsung atau kemampuan imajinasi kreatifnya, atau melalui gabungan kedua cara tersebut. Cara bagaimana pengarang mengetahui tentang perwatakan itu ditampilkan pengarang lewat karyanya." (1988:37). Semi pointed that character usually carry a particular characterization given by the form and content of the author. Characterization can be obtained by giving an overview of the behaviour, speech, or what he said and what he did are on the same line. The behavior of the characters can be measured by actions, speech, habits, etc. A character can be expressed better when the author knows everything about the character. The character itself may be understood by the author through his direct experience or his ability to think creatively, or through a combination

of both methods. The way how the author knows about characterization is shown by the author through his work.

From the quotation above, the the writer concludes that it is possible to know deeply about the characters by their behaviours, thoughts or ideas, actions, physical appearances, by what others saying, and by their interaction to other character.

#### **2.4.2. Plot**

Plot is a selection and arrangement of incidents by the writer in a play, short story, and novel to form the action and gives the story a particular focus. Plot is anything that happening in a story which reveals the cause effect. According to Perrine (1983:41),” plot is sequences of incidents or events of which a story is composed”.

In the plot of most stories, there are events arising from conflict experienced by the main character and the conflict may come from something external. In some stories, the author structures the entire plot chronologically, with the first event followed by the second, third, and so on. Causatives means each events close related to one another, in term exposition, rising, confliction , climax, and falling action, there are several parts of technical process in the plot.

There are five steps of plot:

1. Situation of exposition: the first element as the introduction in which the author introduces the character, scene, theme, time, and situation
2. Rising action: the advanced introduction that depicts how conflict is increased in intensity until they reach a climax or crisis
3. Climax: the continuation of complication. It is where the complication comes to further development and to a moment of crisis
4. Falling action: shows how the conflict be falling
5. Resolution: shows how the conflict are resolved. All of the problem which is emerged by the characters will end.

Plot may be the single most important device creating unity in a particular story. It is through plot the author organizes the raw material of experience and an author's way of organizing experience. The writer may conclude that an understanding of plot is the most important factor in understanding fiction.

### **2.4.3 Setting**

In literature, setting is very important. Setting is not only relates to place, time, event, but also relates with tradition, social behaves, and people perspective. Setting can make the story like real. According to Aminuddin in Pengantar Apresiasi sastra : "In a

literary work, setting is one of the most important elements which build the story, because this elements will describe the general situation of a literary work. ” (2009:97).

Setting is illustration of times and places. It can also include complex dimension, such as historical moment the story occupies or it is social context, because particular places and times have impersonality or emotional essence. Setting is also one of primary ways that a fiction writer established mood. When and where events occur are calls setting and it will become background of the story. Therefore, the readers of the story will get information about the condition and the situation of the places and times of the events.

Aminudin in Kuswari’s blog (2005), pointed out that setting is background of occurrence in fiction. Setting refers to place, time relationship, and social environment in which the events taken place. Setting can be divided into two: physical and spiritual setting. Physical setting refers to place and time and spiritual setting refers to custom, tradition, believe, and value of the society where the event happens. (Nurgiantoro, 2002:218).

It can be concluded that setting is the background of story or the illustration of events. It refers to not only the physical, but also to non-physical. The physical setting may consist of place and space namely road, rivers, and house. In addition, non-physical

setting or spiritual setting refers to believe, costume, tradition, and value as well.

#### **2.4.4 Theme**

Theme is the main idea of the story or subject. It includes ideas and point of view as Gill (1985:131) said that theme can be found by knowing the writers: how they present their interest, how treat a common theme, how they shape a moral, how they use their important speech and important event.

A theme of a story like plot may be stated very briefly or at a greater length, with a simple or very brief story. We may be satisfied to sum up the theme in a single sentence but we may feel that a paragraph occasionally, even an essay is needed to state it adequately (Perin, 1978:113).

Theme is used to control and to give idea to a literary work which its content could be right or wrong. It may be used to defend or to attack the issue in a literary work. (Duffy & Pettit, 1953:25) . Theme and character are often closely related. The characters often symbolize an aspect of the theme. To observe the theme of a novel, (Perine, 1978:117) stated that readers should keep in mind the following principles.

1. Theme must be expressible in the form of a statement with a subject and predicate.

2. Theme is a central and unifying concept of a story. Therefore,  
(a) it must account For all the major details of the story, (b) the theme must not contradicted by any detail of the story, (c) the theme must not rely upon supposed facts not actually stated or clearly implied by the story.
3. Theme must state as generalization about life.
4. There is no one way of starting the theme of a story.
5. Must be careful not to makes generalizes larger than is justified by the terms of the story.
6. Should avoid any statement that reduces the theme to some familiar saying that we have heard all our lives.

According to Burhan Nurgiyantoro in his book *Teori Pengkajian Fiksi*, theme can divided into three characterizations, they are:

- a. Traditional theme and non traditional theme as universal thing. Traditional theme presumably tells about something negative or bad happening in the first story and ends by happiness or a positive one. Comparing with non-traditional theme, it presumably tells a story with an unhappy ending.
- b. Theme refers to human's soul, as Shipley (taken from Burhan Nurgivntoro,(2002:152) said in her dictionary of world literature, they are:

- Theme refers to a man as a molecule. It emphasizes the character's physical activities and the setting of the story
  - Theme refers to a man as protoplasm. It emphasizes to the character sexual abasement activities as human
  - Theme refers to a man as socials. It refers to the character's social interactions.
  - Theme refers to a divine. It refers to religious and philosophical views of life that occurs in the story of the novel.
- c. Major theme and minor theme. Both refer to primary level of the theme. Major theme or central theme is the main idea of the whole story. Major theme can be found by paying attention of the major character's activities. Minor theme or subtheme is the increasing idea as a part of the story.

In the book *Mastering English Literature*, Gill claimed that in some cases, the central themes of the book are presented in the title :

When you are thinking about the themes of a book, it is worth asking yourself: why did the novelist give the book this name? It could be that the novelist has chosen the title in order to tell reader something important about the book.” (1985:13)

#### **2.4.5 Point of view**

Similar to other elements of fiction, point of view also ties together in the novel because each element could not be separated with another one. Point of view is the author's vision towards character in the story (Rampan, 1995:39), so this point of view closely related to telling techniques of the author towards work of fiction. In this case, the author's view will give consideration that short story has made to be a unity of a story.

Abrams in Nurgiantoro's blog (2007) defined point of view as the technique that is used by the author as the media to express character. Furthermore, point of view can be mentioned as strategy, which is chosen freely to reveal ideas and experience. Both ideas and experiences are useful to find out the information of intrinsic elements, particularly point of view.

Kamaly (2005:14) said that point of view is a way in delivering a story. It, therefore, is a kind of tactic of the author in telling all events in that story. Abram in Nurgiantoro's *Teori Pengkajian Fiksi*, (2002:249) said that point of view refers to the way a story is told. It is a way and/or the view used by author as a medium in serving the character, action, setting, and the events. He concludes that point of view is essentially a strategy, technique, and tactic which are used and chosen by an author in telling story. Nurgiantoro (2002:242-271) divides point of view into three kinds,



they are third-single person, first person, and mixed point of view, as explained as follow:

a. Third-single person

It is a point of view in which the narrator is an out said, it then presents all characters by name or pronoun. Nelson, Sarah, and Mrs Brand, or him, her, and them. The author does not include in the story. In this type of story telling, the narrator can tell everything about the story or the character in details. This method of story telling is also called "The Eye of God" because the narrator put himself as God like he knows everything. When the narrator comes as an observer only, it is called limited omniscient narration in which the narrator will only know one of the character's felling, attitude, and behavior. This point of view is divided into two kinds, they are: single limited narrator or he or she limited and the third single person omniscient.

In third single person, the narrator tells about everything: the figure, knows, hears, and sees, however it is limited to one figure only. The omniscient point of view or third person omniscient is a way in which the story is told point of view "he", however the narrator can tell everything about figure. Therefore the narrator knows everything.

b. First Single Person

In this kind of point of view, the author used “I” to be one of character in the story. The narrator tells about himself and all the experiences he got through physically as “I”. In this type of point of view, the character “I” comes as a narrator who tells about himself or everything he finds, hears, and feels. This type of point of view is divided into two: “I” as a main character and “I” as additional character. When “I” becomes the main character in the story, he will tell everything about himself: all of her knowledges, feels, and experiences. When “I” comes up as an additional character, he in this position comes as a witness who only knows a little that happening to the main character. The main duty of the character in this case is just to serve the story.

c. Mixing Point Of View

The author sometimes tells the story from the first chapter by using first person single narrator. In other chapter the author changes his tactic by using third single person narrator. It can be seen in one of sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s *A Study in Scarlet* (1887) in this book uses “I” in one part and the others part use “he”. Thus, this type of point of view is called mixing of point of view.

## CHAPTER III

### METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Method of Collecting Data

The writer collecting data by doing library research. It is done by reading many books and other materials which are related to this writing. The data can be clasified into two types of data, they are primary data and secondary data and it will be explained further below:

##### a. Primary Data

Primary data is the important data of research or data that is directly related to the object of research. The primary data are taken from the novel *Flowers for Algernon* by Daniel Keyes. The data are collected by reading the novel to find out some important things related to the topic, making quotes, and describing the statements that reflect the main character. The writer uses Structural approach to analysis this novel.

##### b. Secondary Data

The secondary data are taken from other sources, such as books, article, ensyclopedias, internet, and other sources related to this writing, and from library research. In library research, the entire

theory which has been explained before is correlated to any reading materials connected to the topic which has been chosen.

### **3.2 Method of Analyzing Data**

In analyzing *Flower for Algernon* by Daniel Keyes, the writer uses Structural approach to analyse the novel. Descriptive method examines a phenomena, group of people, idea or theory with a particular focus on facts and conditions of the subject .

The analysis of data to reveal the conflicts that occur between the characters in the novel is done by using an intrinsic approach. The intrinsic approach that separates literary from it is surrounding, Damono (1993:6) said in an intrinsic approach to literary can be understood without having to relate it to their environment, such as publishers and writers.

In analyzing the intrinsic approach, the writer uses the elements that build the story. These elements are plot, character, setting, theme, and point of view. In this study, the writer focuses in the analysis of the main character.

### **3.3 Research Procedure**

In doing the research, the writer does some steps, such as :

1. Reading the novel carefully as the main source. The writer does close reading during this process.

2. Making note to help in classifying the problems that may occur in the novel, and identifying the problem that might be interesting to be studied.
3. Determining the basic theory or approach that will be used in analyzing the problems. In this case, the writer decides to use Structuralism approach.
4. Gaining and collecting all data and information regarding the topic of the research, either from books, articles, or from internet. This procedure is followed by the classification of the data into primary data and secondary data.
5. Analyzing and describing the data by applying the basic theory or approach that has been determined before.
6. Concluding the research that has been studied and then presenting the result in form of thesis.

## CHAPTER IV

### ANALYSIS

In this chapter, the writer would like to analyse the main character of the novel *Flowers for Algernon* with still paying attention to other intrinsic elements, such as the others character (minor characters), plot, setting, and theme that contribute to develop the story. Beside that, the writer tries to analyse the impact of main character's transformation from dumb into genius

#### 4.1 Main Character

##### 4.1.1 Charlie Gordon Before Surgery to Increase His Intelligence

###### a) Dumb

Charlie Gordon is the main character of the story. Charlie is a developmentally disabled 32-year-old man with I.Q. of 68, who has struggled in his whole life toward the goal of "being smart". Charlie lived alone and he had thrown by his own family since he was a kid because his mother could not accept Charlie's condition. Charlie is a dumb man: he can not read fluently, write words correctly, can not spell very well, and has not be able to understand about using full stop and commas. It is seen from the progres report written by Charlie in the following passage:

Progris riport 1 martch 3.

Dr Strauss says I shoud rite down what I think and remembir and evrey thing that happins to me from now on. I dont no why but he says its importint so they will see if they can use me. I hope they use me becaus Miss Kinnian says mabye they can make me smart. I want to be smart. My name is Charlie Gordon I werk in Dormers bakery where Mr Donner gives me 11 dollers a week and bred or cake if I want. I am 32 yeres old and next munth is my brithday. I told dr Strauss and perfesser Nemur I cant rite good but he says it dont matter he says I shud rite just like I talk and like I rite compushishens in Miss Kinnians class at the beekmin collidge center for retarded adults where I go to lern 3 times a week on my time off. Dr Strauss says to rite a lot evrything I think and evrything that happins to me but I cant think anymor because I have nothing to rite so I will close for today... yrs truly Charlie Gordon.(1966:1)

From the text above it can be seen that Charlie can not write correctly, he does not know how to use full stops and commas and he can not spell very well. There are many error words in his writting and as a 32-year-old man, he should be able to write, read, and spell easily. His error writing can be found even since the very first sentence, such as *Progris riport 1 martch 3* where it should be written *Progress report 1 March 3*, *shoud rite down* should be written *should write down*, *remembir and evrey thing* should be written *remember and every thing*, and many other words.

Charlie lived alone and worked in cake factory/shop *Donners*, owned by Mr.Donner, a good friend of his uncle, Uncle Herman. Charlie has a father (Matt Gordon), mother (Rose Gordon), and little sister (Norma Gordon) with a normal mentality,

but Charlie has been removed in his family because his mother and his sister do not want to have a family like him, a dumb man. In the current mental state, he does not care about his family relationship, which is important to him now. Charlie was employed as a floor cleaner and delivery boy. Charlie is the but of crude jokes by the worst of the bakery workers, but is treated kindly by the others. It can be seen in his progres report as follow:

March 21 - We had a lot of fun at the bakery today. Joe Carp said hey look where Charlie had his operashun what did they do Charlie put some brains in. I was going to tell him about me getting smart but I remembered Prof Nemur said no. Then Frank Reilly said what did you do Charlie open a door the hard way. That made me laff. Their my frends and they really like me.(1966:14)

The text above shows that he is “happy,” in a way with all these people whom he considers “smart,” and he enjoys laughing with them, even when most of the laughter is against him. At this stage, the only signs of unhappiness are the fact that Charlie scacerly seems to remember anything of his family, which has abandoned him, and his anxiety to learn and be “smart”. This drives him to enroll in a special class, which he attends after a long day of drudgery at the bakery. Otherwise, he seems happy to entertain and be patronized by the co-workers at the bakery, which is his “world”.



**b ) Kind and hard worker**

The main character, Charlie, is also kind and a hard worker. His daily life is spent mostly for working in cake *Donners*. Although Charlie unlike most people, but he is a hard worker and not relying his life on the others, as explained as follows :

There is a lot of work to catch up. They don't have anyone to clean out the place because that was my job but they got a new boy Ernie to do the deliveries that I always done. Mr Donner said he decided not to fire him for a while to give me a chance to rest up and not work so hard. I told him I was alright and I can make my deliveries and clean up like I always done but Mr.Donner says we will keep the boy.(1966:14)

It is clear to read that Charlie always think about his job. He thinks that there is a lot of work to catch up, although he knows that there is a person which has replaced his duties for a while but, he remain thinks of his works.

**c) Positive thinking**

Beside a hardworking and benevolent. Charlie always has positive thinking, he always think that the people around him always respond and love him and everyone happy to befriend with him. All above explanation are proven by the following text :

March 21 - We had a lot of fun at the bakery today. Joe Carp said hey look where Charlie had his operashun what did they do Charlie put some brains in. I was going to tell him about me getting smart but I remembered Prof Nemur said no. Then Frank Reilly said what did you do

Charlie open a door the hard way. That made me laff. Their my frends and they really like me. (1966:14)

The explanation above shows that Charlie just thinks that people around really like him and happy be friend with him, he never thought that he often used as the joke of his friends.

**d) Strong- willed**

Although he is a developmentally disabled man, but Charlie has no difference with other normal people. He has a great desire to learn, he wants to read books, and he wants to be smart. These all are because of his traumatic childhood when his mother always told him to study hard. Therefore, at night he studies in Beekman Academy which is destined to people like him.

I cant rite good but he says it dont matter he says I shud rite just like I talk and like I rite compushishens in Miss Kinnians class at the beekmin collidge center for retarded adults where I go to lern 3 times a week on my time off.(1966:1)

From the quotation above, we can see that Charlie is a wishful and hopeful person, he has a strong desire to learn and he likes it. Because of it, his teacher in Beekmen proposed him to follow a surgical procedure that will increase his mental capabilities. One day, he is given that opportunity and he agrees to let the doctors operate his brain, although he knows the surgery may fail as Prof. Nemur said to him:

He said Charlie we werked on this for a long time but only on animils like Algernon. We are sure thers no fisical

danger for you but there are other things we cant tell untill we try it. I want you to understand this mite fale and then nothing woud happen at all. Or it mite even succeed temperary and leeve you werse off then you are now. Do you understand what that meens. If that happins we will have to send you bak to the Warren state home to live. (1966:7)

Charlie did not care about the impact of the surgery. He is eager and states that he does not care if the intelligence is temporary. He thinks he is very strong and always lucky because he has a fortune fetish. He only thinks about being smart like a normal people as described in the following text:

I said I dint care because I aint afraid of nothing. Im very strong and I always do good and beside I got my luky rabits foot and I never breakd a mhrir in my life. I droppd some dishis once but that dont count for bad luk.

I told him thanks doc you wont be sorry for giving me my 2nd chance like Miss Kinnian says. And I 'meen it like I tolld them. After the operashun Im gonna try to be smart. Im gonna try awful hard.(1966:7)

From the explanation above, it is clear that Charlie very interested with the operation. He is afraid of nothing. In his mind, he thinks only about trying to be smart like normal people.

Before the surgery, a man named Burt Selden gave him a “raw shok test”. Burt Selden is the laboratory assistent, he is a junior member of the team for Charlie’s surgery. Charlie follows some tests and meets Algernon, a white mouse that has been the first succesfull test subject to increase capabilities. The surgery makes Algernon can solve complex puzzle and it beats Charlie in

the test. After a battery of test, including a maze solving competition with Algernon, Charlie undergoes the operation.

### **Charlie Gordon After Surgery to Increase His Intelligence**

In the beginning, he is disappointed that there is no immediate change in his intellectuality, but by trying and with a help from Alice, his teacher, he gradually improves his spelling and grammar. He begins to read adult books, slowly at first, then voraciously, filling his brain with knowledge from many academic fields.

#### **e) Sensitive**

As his intelligence grows, Charlie gains perspective on his past and present. He realizes that people have often taken advantage of him and have been cruel to him because they know that he would not understand. Likewise, he realizes that when people have been kind to him, it usually is out of condescension or out of an awareness that he is inferior, as seen in the following text:

Then I saw a picture that I remembered in my mind when I was a kid and the children in the block let me play with them, hide-and-go-seek and I was IT. After I counted up to ten over and over on my fingers I went to look for the others. I kept looking until it got cold and dark and I had to go home. (1966:7).

What can be understood from the passage above is as Charlie's intelligence grows, he remembers his memories about his childhood, especially about how his friends always mistreat him.

I didn't know what to do or where to turn. Her rubbing up against me made me feel funny. Everyone was laughing at me and all of a sudden I felt naked. I wanted to hide myself so they wouldn't see. I ran out of the apartment. It was a large apartment house with lots of halls and I couldn't find my way to the staircase. I forgot all about the elevator. Then, after, I found the stairs and ran out into the street and walked for a long time before I went to my room. I never knew before that Joe and Frank and the others liked to have me around just to make fun of me. Now I know what they mean when they say "to pull a Charlie Gordon."  
I'm ashamed. (1966:26)

From the text above, we can see that Charlie began to realize that actually people around him only consider him to be something eligible to be ridiculed and cruel of jokes and it makes him being a sensitive man.

Others memories that he recovers in his mind is about his family. Most of it involve his mother, Rose, who resented and often brutally punished him for not being normal like other children.

Now he had the clear picture of Charlie's mother, screaming at him, holding a leather belt in her hand, and his father trying to hold her back. (1966:70)

He remembers that his mother always angry to him because he is not like other people, normal people. Not only his mother, his

little sister, Norma, also does not like him because she feels ashamed of having a brother like him.

I recall once overhearing Norma and one of her girl friends playing in her room, and Norma shouting: " He is not my real brother! He's just a boy we took in because we felt sorry for him. My mamma told me, and she said I can tell everyone now that he's not really my brother at all. (1966:75)

The quotation above shows that his family, especially his mother and his little sister, always blame him to be born as stupid person. They are always angry to him and they do not want to recognize Charlie as a part of family.

#### **f) Passion**

Beside he recovers his lost memories of his childhood, now he realizes that he is deeply attracted to Alice. Alice insists on keeping their relationship professional, but it is obvious that she shares Charlie's attraction. When Charlie discovers that one of bakery employees is stealing from Mr. Donner, he does not know what to do until Alice tell him to trust his hearth.

It was the first time anyone had ever done that, and it made me bolder. I leaned forward, holding on to her hand, and the words came out. "I like you very much." After I said it, I was afraid she'd laugh, but she nodded and smiled. (1966:49)

It is clear that now Charlie loves his teacher, Alice. Before he become more intelligent he is childlike although he is 32 years

old and never thinks to love a woman. But now it's different, he is falling in love with his teacher. But Alice breaks his heart because she thinks it's too fast for her and him, but actually Alice also is interested in him..

When she put me off, I felt awkward and ridiculous at the same time. It made me angry with myself and I pulled back to my side of the seat and stared out the window. I hated her as I had never hated anyone before-with her easy answers and maternal fussing. I wanted to slap her face, to make her crawl, and then to hold her in my arms and kiss her. (1966:50)

Although Charlie is disappointed in Alice but he still loves her. He never loved a woman before, and now he is falling in love with Alice because the surgery made him different, changed his mindset and introduced him to love.

As he grows closer to Alice, he recovers a number of memories that relate to sexuality and shame. He remembers intense trauma upon discovering Norma's bloody underpants in the laundry, and associates menstruation with violence and shame. He remembers his mother beating him brutally upon finding him with an erection.

"Look at him!" Rose screams. "He can't learn to read and write, but he knows enough to look at a girl that way. I'll beat that filth out of his mind." (1966:71)

Charlie Thinking about it now, he certain feels a hallucination. Dr Strauss said to him that emotionally still in that adolescent state where being close to a woman, or thinking of sex, sets off anxiety, panic, even hallucinations, sexual situations reveal that emotionally

**g) Knowledgeably**

Now charlie becomes a genius person. He is critical to people arround him, especially to the research team, which has treated him as “guineaping’. He does not appreciate decisions made for him, but he revels in the intellectual powers the surgical has given him. He is mastering a dozen languages and many subject, including literature, music, psychology, maths, and linguigtic. He is smart and even better than a professor, as seen in the following text:

The same thing happened when I tried to discuss Chaucer with an American literature specialist, questioned an Orientalist about the Trobriand Islanders, and tried to focus on the problems of automation-caused unemployment with a social psychologist who specialized in public opinion polls on adolescent behavior. They would always find excuses to slip away, afraid to reveal the narrowness of their knowledge.

How different they seem to be now. And how foolish I was ever to have thought that professors were intellectual giants. They're people-and afraid the rest of the world will find out.” (1966:61)



From the statements above, it shows that Charlie becomes more genius and so knowleadgby, his transformation from a dumb man into a genius one has changed him be the one who underestimates the others.

#### **4.2 The impact of main character's transformation from dumb into genius**

Unfortunately, the progress from subnormal intelligence to genius disrupts his life in many ways. It makes him unfit for his earlier job and companions, even for the girl he loves, Alice. Although he become genius, but people being different to him, his intelligent make his friends in Donner's Bakery leaves him.

April 22 - People at the bakery are changing. Not only ignoring me. I can feel the hostility. Donner is arranging for me to join the baker's union, and I've gotten another raise. The rotten thing is that all of the pleasure is gone because the others resent me. In a way, I can't blame them. They don't understand what has happened to me, and I can't tell them. People are not proud of me the way I expected-not at all. (1966:41)

"Which don't mean to say," she remarked, "that I don't think there's something mighty strange about you, Charlie. The way you've changed! I don't know. You used to be a good, dependable man -- ordinary, not too bright maybe, but honest-and who knows what you done to yourself to get so smart all of a sudden. Like everybody's been saying-it ain't right."(1966:67)

Charlie is confused and dissapointed with the people arround him. They do not like his transformation into a genius person, he thinks that his friends like him as a dumb man and it makes him

angry. Now, Mr. Donner fires him from the Bakery because his transformation. It can be seen in the following text:

I know, Charlie. Nothing's wrong with your work. But something happened to you, and I don't understand what it means. Not only me. Everyone has been talking about it. I've had them in here a dozen times in the last few weeks. They're all upset. Charlie, I got to let you go. (1966:65)

Charlie is surprised at how much he misses the job, realizing for the first time how much it meant to him. Fanny, a kindly coworker, feels sorry for him, but she also fears of his sudden change.

After fired from the Bakery, Charlie works in the laboratory with Prof. Nemur, Dr. Strauss, and Burt. They go to Chichago to attend a scientific convection and to introduce Charlie and Algernon as object of scientific. In the convenction, Prof. Nemur said that Charlie is one of nature's mistakes, as seen in the following text:

We who have worked on this project at Beekman University have the satisfaction of knowing we have taken one of nature's mistakes and by our new techniques created a superior human being. When Charlie came to us he was outside of society, alone in a great city without friends or relatives to care about him, without the mental equipment to live a normal life. No past, no contact with the present, no hope for the future. It might be said that Charlie Gordon did not really exist before this experiment...." (1966:102)

Charlie increasingly frustrated of hearing the scientist suggests that he was subhuman prior to the operation and feels like a debased carnival slideshow act. He does not know why he resented it so intensely to have them think of him as something

newly minted in their private treasury, but it disrupts him. He wanted to get up and show everyone what a fool he was: he is a human being, a person-with parents, memories and, a history, and he was before they ever wheeled him into that.

One day Charlie sees a newspaper article that contains an interview with Norma, his sister. Charlie learns that his mother told Norma that he had been sent off to the Warren State Home, an institution for the mentally disabled, and had died three years ago. He also reads that his father now own his own babershop and no longer lives with his mother.

Charlie visits his father at his barbershop. His father, Matt does not recognize him and treats him as a customer. Too nervous to say anything, Charlie gets a haircut. Matt is a warm father for Charlie, he can be his friend and share anything. Although his father do not recognize him, but Charlie glad to see his father, as describe in the followiing :

I was excited at the thought of seeing him. Memories were warm ones. Matt had been willing to take me as I was. Before Norma: the arguments that weren't about money or impressing the neighbors were about me-that I should be let alone instead of being pushed to do what other kids did. And after Norma: that I had a right to a life of my own even though I wasn't like other children. Always defending me. I couldn't wait to see the expression on his face. He was someone I'd be able to share this with. (1966:115)

Charlie and Algernon move into an apartment in the city. He builds Algernon an elaborate maze to solve and he meets his

neighbor, Fay Lllman, a free spirited and flirtatious artist. Fay is appalled by the neatness of Charlie's apartment, saying she cannot stand straight lines and that she drinks make the line go blurry. Charlie finds Fay is a weird person, but she is undeniably attractive. They make love, but he is only thinking all about Alice. Although Charlie has a personal relationship with Fay, but he loves Alice still. His relationship with Fay only in sexual relation.

From the statements above, it can be seen that it is a common life or culture in western. Charlie and Fay having sex without love and marriage. For Charlie, actually he loves Alice, but as a male he need someone to convey his sex desire and passion, it makes him making love with Fay. As well as Charlie, Fay as free woman and fliartius artist also enjoy her relationship with Charlie and she loves it.

One day Algernon shows a weird act, the mouse attacks Minnie (a female mouse for Algernon). Algernon shows increasingly erratic behaviour, decreased drastically. It makes him worried with the situation. Allgernon eventually dies. Charlie worries that whatever happens to Algernon will soon happen to him as well. It can be seen in the following text:

Algernon died two days ago. I found him at four thirty in the morning when I came back to the lab after wandering around down at the waterfront-on his side, stretched out in the corner of his cage. As if he were running in his sleep. Dissection shows that my predictions were right. Compared to the normal brain, Algernon's had decreased in weight and

there was a general smoothing out of the cerebral convolutions as well as a deepening and broadening of brain fissures.

It's frightening to think that the same thing might be happening to me right now. Seeing it happen to Algernon makes it real. For the first time, I'm afraid of the future". (1966:165)

Fearing a regression to his previous level intelligence, Charlie visits his mother and sister in order to try to come to terms with his past. Now his mother is a demented old woman, it can be seen in the reaction of his mother when she meets him:

I pushed Norma away from me, but before I could say anything, Rose was on her feet. She had taken the kitchen knife from the table and was pointing at me. (1966:176)

In the text above, it is seen that Charlie's mother suddenly slips into a delusional flashback and attack him. It makes Charlie sobbing when he leaves, but he feels that he has finally overcome his painful background and become a fully developed individual. He has forgiven his family:

I wondered if I had ever done anything to justify my mother's fear. There were no such memories, but how could I be sure there weren't horrible thoughts repressed behind the barriers of my tortured conscience? In the sealed-off passageways, beyond blind alleys, that I would never see. Possibly I will never know. Whatever the truth is, I must not hate Rose for protecting Norma. I must understand the way she saw it. Unless I forgive her, I will have nothing. (1966:176)

The situation is getting weird. Charlie has regressed in his intellectual, everything has changed. He realized that now he is not genius, he returns to he was, a dumb man. Charlie succeeds in

finding the error in Nemur's hypothesis, scientifically proving that a flaw in the intelligence operation will vanish as quickly as it comes. Charlie calls this phenomenon *Algernon-Gordon Effect* as seen in his letter to Prof. Nemur:

August 26 - LETTER TO PROFESSOR NEMUR (COPY)

*Dear Professor Nemur:*

*As I show in my report, these and other physical and mental deterioration syndromes can be predicted with statistically significant results by the application of my new formula. Although the surgical stimulus to which we were both subjected resulted in an intensification and acceleration of all mental processes, the flaw, which I have taken the liberty of calling the "Algernon-Gordon Effect," is the logical extension of the entire intelligence speed-up. The hypothesis here proved may be described most simply in the following terms:*

**ARTIFICIALLY-INDUCED INTELLIGENCE DETERIORATES AT A RATE OF TIME DIRECTLY PROPORTIONAL TO THE QUANTITY OF THE INCREASE.**

.....

*Yours truly,  
Charles Gordon encl: report copy: Dr Strauss  
The Welberg Foundation  
(1966:162-163)*

The letter above shows that Charlie has known what will happen to him soon. He knows that his intelligence will decrease drastically, just like Algernon, even he probably will die, too. Finally he decides to leave town to avoid further shame. It shows that Charlie's character is pessimistic and humiliated as seen in the farewell letter that he writes.

Goodby Miss Kinnian and dr Strauss and evrybody...

P.S. please tel prof Nemur not to be such a grouch when pepul laff at him and he woud have more frends. Its easy to have fiends if you let pepul laff at you. Im going to have lots of fiends where I go.. please if you get a chanse put some flown on Algernons grave in the bak yard. (1966:198)

As he passes through a stage of average intelligence on his way back to retardation, Charlie enjoys a brief, passionate relationship with Alice, but he sends her away as he senses the return of his old self. When Charlie's regression is complete, he briefly returns to his old job at the bakery, where his coworkers and Mr. Donner welcome him back with kindness.

Nov 18 - Mr Donner was very nice when I came back and askd him for my old job at the bakery. Frist he was very suspicius but I told him what happened to me and then he looked very sad and put his hand on my shoulder and said Charlie you got guts. (1966:196)

From the text above, Charlie realizes one thing, that is people like him as a first Charlie, a dumb man, not as a genius Charlie, and he returns to himself was. Now, he is not genius anymore, he returns to a dumb Charlie who can not read fluently, write words correctly, not able to understand when to use full stop and commas, and can not spell very well.

I dont no why Im dumb agen or what I did rong. Mabye its because I dint try hard enuf or just some body put the evel eye on me. But if I try and practis very hard mabye I'll get a littel smarter and no what all the words are. I remembir a littel bit how nice I had a feeling with the blue book that I red with the toren cover. And when I close my eyes I think about the man who tored the book and he looks

like me only he looks different and he talks different but I don't think it's me because it's like I see him from the window. (1966:198)

The quotation above shows that Charlie is not genius anymore. There are many mistakes in his writing, such as *enuf* which should be writing *enough*, *rong* which should be writing *wrong*, and many other words.

Charlie forgets that he is no longer enrolled in Alice's night school class for retarded adults, and he upsets her by showing up. In fact, Charlie has forgotten their entire romantic relationship. After deciding to remove himself from the people who have known him and now feel sorry for him, he checks himself into a home for disabled adults. His last request is for the reader of his manuscript to leave fresh flowers on Algernon's grave.

Goodby Miss Kinnian and dr Strauss and evrybody...

P.S. please tel prof Nemur not to be such a grouch when pepul laff at him and he woud have more frends. Its easy to have fiends if you let pepul laff at you. Im going to have lots of fiends where I go.. please if you get a chanse put some flown on Algernons grave in the bak yard. (1966:198)

His postscript above is telling that Charlie frame Algernon as an individual and his friend, not as a scientific subject.

### **4.3 The Others Character**

#### **4.3.1 Alice Kinnian**



Alice Kinnian is Charlie's teacher at the Beekman Center for Retarded Adults. She initially recommends Charlie for the experimental operation because she is impressed by his motivation.

Alice is a beautiful girl, she has soft brown eyes, as Charlie said:

May 1 - Why haven't I ever noticed how beautiful Alice Kinnian is? She has pigeon-soft brown eyes and feathery brown hair down to the hollow of her neck. When she smiles, her full lips look as if she's pouting. (1966:102)

**a) Care**

Alice is a care and patient woman. When the operation on Charlie is being considered, Alice constantly worries about its consequences, in spite of Charlie's eagerness to go ahead and when Charlie returns to a dumb man, Alice still cares to Charlie, as describe below:

October 14 - I wake up in the morning and don't know where I am or what I'm doing here, and then I see her beside me and I remember. She senses when something is happening to me, and she moves quietly around the apartment, making breakfast, cleaning up the place, or going out and leaving me to myself, without any questions. (1966:189)

From the Charlie's opinion above, it shows that Ms. Kinnian is a patient and care woman. She still concerns to Charlie , she cleans up his place, makes breakfast, and always accompanies Charlie in his setback intelligence.

**b) Forward-Minded**

Alice is also a typical of woman who thinks about her future. When Charlie becomes more intelligent, she realizes that Charlie is deeply more attractive to her and he is falling in love to her. Knowing there is no future for them, Alice does not withhold her friendship from Charlie and told him to meet another woman, as seen in the following text:

But you're changing emotionally too. In a peculiar sense I'm the first woman you've ever been really aware of-in this way. Up to now I've been your teacher, someone you turn to for help and advice. You're bound to think you're in love with me. See other women. Give yourself more time. (1966:57)

From the quotation above it shows that Alice is very carefully to receive one's love, before making a decision, she always thinks about her future. Although, Alice told so to Charlie, but honestly, she loves Charlie, too. While Alice is torn between her own conventional and more modern tendencies, she does not give up on Charlie, even during his involvement with Fay.

**c) Understanding**

Alice is also an understanding woman. When Charlie is down in his research, Alice is the perfect helpmate who brings him sandwiches and coffee and does not make any demands. When Charlie's mind is regressing and he becomes loonier, Alice does not

let him giving up easily. When Charlie returns to be a dumb man, she once again becomes “Miss Kinnian” for Charlie. Alice always be an understanding woman for Charlie. It can be seen in the following text:

She tried to soothe me, to tell me it didn't matter, that there was no reason to blame myself. But ashamed, and no longer able to control my anguish, I began to sob. There in her arms I cried myself to sleep, and I dreamed of the courtier and the pink-cheeked maiden. But in my dream it was the maiden who held the sword. (1966:71)

From the explanation above it shows that Alice always be a woman who understands Charlie. She always tries to calm Charlie in every situation, especially when Charlie gets trouble.

#### **4.3.2 Fay Lillman**

Fay is Charlie’s neighbor in the apartment when he moves after running away from the science’s exhibition. Fay is a kind and beauty widow who likes sex, drinking, and dancing, and she also becomes the first woman who has sex with Charlie.

##### **a) Helpful**

Fay is a good girl, she has a goodheart and a helpful girl. She helped without expecting a reward, the important thing for her is she can help people who need help, although she had to run out of money, as seen in the following text:

The thing is that Fay is bright and goodhearted. I learned today why she ran out of money so early this month.

The week before she met me, she had befriended a girl she'd met at the Stardust Ballroom. When the girl told Fay she had no family in the city, was broke, and had no place to sleep, Fay invited her to move in. Two days later the girl found the two hundred and thirty-two dollars that is kept in her dresser drawer, and disappeared with the money. Fay hadn't reported it to the police-and as it turned out, she didn't even know the girl's last name. (1966:136)

From the paragraph above it shows that Fay is a type of helpful woman. She helps people without expecting a reward. She helps anyone who need a help and she also often misguided by people which she helped, but she did not matter with it because she believes that people who deceive her have a special reason to do it.

#### **b) Lustful**

Fay is an attractive person with free spirited and she is a sexually liberal artist whose favourite pastimes are drinking and dancing. In her life, Fay loves sex very much and she is more attractive in sex, as seen in her conversation with Charlie :

Fay : "Not here on the couch, Charlie," she said, struggling to her feet. "Let's go to bed."

Charlie : "Here," I insisted, pulling the blouse away from her. (She looked down at me, set her glass on the floor, and stepped out of her underwear. She stood there in front of me, nude. "I'll turn out the lights," she whispered)

Charlie : "No," I said, pulling her down onto the couch again. "I want to look at you."

Fay : (She kissed me deeply and held me tightly in her arms). "Just don't disappoint me this time, Charlie. You'd better not."

Charlie : (Her body moved slowly, reaching for me, and I knew that this time nothing would interfere. I knew what to do and how to do it. She gasped and sighed and called my name). (1966:134)

From the conversation above it shows that Fay is type woman who loves sex, even she becomes more attractive. In her case with Charlie, Fay knows that Charlie loves Alice, but it is not important for her because she only wants to have sex with Charlie. Beside that, Fay also is an artist in art, she likes painting a naked pose.

**c) Drunkard**

Beside a sexual liberal artist, Fay is also a woman who likes drinking and dancing. In her life, she is interested only on four things which are dancing, drinking, painting, and sex. Fay loves drinking and dancing very much, as seen in the following text:

Fay still wants to go out dancing all the time. Last night started out with us drinking and dancing at the White Horse Club, and from there to Benny's Hideaway, and then on to the Pink Slipper... and after that I don't remember many of the places, but we danced until I was ready to drop. (1966:136)

From the statement above, it is clear that Fay loves dancing and drinking very much, she does it from one bar to other bars. She spends many nights in Bar without thinking about other things.

Charlie has a personal relationship with Fay, but he loves Alice still. His relationship with Fay only in sexual relation. Fay become jealous and bored with Charlie, so she goes off with a series of lovers and snubs Charlie.

### **4.3.3 Mr. Donner**

Mr. Donner is the owner of the bakery where Charlie works. He is an old friend of Charlie's uncle, uncle Herman. Mr. Donner is a father figure to Charlie and he is very care to Charlie.

#### **a) Kindness**

Mr. Donner is a good man, he treats himself as figure of father to Charlie. He treats Charlie very well like his own son, as seen in the following text :

And I treated you like my own son who gave up his life for his country. And when Herman died-how old were you? seventeen? more like a six-year-old boy-I swore to myself... I said, Arthur Donner, as long as you got a bakery and a business over your head, you're going to look after Charlie. He is going to have a place to work, a bed to sleep in, and bread in his mouth. When they committed you to that Warren place, I told them how you would work for me, and I would take care of you. You didn't spend even one night in that place. I got you a room and I looked after you. Now, have I kept that solemn promise?. (1966:65)

From the quotation above, it shows that Mr. Donner treat Charlie as his own son. He takes care of Charlie after Charlie discarded by his own family and he becomes a figure of father for Charlie.

#### **b) Wise**

Mr. Donner is also a wise person. He always pays attention for complaints of his workers and he can put himself to be fair and

wise to Charlie and the other workers. When Charlie changes and there are many complaints from the other workers, he decides to fire Charlie, although he has considered Charlie as his son, as seen in the following text:

I know, Charlie. Nothing's wrong with your work. But something happened to you, and I don't understand what it means. Not only me. Everyone has been talking about it. I've had them in here a dozen times in the last few weeks. They're all upset. Charlie, I got to let you go.(1966:65)

From the quotation above, it shows that when Charlie becomes genius and changes, the delegation of workers demands Charlie to be fired because they cannot adapt to the “new Charlie”. Mr. Donner reluctantly lets him go. Again, he takes back Charlie in his state of regression. Mr. Donner is an idealized figure, one of the few people who represents security and warmth in Charlie’s chaotic life.

#### **4.3.4 Norma Gordon**

Norma is Charlie’s sister. She is a beautiful girl with brown hair. Norma is different with Charlie because she is normal, so her mother loves her so much and always ignores Charlie.

##### **a) Cruel**

During their childhood, Norma resents Charlie for getting what she perceives as special treatment and she is always cruel to

Charlie. She does not want have a brother like Charlie, as describe in the following text:

I recall once overhearing Norma and one of her girl friends playing in her room, and Norma shouting: "He is not my real brother! He's just a boy we took in because we felt sorry for him. My mamma told me, and she said I can tell everyone now that he's not really my brother at all. (1966:75)

From the quotation above, Norma feels ashamed for having a brother like Charlie. She does not want to recognize Charlie as her brother. Norma's attitude is similar to her mother. They cannot accept Charlie as a part of their family because he was born as stupid person.

**b) Envious**

Although her mother loves her more than Charlie, but Norma also feels envious to Charlie. In her childhood, Norma always lied and said that Charlie hurted her, so her mother always punished Charlie. When she meets Charlie as adult, Norma regrets her spite, as seen in describe bellow:

I hated you because they fussed over you all the time. They never spanked you for not doing your homework right, or for not bringing home the best marks. You skipped classes most of the time and played games, and I had to go to the hard classes in school. Oh, how I hated you. In school the other children scribbled pictures on the blackboard, a boy with a duncecap on his head, and they wrote Norma's Brother under it. And they scribbled things on the sidewalk in the schoolyard-Moron's Sister and Dummy Gordon Family. And then one day when I wasn't invited to Emily Raskin's birthday party, I knew it was because of you. And when we



were playing there in the basement with those lampshades on our heads, I had to get even." She started to cry. "So I lied and said you hurt me. Oh, Charlie, what a fool I was-what a spoiled brat. I'm so ashamed.(1966 :174)

From the statements above it shows that actually Norma is envious to Charlie because her parents always fussed over Charlie all the time, Charlie could skip class and played games while she must study hard and must bring home the best marks to show to her mother, but now when she reencounters Charlie as adult, though, she is glad to see Charlie and regrets her youthful spite and confess her fault to Charlie. Now, she is be caretaker for their mentally unstable mother and Charlie always loves her as his family.

#### **4.3.5 Rose Gordon**

##### **a) Obsessive-compulsive disorder**

Rose Gordon is Charlie's mother, an obsessed woman and domineering woman who was terribly ashamed of Charlie's childhood retardation. As a mother, she wants her son being a normal like the other child, as seen in the following text:

He's normal! He's normal! He'll grow up like other people. Better than others." She was trying to scratch the teacher, but Dad was holding her back.

"He'll go to college someday. He'll be somebody." She kept screaming it,clawing at Dad so he'd let go of her. "He'll go to college someday and he'll be somebody." (1966:44)

From the quotation above, we can see that Charlie's mother is obsessed by an imaginary ideal of normalcy. Rose Gordon's initial response to her son Charlie's mental disability is denial. She insists that Charlie was normal and she developed delusional that Charlie is brilliant.

For the first few years of Charlie's life, she desperately wants to see her son as normal and steadfastly defends him. Therefore, she takes Charlie to numerous Doctor in an attempt to improve his mental ability. However, when Norma, Charlie's sister, is born, Rose's position reverses, she begins to distrust and to even dislike her son, as seen in passage bellow:

She was like a bundle all pink and screaming sometimes that I couldnt sleep. And when I went to sleep she woke me up in the nighttime. One time when they were in the kitchen and I was in my bed she was crying. I got up to pick her up and hold her to get quiet the way mom does. But then Mom came in yelling and took her away. And she slapped me so hard I fell on the bed.(1966:23)

From the quotation above, it can been seen that Charlie's sister is normal. Rose turns her full attention to Norma and tries to ignore Charlie altogether.

**b) Cruel**

Rose Gordon is also a cruel mother. Charlie's adolescence becomes a new terror for Rose. She fears that Charlie may sexually assault, either a girl visitor or his own sister. She found him

observing Norma when dressing, then she chased him with a leather belt and threatened to put him away in a cage, as seen in her husband's statement in the passage below:

Enough, Rose! You'll kill him! Leave him alone!" His mother straining forward to lash at him, just out of reach now so that the belt swishes past his shoulder as he writhes and twists away from it on the floor.

"Look at him!" Rose screams. "He can't learn to read and write, but he knows enough to look at a girl that way. I'll beat that filth out of his mind." (1966:71)

From the statement above, it shows that Rose is a cruel mother. Rose is always angry and hits his son because he was born as stupid person and she cannot receive that. She wants Charlie to be normal, so that she always be cruel to him.

**c) Heartless**

As a mother, Rose is a heartless woman. She always imposes her will on Charlie without thinking about the feeling of his son. She cruel, always gives Charlie punishment, even she picks up a knife and demands his husband, Matt, to take Charlie away, in the Warren home, for good. Alternately, she argues that Charlie better of dead, as seen in her conversation with her husband, Matt:

"I can't help it! He's got to go! We've got her to think about. I won't have her come home from school crying every day like this because the children tease her. We can't destroy her chance for a normal life because of..

"What do you want to do? Turn him out into the street?"

"Put him away. Send him to the Warren State Home."

"Let's talk it over in the morning."  
"No. All you do is talk, talk, and you don't do anything. I don't want him here another day. Now-tonight."  
"Don't be foolish, Rose. It's too late to do anything... tonight You're shouting so loud everyone will hear you."  
"I don't care. He goes out tonight. I can't stand looking at him any more."  
"You're being impossible, Rose. What are you doing?"  
"I warn you. Get him out of here."  
"Put that knife down."  
"I'm not going to have her life destroyed."  
"You're crazy. Put that knife away."  
"He's better off dead. He'll never be able to live a normal life. He'll be better off-". (1966:117)

From the conversation above, it shows that Rose prefers to choose Charlie died than she must have a dumb son. As a mother, she has felt tired of his son and do not want to raise his son again. Fear of her hysteria, her husband takes Charlie away to uncle Herman. Charlie leaves his home at night and since then, Charlie has been removed by his own mother.

Now Rose has left by Matt. She lives only with Norma and be a mad woman. She makes an appearance as a senile and still unhappy obsessed woman.

#### **4.3.6 Matt Gordon**

##### **a) Kindness**

Matt is Charlie's father, who represents the voice of kindness and sanity in the family. He always tries to protect Charlie against his mother's hostility, but his wife, Rose too easily bullies him. Matt

always tries to defend Charlie if he scolded by his wife, as describe below:

For God's sake, Rose. Leave him alone. You've got him terrified. You always do this, and the poor kid"  
"You're fooling yourself, Rose. It's not fair to us or to him. Pretending he's normal. Driving him as if he were an animal that could learn to do tricks. Why don't you leave him alone?  
(1966:45)

The quotation above shows that Matt is kind and always tries to protect his son, Charlie, from his wife who always wants Charlie to be normal like other people. Matt always loves his son and receives Charlie, although his son is unlike a normal child.

**b) Fearful**

As a husband, Matt was controlled by his wife and he is afraid of Rose, his wife. Charlie's adolescence becomes a new terror for his wife, she picks up a knife and demands Matt to take Charlie away to Warren Home, a place for retarded people. Feels sorry for his son, Matt takes Charlie away to uncle Herman and leaves him there, as seen in the passage below:

There is silence. From the darkness I feel the shudder pass over the house, and then Matt's voice, less panicky than hers. "I know what you've gone through with him, and I can't blame you for being afraid. But you've got to control yourself. I'll take him over to Herman. Will that satisfy you?."  
(1966:118)

From the text above, it shows that Matt takes Charlie away to uncle Herman better than in Warren Home. Although he tried hard

to protect his son, but he must let him go to protect him from his crazy wife.

Now Matt walks out on his wife and daughter and buys a barber shop. Charlie ever visited him once, but Matt did not know it was him. He has not changed very much. Matt now at peace with himself, although he is not prosperous.

#### **4.3.7 Harold Nemur**

Nemur is a professor of psychology at Beekman University who, in concert with Dr. Strauss, develops the surgery that temporarily increases Charlie's intelligence. Nemur is an unsympathetic man and he is a career obsessed.

##### **a) Career Obsessed**

Nemur is a career obsessed person. He is more concerned on money and career than human. When Charlie be used as human trial to increases intelligence, Nemur keep it in order not be heard by many people. He does not want people from Welberg Foundation which gave him money for the project laughing at him if the project fail until he must risk his position, as seen in Burt's opinion in describe below:

I dont reely understand why I got to keep it a seeerit. Burt says its in case theirs a faleure Prof Nemur dont want everybody to laff espeshully the pepul from the Weluberg foundashun who gave him the mony for the projekt. I said I

dont care if pepul laff at me. Lots of pepul laff at me and their my frends and we have fun. Burt put his arm on my sholder and said its not you Nemurs worryd about. He dont want pepul to laff at him. (1966:12)

From the statement above, it shows that Nemur is very worry with his career's future if the project fail. He feels risking his career in the project and he does not want the project unsuccessful, is he just a selfish man.

**b) Unsymphatetic man**

Beside a career obsessed, Nemur is also an unsymphatetic man. He spoke without thinking about feeling of the others. It can be seen at the moment when he treats Charlie as a laboratory animal rather than a human being, as describe below:

We who have worked on this project at Beekman University have the satisfaction of knowing we have taken one of nature's mistakes and by our new techniques created a superior human being. When Charlie came to us he was outside of society, alone in a great city without friends or relatives to care about him, without the mental equipment to live a normal life. No past, no contact with the present, no hope for the future. It might be said that Charlie Gordon did not really exist before this experiment....(1966:102 )

The statement above shows that Nemur is an arrogant and career obsessed man. Previously, he treats Charlie as laboratory animal, not human being, and now, he thinks that he has created a genius Charlie, which makes it clearer that he is an unsymphatetic man.

#### **4.3.8 Jayson Strauss**

Dr. Strauss is a psychiatrist and neurosurgeon who works with Professor Nemur on Charlie's surgery. He performs the operation on Charlie and see him regularly for therapy as Charlie uncovers the repressed memories of his childhood abuse. Dr. Strauss is more compassionate figure than Dr. Nemur, although Charlie is unable to become close with him because he maintains a professional distance from his patient.

##### **a) Compassionate**

Unlike Nemur, Dr. Strauss maintains interest in and concern for Charlie's emotional development. As a doctor, Strauss does not want to encourage his patient too fast, as seen in his conversation with Nemur:

I heard someone bang on the desk, and then Professor Nemur shouted: "I've already informed the convention committee that we will present the paper at Chicago.

Then I heard Dr Strauss' voice: "But you're wrong, Harold. Six weeks from now is still too soon. He's still changing." (1966:40-41)

From the statement above, it is seen that Dr. Strauss is very concerned for Charlie's emotional development. He is compassionate to Charlie which is driven too fast to be a genius without thinking about the emotional development.



#### **4.3.9 Burt Selden**

Burt Selden is a graduate student who works on his thesis and who assists Strauss and Nemur in conducting experiment to increase intelligence on human. Burt oversees the testing of both Charlie and Algernon, a white mouse who was previously success in the experiment.

##### **a) Friendly**

Burt is a friendly man. He become Charlie's friend during the project (surgery to increase intelligence on human). Before the surgery, Burt gives Charlie many tests and Charlie can adjust himself with Burt. Unlike Prof. Nemur who was thinking Charlie as laboratory animal, Burt put himself as Charlie's friend. Burt is friendly, as describe in Charlie's opinion:

Burt is very nice and he talks slow like Miss Kinman does in her class where I go to learn reading for slow adults. He explained me it was a raw shock test. He said please see things in the ink. I said show me where. He didn't show me he just kept saying think imagine there's something on the card. I told him I imagine an inkblot. (1966:3)

From the statement above, Charlie equates Burt with Miss Kinman, very nice and talk slowly. Burt always tries to connect with Charlie as friend and he always explains things Charlie asks to him. Burt is more sympathetic than Prof. Nemur.

#### **4.3.10 Algernon**

Algernon is a white mouse that earlier underwent the same operation as Charlie. Algernon becomes an expert at running highly complex mazes. Charlie ever competes with Algernon in maze races. As the experiment progresses, Algernon's demeanor becomes unpredictable and aggressive. This signals a problem with the experiment. Eventually, Algernon's abilities radically regress, and he dies. Charlie comes to love the mouse and buries Algernon in his backyard, often placing flowers on the mouse's grave. Charlie loves Algernon as his friend, and it can be read in his manuscript:

Goodby Miss Kinnian and dr Strauss and evrybody...

P.S. please tel prof Nemur not to be such a grouch when pepul laff at him and he woud have more frends. Its easy to have fiends if you let pepul laff at you. Im going to have lots of fiends where I go.. please if you get a chanse put some flown on Algernons grave in the bak yard. (1966:198)

### **4.4 Intrinsic Elements**

#### **4.4.1 Plot**

Charlie is a 32 yeard old man man who was born with an IQ 68. Charlie works at Donner's Bakery in New York city as a floor cleaner and delivery boy and has always been a mockery of his friends.

One day, he is chosen by a team of scientists to undergo an experimental surgery designed to boost his intelligence. Alice Kinnian, Charlie's teacher at the Beekman College Center for Retarded Adults, has recommended Charlie for the experiment because of his exceptional eagerness to learn. The directors of the experiment, Dr. Strauss and Prof. Nemur ask Charlie to make a journal (progress reports).

After the surgery, Charlie becomes more intelligent and he realizes that he is deeply attracted to Alice, and he also begins to recover the lost memories of his childhood, especially about his family. But then, Algernon (a mouse) previously through success in same experiment begins to slip and a similar thing happened to Charlie. His intelligence begins to slip even worse than before, and he turns to be who he was before the surgery, a dumb man.

**a) Eksposition**

At the beginning of the story, *Flowers for Algernon* tells about how Charlie lived as a dumb man. Charlie lived alone and he had been thrown by his own family since his childhood because his mother could not accept Charlie's condition. Charlie is a dumb man, he can not read fluently, write words correctly, can not spell very well, and he is not able to understand when use full stop and commas. It is seen from the progress report written by Charlie in the following text:

### Progris riport 1 martch 3.

Dr Strauss says I shoud rite down what I think and remembir and evrey thing that happins to me from now on. I dont no why but he says its importint so they will see if they can use me. I hope they use me becaus Miss Kinnian says mabye they can make me smart. I want to be smart. My name is Charlie Gordon I werk in Dormers bakery where Mr Donner gives me 11 dollers a week and bred or cake if I want. I am 32 yeres old and next munth is my brithday. I tolld dr Strauss and perfesser Nemur I cant rite good but he says it dont matter he says I shud rite just like I talk and like I rite compushishens in Miss Kinnians class at the beekmin collidge center for retarded adults where I go to lern 3 times a week on my time off. Dr Strauss says to rite a lot evrything I think and evrything that happins to me but I cant think anymor because I have nothing to rite so I will close for today... yrs truly Charlie Gordon. (1966:1)

From the text above, it can be seen that Charlie cannot write correctly, he does not know to use stops and commas and can not spell very well. There are many error words in his writing and as a 32-year-old man, he should be able to write, read, and spell easily, such as *Progris riport 1 martch 3* which should be written *Progress report 1 march 3*, *shoud rite down* should be written *should write down*, *remembir and evrey thing* should be written *remember and every thing*, and many other words.

One day Charlie is chosen by a term of scientists to undergo an experimental surgery designed to boost his intelligence. Alice Kinnian, Charlie's teacher at the Beekman College center for retarded adults, has recommended Charlie for the experiment because of his exceptional eagerness to learn.

## **b) Rising Action**

After having experimental surgery, Charlie feels disappointed that there is no immediate change in his intellect, but by trying and a help from Alice, he can improve his spelling and grammar. Charlie also begins to recover the lost memories of his childhood, most of which involve his mother, Rose, who resented and often brutally punished Charlie for not being normal like other children.

"Put that thing away!" Mom shrieks and suddenly she knocks the spinner from Charlie's hand, and it crashes across the kitchen floor.

Go play with your alphabet blocks."He stands there, frightened by the sudden outburst. He cowers, not knowing what she will do. His body begins to shake. They're arguing, and the voices back and forth make a squeezing pressure inside him and a sense of panic. (1966:45)

The quotation above shows that after joining the surgery, Charlie recovers his lost memories about his mother who always be cruel and punished him because he was born as stupid person.

## **c) Climax**

Climax of Charlie's life is when Charlie, who begins knowing his mentally retardation after his operation, is slowly started to detect. At that time, he meets and speaks very much to Prof. Nemur because he has the problem with Algernon's retardation and it is not too responded seriously by the team of psychology research. It makes Charlie nauseated and annoyed by the team that does not

do anything, especially the head of psychology's team, Harold Nemur.

Algernon's intelligence begins to slip and his behaviour becomes erratic. Charlie worries that whatever happens to Algernon will soon happen to him as well.

July 9 - A terrible thing happened today. Algernon bit Fay. I had warned her against playing with him, but she always liked to feed him. Usually when she came into his room, he'd perk up and run to her. Today it was different. He was at the far side, curled up into a white puff. When she put her hand in through the top trap door, he cringed and forced himself back into the corner. She tried to coax him, by opening the barrier to the maze, and before I could tell her to leave him alone, she made the mistake of trying to pick him up. He bit her thumb. Then he glared at both of us and scurried back into the maze. (1966:137)

Algernon eventually dies. Fear of it, Charlie visits his mother and sister in order to try to come to terms with his past. He finds the experiences moving, thrilling, and devastating. He meets with Norma and his mother, who is now being a demented old woman. When they meet, Rose, his mother, suddenly slips into a delusional flashback and attacks Charlie with a butcher knife.

I pushed Norma away from me, but before I could say anything, Rose was on her feet. She had taken the kitchen knife from the table and was pointing at me.

"What are you doing to her? Get away from her! I told you what I'd do to you if I ever caught you touching your sister again! Dirty mind! You don't belong with normal people!" (1966:176)

The quotation above shows that Charlie's mother becomes a mad woman. He treats Charlie again as she did when Charlie was a kid. It makes Charlie feel sad and thinks that the surgery he had done is futile because, although he has been a genius, his mother still treats him bad.

Now Charlie forgets what he has learned. Charlie gets worse, he thinks to suicide, but he realizes one thing, that he just borrowed a genius Charlie for a while

October 3 - Downhill. Thoughts of suicide to stop it all now while I am still in control and aware of the world around me. But then I think of Charlie waiting at the window. His life is not mine to throw away. I've just borrowed it for a while, and now I'm being asked to return it. (1966:178)

The quotation above shows that Charlie cannot think clearly, he tries to suicide. Charlie has had a hard time and he realizes that something will happen in his intelligence even worse than ever.

#### **d) Falling action**

Everything has changed. He realizes that his intelligence begins to slip, he will return to be a dumb Charlie. Charlie succeeds in finding the error in Nemur's hypothesis and it is scientifically proving that a flaw in the intelligence operation will vanish as quickly as it comes. Charlie calls this phenomenon *Algernon-Gordon Effect* as seen in his letter to Prof. Nemur:

August 26 - LETTER TO PROFESSOR NEMUR (COPY)

*Dear Professor Nemur:*

*As I show in my report, these and other physical and mental deterioration syndromes can be predicted with statistically significant results by the application of my new formula. Although the surgical stimulus to which we were both subjected resulted in an intensification and acceleration of all mental processes, the flaw, which I have taken the liberty of calling the "Algernon-Gordon Effect," is the logical extension of the entire intelligence speed-up. The hypothesis here proved may be described most simply in the following terms:*

*ARTIFICIALLY-INDUCED INTELLIGENCE DETERIORATES AT A RATE OF TIME DIRECTLY PROPORTIONAL TO THE QUANTITY OF THE INCREASE.*

*....*

*Yours truly,  
Charles Gordon encl: report copy: Dr Strauss  
The Welberg Foundation  
(1966 :162-163)*

The letter above shows that Charlie has known what will happen to him soon. He knows that his intelligence will decrease drastically like Algernon, even he probably will die. His hypothesis shows that intelligence that obtained quickly will be gone as soon as it comes.

**e) Resolution**

As he passes through a stage of average intelligence on his way back to retardation, Charlie enjoys a brief and passionate relationship with Alice, but he sends her away as he senses the return of his old self. When Charlie's regression is complete, he



briefly returns to his old job at the bakery, where his coworkers welcome him back with kindness.

Charlie forgets that he is no longer enrolled in Alice's night school class for retarded adults, and he upsets her by showing up. In fact, Charlie has forgotten their entire romantic relationship. Deciding to remove himself from the people who have known him and now feel sorry for him, he is checking himself into a home for disabled adults. His last request is for the reader of his manuscript to leave fresh flowers on Algernon's grave.

Goodby Miss Kinnian and dr Strauss and evrybody...

P.S. please tel prof Nemur not to be such a grouch when pepul laff at him and he woud have more frends. Its easy to have fiends if you let pepul laff at you. Im going to have lots of fiends where I go.. please if you get a chanse put some flown on Algernons grave in the bak yard. (1966:198)

From the postcript above, it can be read that Charlie frames Algernon as an individual and his friend and not as a scientific subject. Charlie thinks that Algernon is a reflection of his life and he realizes that same thing will happen to him soon. In this story, the end of resolution is Charlie Gordon chooses to leave his life and to live along in Warren home. He feels this option is the best way to leaving everything that he has experienced, though it is painful. He does nott want to get into a mess for himself or other people.

#### **4.4.2 Setting**

##### **a) Setting of Time**

*Flowers for Algernon* novel is set in unclearly time enough in the past. Charlie Gordon, as the narrator and main character, tells the reader on his two time period: moments at right now and flash back of himself. He tells more about poetry and science and philosophy-about Shakespeare and Milton; Newton and Einstein and Freud; about Plato and Hegel and Kant. The other interesting thing here is that he knows and reads many books and can memorize what the book are about.

##### **b) Setting of Place**

###### **1) Donner's Bakery**

The place where Charlie works which belongs to Charlie's uncle's friend named Donner. In this place, Charlie has spent his time about over fifteenth years after his uncle took him at Warren home. Charlie has the position as the floor sweeper.

###### **2) The Beekman School for Retarded Adults**

This is the place where Charlie learns everything about knowledge. Charlie's education in this place is lead by the

experiment of psychology team. Charlie's first love also comes from this place, she is Alice Kinnian, Charlie's teacher.

### **3) Psychology Laboratory**

This place is a part of Beekman School for Retarded Adults. It is used as the operation and experiment place for Charlie and Algernon. Both of them also used to race finding way out of each of their problem. Charlie uses rebus of the way while Algernon uses the labyrinth.

### **4) Brooklyn, New York**

Brooklyn was an address where Charlie and his family lived. This place was still placed by his mother and sister, while his father chose to leave them. They did not live together again because the different principle between them, so they decided to separate away.

#### **4.4.3 Thema**

##### **a) Man's Inhumanity to Man**

In novel *Flowers for Algernon*, it shows that even someone with mental retardation has the best of intentions, to be perfect, so everyone realizes his existence, he is still mistreated by others. It shows in the novel that Charlie feels happy with the way of his co-workers at the bakery treat him, he believes that they are his truly

friends, though they also take pleasure in it. As Charlie's intellect increases, he recognizes that his co-workers are not really his friend, they are simply using him to feel better about themselves. When Charlie follows the operation to increase his intelligence and returns to the bakery and uses his intellect to improve some of baking equipment, not only the co-workers begins to resent him, they actually band together to get him fired as if they cannot accept Charlie becomes genius.

And so it went. Most of them felt the way Joe and Frank and Gimpy did. It had been all right as long as they could laugh at me and appear clever at my expense, but now they were feeling inferior to the moron. I began to see that by my astonishing growth I had made them shrink and emphasized their inadequacies. I had betrayed them, and they hated me for it. (1966:67)

Beside that, for some people, like Nemur, they are primarily using Charlie as guinea pig to build the careers or to satisfy their own ego.

## **b) Role Intelligence in Human Relationship**

In novel *Flowers for Algernon*, Charlie plays one type of roles. Charlie before surgery as an individual of low intelligence and after the surgery as Charlie with high intelligence. Charlie expects by increasing his intelligence will please his friends and increase the number of his friends. He is not prepared for the change in his

relationship with his friends brought about his new intelligence. As a genius, he joins people who condescend to people who know less than they and becomes even less able to make and maintain friendship than he was as the original Charlie.

#### **4.4.4 Point of View**

This novel is categorized as first person point of view. The narrator creates the main character here, Charlie Gordon, as protagonist as well as the narrator of the story. The narrator tells his personality, social environment, and condition in the middle of society. In this novel, the words are written like people's diary. It is very interesting that the focus of Charlie's life is on the background of a person, such as intelligence, emotion, love, and infliction. Beside that the novel categorized into first person because the author used "I" as one of the characters in the story. The narrator tells about him self, all the experiences he got through physically as "I". In this type point of view, the character "I" comes as a narrator who tells about himself or everything he finds, hears, and feels.

## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

#### 5.1 Conclusion

Based on the analysis of *Flowers for Algernon* by Daniel Keyes, the writer concludes the aspects which create characters personality of the major character in the novel.

Charlie Gordon is a mentally retarded a 32-year-old man. He is described as a cheerful man and has a great desire to learn and he wants to be smart. It is caused by his traumatic childhood when his mother always told him to learn hard. Therefore, at night, he goes to school in Beekman Academy which is destined to people like him. Before he follows the operation to increase his intelligence, he is a dumb 32-year-old man. People like him, although he always be a crude of joke from his friends.

Everything changes after Charlie undergoes the surgery. He turns into a different person: he can fall in love which he has never previously thought of it. Now Charlie becomes genius, but his intelligence makes him the "other people," he becomes so knowledgeably and he begins to recover the lost memories of his childhood, especially about his family.

The fact of becoming a genius is not accordance to his surmise, now he begins to lose sweet moments when he is still a dumb man. Ironically, he begins to be shunned by people around him and now he must receive that his intelligence will not survive. His case is the same with Algernon, a white mouse which successful through the same experiment before him. Algernon's intelligence begins to slip and then die. Now, he realizes that the same thing will happen to him soon.

After analyzing structural element of Daniel Keyes' *Flowers for Algernon*, the writer then comes to the following conclusions:

First, in novel *Flowers for Algernon* shows that every person is born with his or her own special characteristics, talents, and flaws. So we must accept who we are and be ourselves.

Second, in *Flowers for Algernon* shows that nobody is perfect. Therefore, as human beings, we must respect each others.

Third, *Flowers for Algernon* wants to show the experience and struggle of the major character in achieving self-actualization. Human beings have capability to grow and are able to be who they should be

## 5.2 Suggestion

Based on the result of the analysis of *The Main Character's Personality in Daniel Keyes' Flowers for Algernon*, the writer proposes some suggestions to the readers.

The writer suggests to the readers of *Flowers for Algernon* to explore the understanding of each characters, especially the main character of the novel. It is known that Charlie Gordon is the ideal example of people that get mistreated because of his mental disabilities. Like Charlie, every person is born with his or her own special characteristics, talents and flaws. Although many people attempt to change various aspects of their own lives, they should accept who they are and be her/himself.

The writer also suggests to analyze other aspects in *Flowers for Algernon* by Daniel Keyes. As one of famous writers in her time and ever got Nebula and Hugo awards, the students of literature rarely knows the literary of Keyes. The writer also hopes that this thesis could give lots of contributions to the next researches.



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## Appendix I

### I. BIOGRAPHY OF DANIEL KEYES



Daniel Keyes was born in Brooklyn, New York, on August 9, 1927. He was educated at Brooklyn College, where he received an A.B. degree in 1950. After graduation, Keyes worked briefly as an associate editor for the magazine *Marvel Science Fiction* while pursuing his own writing career; he later taught high school English in Brooklyn. In 1952, he married Aurea Georgina Vazquez, with whom he had three children. Keyes returned to Brooklyn College, received an A.M. degree in 1961, and went on to teach English on the university level, first at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan, and then at Ohio University, where in the 1970s he became Professor of English and director of the university's creative writing center.

Daniel Keyes was still teaching high school English when he first published the work that would make his reputation. The original short story version of "Flowers for Algernon" appeared in

*The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction* in 1959. After the story won the Hugo Award for best science fiction story of the year and was adapted as a television drama, Keyes expanded the story into a novel, published in 1966. The novel won the Nebula Award of the Science Fiction Writers of America (tying with Samuel R. Delany's *Babel-17*) and was filmed in 1968 as *Charlie*. The film was a notable success, earning Cliff Robertson an Academy Award as Best Actor for his portrayal of Charlie Gordon.

Although none of Keyes' other work has achieved the popular and critical success of *Flowers for Algernon*, he has continued to write while pursuing a full-time career in English academics. He published two other novels, *The Touch* (1968) and *The Fifth Sally* (1980), and the nonfiction works *The Minds of Billy Milligan* (1981) and *Unveiling Claudia: A True Story of a Serial Murder* (1986). Both *The Minds of Billy Milligan* and *The Fifth Sally* share with *Flowers for Algernon* a concern with extraordinary psychological states, as both books examine the phenomenon of multiple personalities. Indeed, Keyes was able to write his book on Billy Milligan, the first person in the United States ever acquitted of a major felony on the grounds of multiple personalities, only after several of Milligan's selves read *Flowers for Algernon* and agreed to work with the author.

Now retired from Ohio University and living in Boca Raton, Florida, Keyes has recently completed a new novel and seen his work attain tremendous popularity in Japan. *Daniel Keyes Collected Stories* (1993) and *The Daniel Keyes Reader* (1994), and the sequel to *The Minds of Billy Milligan*, *The Milligan Wars* (1993), have all been published in Japan, with *The Milligan Wars* appearing in a U.S. edition in 1996. Keyes first conceived *Flowers for Algernon* as a short story in 1959, for which he won the 1960 Hugo Award for Best Novelette of the Year from the World Science Fiction Society .

## **Appendix II**

### **II. SYNOPSIS**

Charlie Gordon, a mentally retarded thirty-two-year-old man, is chosen by a team of scientists to undergo an experimental surgery designed to boost his intelligence. Alice Kinnian, Charlie's teacher at the Beekman College Center for Retarded Adults, has recommended Charlie for the experiment because of his exceptional eagerness to learn. The directors of the experiment, Dr. Strauss and Professor Nemur, ask Charlie to

keep a journal. The entire narrative of *Flowers for Algernon* is composed of the “progress reports” that Charlie writes.

Charlie works at Donner’s Bakery in New York City as a janitor and delivery boy. The other employees often taunt him and pick on him, but Charlie is unable to understand that he is the subject of mockery. He believes that his coworkers are good friends. After a battery of tests—including a maze-solving competition with a mouse named Algernon, who has already had the experimental surgery performed on him—Charlie undergoes the operation. He is initially disappointed that there is no immediate change in his intellect, but with work and help from Alice, he gradually improves his spelling and grammar. Charlie begins to read adult books, slowly at first, then voraciously, filling his brain with knowledge from many academic fields. He shocks the workers at the bakery by inventing a process designed to improve productivity. Charlie also begins to recover lost memories of his childhood, most of which involve his mother, Rose, who resented and often brutally punished Charlie for not being normal like other children.

As Charlie becomes more intelligent, he realizes that he is deeply attracted to Alice. She insists on keeping their relationship professional, but it is obvious that she shares Charlie’s attraction.

When Charlie discovers that one of the bakery employees is stealing from Mr. Donner, he is uncertain what to do until Alice tells him to trust his heart. Delighted by the realization that he is capable of solving moral dilemmas on his own, Charlie confronts the worker and forces him to stop cheating Donner. Not long afterward, Charlie is let go from the bakery because the other workers are disturbed by the sudden change in him, and because Donner can see that Charlie no longer needs his charity. Charlie grows closer to Alice, though whenever the mood becomes too intimate, he experiences a sensation of panic and feels as if his old disabled self is watching him. Charlie recovers memories of his mother beating him for the slightest sexual impulses, and he realizes that this past trauma is likely responsible for his inability to make love to Alice.

Dr. Strauss and Professor Nemur take Charlie and Algernon to a scientific convention in Chicago, where they are the star exhibits. Charlie has become frustrated by Nemur's refusal to recognize his humanity. He feels that Nemur treats him like just another lab animal, even though it is disturbingly clear that Charlie's scientific knowledge has advanced beyond Nemur's. Charlie wreaks havoc at the convention by freeing Algernon from his cage while they are onstage. Charlie flees back to New York with Algernon and gets his own apartment, where the scientists

cannot find him. He realizes that Nemur's hypothesis contains an error and that there is a possibility that his intelligence gain will only be temporary.

Charlie meets his neighbor, an attractive, free-spirited artist named Fay Lillman. Charlie does not tell Fay about his past, and he is able to consummate a sexual relationship with her. The foundation that has funded the experiment gives Charlie dispensation to do his own research, so he returns to the lab. However, his commitment to his work begins to consume him, and he drifts away from Fay.

Algernon's intelligence begins to slip, and his behavior becomes erratic. Charlie worries that whatever happens to Algernon will soon happen to him as well. Algernon eventually dies. Fearing a regression to his previous level of intelligence, Charlie visits his mother and sister in order to try to come to terms with his past. He finds the experience moving, thrilling, and devastating. Charlie's mother, now a demented old woman, expresses pride in his accomplishments, and his sister is overjoyed to see him. However, Rose suddenly slips into a delusional flashback and attacks Charlie with a butcher knife. He leaves sobbing, but he feels that he has finally overcome his painful background and become a fully developed individual.



Charlie succeeds in finding the error in Nemur's hypothesis, scientifically proving that a flaw in the operation will cause his intelligence to vanish as quickly as it has come. Charlie calls this phenomenon the "Algernon-Gordon Effect." As he passes through a stage of average intelligence on his way back to retardation, Charlie enjoys a brief, passionate relationship with Alice, but he sends her away as he senses the return of his old self. When Charlie's regression is complete, he briefly returns to his old job at the bakery, where his coworkers welcome him back with kindness.

Charlie forgets that he is no longer enrolled in Alice's night-school class for retarded adults, and he upsets her by showing up. In fact, Charlie has forgotten their entire romantic relationship. Having decided to remove himself from the people who have known him and now feel sorry for him, he checks himself into a home for disabled adults. His last request is for the reader of his manuscript to leave fresh flowers on Algernon's grave