

**THE EFFECTS OF TRAUMAS ON PERCY'S  
CHARACTER IN RICK RIORDAN'S *PERCY JACKSON*  
AND *THE OLYMPIANS: THE LIGHTNING THIEF***



**THESIS**

*Submitted to the Faculty of Cultural Sciences Hasanuddin University in Partial  
Fulfillment of Requirements to Obtain an Undergraduate Degree in English  
Literature Study Program*

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**THESIS**

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It has been examined before the Board of Thesis Examination on December 2<sup>nd</sup>  
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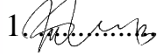





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**AGREEMENT**

On Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> 2022, the Board of Thesis Examination has kindly approved a thesis by Muhammad Zhulhul Ikram S (F041181345) entitled “**The Effects of Traumas on Percy’s Character in Rick Riordan’s *Percy Jackson and The Olympians: The Lightning Thief***” submitted in fulfillment one of the requirements to obtain Sarjana Degree in English Literature Study Program, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University.

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Hereby, the writer declares that this thesis is written by herself. This thesis does not contain any materials which have been published by other people, and it does not cite other people's ideas expect the quotations and references.

Makassar, December 2<sup>nd</sup> 2022

A 1000 Rupiah Indonesian postage stamp is shown, featuring a portrait of a man and the text '1000', 'METERAI', and 'TEMPER'. A black ink signature is written over the stamp.

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With reference to the letter of the Dean of Faculty of Cultural Sciences Hasanuddin University No.542/UN.4.9.1/KEP/2022 regarding supervision, we hereby confirm to approve the undergraduate thesis draft by Muhammad Zhulhul Ikram (F041181345) to be examined at the English Literature Study Program of Faculty of Cultural Sciences.

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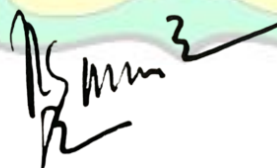


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The writer realizes that this thesis is far from perfect. Therefore, the writer accepts input, criticism, and suggestions for improvement in the future.

Makassar, 17 October 2022

The writer,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and lines, positioned above the printed name.

Muhammad Zhulhul Ikram S



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## ABSTRACT

Muhammad Zhulhul Ikram S, 2022. The Effect of Traumas on Percy's Character in Rick Riordan's *Percy Jackson and The Olympians : The Lightning Thief*. (Supervised by Muhammad Syafri Badaruddin and A. ST. Aldilah Khaerana)

The writer aims to find out about the trauma and determine the outcome of trauma faced by Percy in the novel. The writer also wants to know the positive and negative impact of the trauma on Percy's character.

The writer use the structuralism approach which focuses on the intrinsic elements such as character, plot, setting, theme, and others. The data were obtained by close reading and understanding carefully the novel that was used as research data. The data relevant to the research problem was then analyzed using the Psychoanalysis theory by Sigmund Freud.

Based on the results of the data analysis, Percy was traumatized by various kinds of monsters he faced during his adventures. These events gave positive and negative effects to Percy's character. The positive effects of the trauma turned Percy into someone braver, smarter, wiser in making decisions, and also more careful in his actions. The negative effects of the trauma turned Percy into someone denial, repressing his own thought, venting his feelings to another person or object.

Keyword: Character, Novel, Psychoanalysis, Trauma's Outcome

## ABSTRAK

Muhammad Zhulhul Ikram S, 2022. Efek Trauma Terhadap Karakter Percy dalam Novel Rick Riordan *Percy Jackson and The Olympians : The lightning Thief*. (Dibimbing oleh Muhammad Syafri Badaruddin dan A. ST. Aldilah Khaerana)

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui trauma serta dampak dari trauma yang dihadapi oleh Percy dalam novel. Penulis juga ingin mengetahui dampak positif dan negatif dari trauma terhadap karakter Percy.

Penulis menggunakan pendekatan strukturalisme. Data diperoleh dengan membaca serta memahami secara seksama novel yang dijadikan data penelitian. Data yang relevan dengan permasalahan penelitian kemudian dianalisis dengan menggunakan teori Psikoanalisis oleh Sigmund Freud.

Berdasarkan hasil analisis data, Percy mengalami trauma yang disebabkan oleh berbagai macam monster yang dihadapinya selama petualangannya. Peristiwa ini memberikan efek positif dan negatif pada karakter Percy. Efek positif dari trauma tersebut mengubah Percy menjadi seseorang yang lebih berani, cerdas, bijak dalam mengambil keputusan, dan juga lebih berhati-hati dalam bertindak. Efek negatif dari trauma tersebut mengubah Percy menjadi seseorang yang penyangkal, menekan pemikirannya sendiri, melampiaskan emosinya kepada orang atau objek di sekitarnya.

Kata Kunci: Efek Trauma, Karakter, Novel, Psikoanalisis

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1. Background of Study

Literature is a work of art that a lot of people enjoy and loved. There are a lot of things that can be explained using literature. We can also gain a lot of informations from literature works. Badrun (1983: 16) argues that literature is an art form with language and symbols that create something imaginative. Through literary works, an author conveys his views about the life around him. Therefore, appreciating literary works means trying to find the values of life that are reflected in literary works. There are a lot of life values that can be found in literary works. Even though it is said to be an imaginative work of fiction, there must be things that can be linked between literary works and real life. Various kinds of things that exist in the real world can be poured creatively and beautifully by the author into his work.

Literature is the window to the soul. Literature represents humans in various actions to achieve their desires. Literature is the world of the soul in another form. We can understand someone's psyche through literature. There are a lot of sciences that involve in literature, including psychology (Ahmadi, 2019: 2). One of the psychological sciences that included in literature is psychoanalysis. Psychoanalysis is often used in literary works compared to other psychology because psychoanalysis is more directed at personality psychology which appears more in literature.

Psychology can be portrayed in literature through three contexts. First, the context of the author. Researchers can examine the psychological life of the author in relation to the author's literary work. Second, the psychological context contained in literary works. Researchers can examine the dominant psychological elements or the less dominant that portrayed in literary works. Third, the psychological context of the reader. Researchers can examine the psychological tendencies of readers to certain novels. Giller (1999) argues that trauma is the emergence of excessive stress, beyond one's ability to cope. Trauma also refers to emotional and psychological distress due to an unpleasant event.

Literature often talks about various topics such as poverty, racism, capitalism and etc. Those are some serious or heavy topics that some people might be hard to follow. Popular literature, on the other hand, often talks about lighter topics such as adventure, friendship, magic. Kaplan (in Damono, 1980: 165-167) explained that popular literature has a peculiarity in focusing the story on certain elements so that other elements do not seem to contribute to the meaning that the author wants to explain. Popular literature is a form of literature that has its roots in the needs, ways of thinking, knowledge, problems, and tastes of ordinary people.

A literary work is called popular among others because of the theme, how it presents language techniques, and the writing follows the popular general pattern among the reading community. Popular literature is not only entertaining, but also enjoyed as a work of art so that popular literature, especially in the form of novels, is not only seen as a barometer of the social, cultural, and economic development of its people, but also for the world community.

The reason popular literatures are enjoyed by many people is because the theme is easy to understand. The relatable characters are also the important factor of the popularity of the popular literature. Characters and characterizations are important elements in fiction. Dealing with characters with all kinds of personalities with various self-images, in many ways, attract people's attention more than dealing with plots. In the discussion of a fictional story, terms such as character and characterization are often used, character and disposition, or character and characterization interchangeably to denote almost the same meaning.

One of the popular literatures form is novel, and one of those novels are *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan. The theme of adventure with a touch of Greek mythology in various modern settings is the main attraction of this novel. The characters in the novel experienced various things that could be considered traumatic. This could also be said to had positive and negative effects on the character shown by the characters in the novel. According to Rick Riordan himself on an interview on 2009, the story of this series was inspired by his son who suffers from ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder) and dyslexia. He wants to encourage everyone who is experiencing the same thing through his novel. *The Lightning Thief* was written by Rick Riordan relying on his knowledge of Greek mythology thanks to his years of teaching experience in this field.

This novel tells about the journey of Percy, the son of Poseidon, who is facing trouble because he is being accused of stealing an important item belonging to one of the great gods, Zeus' Lightning. Percy who is then assisted by many parties

including Annabeth, Grover, and Luke begins his adventure to prove his innocence. Despite being filled with various obstacles and dangerous enemies, they still succeeded in carrying out their mission.

Percy's trauma as the impact of his dangerous journey to prove his innocence to the Olympian gods is an interesting topic to discuss. The writer tried to explain how the trauma affects Percy's character in positive and negative ways by using psychoanalysis theory. The positive and negative changes of character that happened to Percy will be explained through this research with paying attention to the characterization that could be seen through the novel.

The writer was interested in this novel after knowing that the reason Rick Riordan as a novelist made this story was to share the story he made for his son as a bedtime story. The writer is interested in seeing how Rick spills his writings in the form of a novel that is not only interesting for children but also for the general public and how Rick integrates modern elements into the story of Greek mythology. The writer chooses to analyze the positive and negative outcome of trauma faced by the characters in the novel because the writer tried to figure out if the demigods figure also showed their human side, not just focusing on the divine power they get from their parents. The author is interested in knowing whether the demigod in the novel experienced something traumatic and how it affected their personality. The writer hopes that this research can be used as another reference to help a future researcher who want to study about similar topic or similar novel as the object of study.



## **1.2. Identification of Problems**

The writer found several problems that could be used as research material in *The Lightning Thief* novel after reading the novel carefully. Here are some things that the writer has found:

1. The positive and negative effects of trauma on Percy's character in *The Lightning Thief* novel.
2. The depiction of elements of Greek mythology in *The Lightning Thief* novel.
3. The depiction of save the nature movement in *The Lightning Thief* novel.
4. The depiction of feminism in *The Lightning Thief* novel.
5. Bullying that can be seen in *The Lightning Thief* novel.

## **1.3. Scope of Study**

Based on the problems mentioned above, the writer limited the problem that would be discussed in this research so it could be more focused. The problem that the writer discussed was the positive and negative effect of trauma on Percy's character in *The Lightning Thief* novel.

## **1.4. Research Questions**

Based on the problems and limitation above, the writer decided the research questions are:

1. What are the traumas faced by Percy in *The Lightning Thief* novel?
2. How does the trauma affect Percy's personality in positive and negative way in *The Lightning Thief* novel?

### **1.5. Objective of Study**

After determining the various issues to be raised, the writer aims to:

1. Find out the traumas faced by Percy in *The Lightning Thief* novel.
2. Elaborate the positive and negative effect of Percy's trauma to his personality.

### **1.6. Significance of Study**

This research was expected to be a reference for further research that would examine the same topic or research object. This research was also expected to be a reading material for people who are interested in the same research topic.

### **1.7. Sequence of Writing**

This study was divided into five chapters:

Chapter one is Introduction of the Study. It includes background of study, identification of problems, scope of study, research questions, objective of study, significance of study, sequence of writing.

Chapter two is Literature Review. It includes previous related studies and theoretical background.

Chapter three is Research Methodology. It includes research design, data sources, procedures of collecting data, technique of data analysis.

Chapter four is Findings and Discussion. It includes discussions of research results or data analysis results in integrated, detailed, and structured ways.

Chapter five is Conclusions and Suggestions. It includes a brief discussion of the results of the research or the results of data analysis and suggestions related to the research conducted or suggestions regarding future research.

## CHAPTER II

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.1. Previous Related Studies

The research topic that the author discusses is the impact of Percy's trauma on his character/personality in the novel. Therefore, the author looks for several previous studies that are relevant to the topic but have different aspects and objects of study.

First, the research from Putra (2013) entitled "Psychoanalytical Analysis on Hannibal Lecter and Buffalo Bill Characters as Seen in *The Silence of the Lambs* and *Hannibal Rising* by Thomas Harris". The researcher compares the psychological development of the two main characters in two different movies using psychoanalysis and self-defense mechanism. The two characters experience a lot of traumas that turns them into merciless psychopaths. Hannibal Lecter witnesses when his sister being murdered brutally and then being cannibalized, he then experiences a deep trauma that turns him into a merciless murderer. On the other side, Buffalo Bill growing up never know his real father, and then his mother blames him for every misfortunate that her going through. This is the cause of Buffalo Bill being a psychopath.

Second, the research by Giovanny (2015) entitled "A Psychoanalysis on the Main Character and the Author of *Sherlock Holmes: A Study in Scarlet*" that uses psychoanalysis theory showed that Sherlock Holmes is a selfish, perfectionist, and self-destructive person. When he can't solve a case, he often does another thing to fulfill his satisfaction, such as narcotics. The researcher also stated that there are

similarities between the author of the novel with the novel itself in a lot of aspects. This can be used as proof that this novel is written according to the author's life itself.

Third, Taufikurrahman (2021) in his research entitled "Grover's Psychological Problem in Percy Jackson and The Olympians: The Lightning Thief" explains Grover's problem through the psychological aspect using new criticism and psychoanalysis theory. The researcher found two of Grover's main problems. They are fear and desire. The fear is caused by a lot of terrifying experiences that he must face to do his job as a satyr that keeps the demigods safe. His desire is to complete his job properly so he can keep the demigods safe.

Last, Yatimah (2021) entitled "Psychological Trauma in Paula Hawkins' the Girl on The Train (2015)" analyzes the mental problems that Megan, Rachel, and Anna, the characters in the novel, faced. The researcher focuses on psychology analysis and tries to find the psychological symptoms with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder theory. The researcher stated that the most influential things to the traumas that the characters are going through are environmental and psychological factors. It causes changes in the feeling, minds, and behavior of the characters.

All the previous researches mentioned above are related to this research that focuses on the psychological aspect that the character in literary works. Even though there are similarities, but the focus of the author's research is different from the research mentioned earlier.

The writer examines different objects from the studies mentioned above. The writer also tries to find out the effect of trauma on Percy's character in the novel.

This study focuses on the main character of *The Lightning Thief* novel because the first thing that usually attracts peoples' attention when reading a novel is the main character. The main character can also be said as a character who goes through many things in the novel, therefore there are many things that we could analyze about the main character.

## **2.2. Theoretical Background**

### **2.2.1. Psychoanalysis**

The first-ever expert who succeeded in finding the relation between psychology and literature is Sigmund Freud. Sigmund Freud was born in Freiberg, Austria, in 1856. In 1890, he moved to France to gain more knowledge. There, Freud worked with a neurologist named Jean-Martin Charcot. Freud then worked with Josef Beuer in the same year. He then studied a patient, Anna O, who suffered mental disorder, hallucination, partial paralysis, and hydrophobia. The healing method that was used to cure Anna O was later called psychoanalysis by Freud. Bateman & Holmes (2001: 3) stated that Europe is the birthplace and development of psychoanalysis.

Ratna (2009: 342-344) stated that psychoanalysis could be used to understand literary work from its psychological aspect. Literature is sometimes considered a psychological phenomenon that can be seen through the characters in the novel. Psychological aspects of characters can be researched by paying attention to what psychological aspects are depicted through the characters or characterization contained in the novel. Psychology in literature can be researched using general psychology and specific psychology.

Psychology in literature is displayed by the author through the characters and through narration.

Psychoanalysis is psychology that opposes traditional psychology which has tended to dwell on the realm of consciousness. Whereas according to Freud, psychology is more directed at the unconscious. Boeree (2006: 5) said that Freud did not invent the concept of consciousness and unconsciousness, he simply popularized it. He stated that the conscious mind is the awareness of things at a given moment. He also explained that the unconscious mind is the largest part of the mind's unavailable awareness and usually closely associated with trauma.

In the unconscious mind, there is a personality trait called id, and there is ego, which becomes the link between id and superego, and then superego is located in the conscious mind. The id is a primitive and ancient human innate. The ego is a personality structure trapped between two opposing forces and is maintained and obeys the principle of reality by trying to fulfill individual pleasures that are limited by reality. Superego refers to morality in the personality, or it can also be called a conscience that recognizes what is good and what is bad.

The id, ego, and superego can be found in our unconscious mind and conscious mind. The id is incapable of accomplishing the goal of maintaining life or safeguarding the environment from damage. This becomes the ego's responsibility, which includes discovering ways to satisfy demands and satisfaction. These urges are managed by the superego (Clark, 1977: 135-136).

The author wants to look carefully at Percy's response to the trauma he encounters, whether he takes actions based on his instinct and desire or thinks carefully and clearly before he takes some actions or decisions. The author uses psychoanalysis theory to research those problems and the relations to self-defense mechanism and also the way it is depicted through the novel characterization.

The author uses Sigmund Freud's theory to see the relations of the trauma that Percy's going through and to see the positive and negative effect of the trauma. Self-defense mechanism used as an example of the negative outcome of the trauma that portrayed in the novel through Percy's action. The self-defense mechanism is triggered when a person is going through a psychological threatening situation. The self-defense mechanism can include denial, repression, sublimation, regression, and others. We can see Percy's coping with his trauma and its relation with the self-defense mechanism. Sigmund Freud (1949: 39) identified a variety of ego defenses that he references throughout his writings. These theories were refined and expanded upon by his daughter, Anna Freud (1966: 42), these were the ego defense mechanism:

1. Denial.

Denial is a tough technique to understand. Denial is a protective strategy that allows you to avoid reality by intentionally refusing the processing of received information. In other words, rejection is accomplished by obstructing events that originate outside of awareness. The denial mechanism

eliminates external threat by rejecting it, i.e. thinking that the danger doesn't really exist.

## 2. Repression.

According to Minderop (2010:33), repression causes individuals to be unaware of the emotions that create anxiety and to forget prior emotional and painful events. The way repression functions is that when the feelings from the id are so frightening, the anxiety becomes so severe that the ego cannot contain it. To defend itself, the ego, according to Freud, represses impulses, driving undesired sensations into the unconscious (Semiun, 2006:97).

## 3. Sublimation.

According to Zaviera (2007:108), sublimation is the act of transforming undesirable stimulus, such as anger, fear, or other emotions, into socially acceptable forms. Sublimation is a type of distraction. Someone with an aggressive drive and a desire to fight, for example, can be deflected by becoming a boxer.

## 4. Projection.

In psychology, projection is defined as an unconscious technique that prevents us from noticing a circumstance. Disturbing sensations of self are evacuated and connected to the other person by this process, which works like a projector. For example, if a person dislikes his buddy, he may believe that his friend dislikes him (Dewi and Kahija, 2012:5).



#### 5. Displacement.

Displacement is a type of self-defense against anxiety that involves searching for a substitute object to release frustration on. According to Minderop (2010:34), displacement is the transfer of discontent from one thing to another that is more likely. For example, if the things are not the source of the issue but are safer if they are the target of anger, they can be substituted.

#### 6. Rationalization.

Rationalization is a defensive strategy that entails re-interpreting our conduct in order to make it more rational and acceptable. According to Hilgard, rationalization has two purposes: first, it reduces disappointment when we fail to meet a goal, and second, it provides us with acceptable justifications for our actions (in Minderop, 2010:35). A person will attempt to conceive of a troubling incident in a rational manner while avoiding a genuine explanation of the conduct.

#### 7. Reaction formation.

According to Alwisol (2011: 27), response generation is a protective or defensive activity that involves replacing anxious impulses or thoughts with opposing ones in awareness. To deal with anxiousness, a person does something that contradicts his or her feelings. Reaction formation is repression caused by anxious emotions that oppose the repressed inclinations. Minderop (2010:36) provides an example of a formation reaction: a woman

dislikes her child, but because hatred of children causes her anxiety, she exhibits the opposite attitude, extreme love for her child.

#### 8. Regression.

Regression is a protective mechanism in which the individual returns to a more pleasant moment in his life that is devoid of the aggravation and worry that he is presently experiencing. Regression may be separated into two categories, according to Minderop (2010: 38). Retrogressive conduct refers to regression that causes someone to act like a kid, while primitivation refers to regression that causes someone to act like an uncultured person. Jealousy toward other people can lead to regression, such as when a toddler believes that his parents no longer care about him after the birth of a new sibling because they are more in love with his sister.

#### 9. Agression.

Aggression is a state of rage that is directly linked to anxiety and can result in damage and violence. Minderop (2010:38) differentiates two forms of aggressiveness: direct aggression and diversionary aggression. Direct aggression occurs when anger is directed directly towards a person or item that is causing displeasure. Diverted aggression occurs when a person feels frustrated but unable to articulate the source of the dissatisfaction because it is unclear or untouchable. The culprit is upset and wants something to relieve his or her displeasure.

## 10. Fantasy.

Fantasy is the soul's power to create new images. According to Freud, when confronted with a mountain of difficulties, a person may seek a solution by entering an imaginative world, a solution based on imagination rather than reality. Daydreams, according to Freud (1949:95), are the result of imagination, when a person just imagines something rather than seeing it. Daydreams can serve as the foundation for an artistic work, and the author can then develop his fantasy into a plot and create a novel, drama, or other literary work.

### **2.2.2. Structuralism Approach**

In analyzing *Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief*, the writer used structuralism approach. The structuralism approach attempts to explain the role of each piece of a work of literature as a structural unit that forms the entire meaning together (Teeuw, 1983:153). It analyzes the internal aspects of literary works such as character, theme, plot, settings, and etc. Literary works are regarded as independent concepts that gather all internal features.

According to Abrams (1979:28), there are four approaches to reading literary work. Reading has four approaches: mimetic, pragmatic, expressive, and objective. Mimetic approach attempts to describe literary output as "essentially an imitation of aspects of the universe". Pragmatic approach bases a literary work's evaluation on its impact on an audience. Expressive approach characterizes a literary work as the outpouring, speech, or projection of the

author's ideas and feelings; in other words, the work alters and synthesizes the author's pictures, thoughts, and feelings. Objective approach focuses entirely on literary works as independent structures with inherent coherence.

The structural approach may be defined as a strategy to the study of literature that works by evaluating the structure elements that form literary works from the inside out, as well as determining the significance or connection of these aspects in order to obtain unanimity meaning. By using structuralism approach, the writer will focus on the intrinsic elements of the *Percy Jackson and The Olympians: The Lightning Thief* novel such as characterization, theme, plot, and settings.

### **2.2.3. Characterization**

Characters are often termed as characters in the story that are shown, and as attitudes, interests, desires, emotions, and moral principles possessed by characters. Character is a figure in a work of fiction, whereas characterization is the process of creating a character. Characterization produces all characters. To put it another way, they were created in a certain manner (Gill, 1997:105).

According to Abrams (1981: 20), story characters are people who are shown in a narrative work that the reader interprets as having certain moral qualities and tendencies as expressed in the characters' words and actions. Story characters are fictional individuals who experience events or treatments in various story events and are part or elements of an artistic wholeness of literary works (Sudjiman, 1988: 16). Characters are equipped with certain characters or characteristics. Character is the quality of a character which

includes the quality of reason and soul that distinguishes it from other story characters.

Characterization means playing or depicting the character of a character in a work of fiction (Minderop, 2005: 2). Characterization is the process through which a writer conveys to the reader the physical and non-physical traits of a character in a tale. Characterization is the depiction of a clear picture of a person who is shown in a story. The term characterization has a broader meaning than character. Characterization includes the problem of who the characters in the story are, what their character is, and how they are placed and depicted in the story. Characterizations using certain names can describe the feelings of the heart, thoughts, and fantasies of other characters.

Pradopo (1993: 19) states that character development can be done through physical descriptions, descriptions of the character's way of thinking, the character's reaction to the events at hand, the author's analysis directly, the author describes the situation around the character, the views or responses of the supporting characters to the main character, and the conversations between characters.

Nurgiantoro (1995: 194) states that there are two techniques for depicting characters, namely direct characterization and indirect characterization.

The direct characterization technique is also known as the analytical technique. The characterization of story characters is done by providing a description or direct explanation of the attitude, nature, character, behavior, or even the physical characteristics of the character which is usually found at the

stage of introducing the character. This technique of portraying characters does not involve the reader in actively participating imaginatively and mostly, the narrative is mechanical and less natural.

The indirect characterization technique is also called the dramatic technique. This technique means that the author does not describe the character in detail. The author allows the characters of the story to show themselves through various events that occur. This technique allows the reader to interpret the character's own character actively, creatively, and imaginatively.

#### **2.2.4. Theme**

The theme is a notion that threads the story's framework. A story's topic encompasses all issues, such as humanity, power, friendship, adventure, and many more. A theme is an issue that takes center stage in a literary work. To discover the topic in a literary work, we must first comprehend what we are reading. The theme of a literary work is usually connected to the title, but we must often read and comprehend a literary work in order to discover the correct theme. The story's theme is not a synopsis of it. Themes in literature include significant topics and events from both our public and private lives, like love, death, marriage, hope, and despair. A literary topic may be derived from common experiences in life.

In Ali (1967:118), Saad believes that the theme is something that creates a difficulty for the author in which he envisions the author's concept of life and goals, how he perceives the situation. Additionally, Brooks and Warren (in

Tarigan, 1984: 125) define a theme as a certain point of view or set of values that serves as the foundation or fundamental concept of a literary work.

The theme, according to Keraf (1980:107), is a major message presented across the essay. The solutions to the challenges mentioned must be discovered so that the author's work conveys a meaning to the audience. So, the theme is a commandment or the author's perspective on life's challenges.

According to Rusyana (1988:67), the subject is a specific way of life or certain sensations that form the basis of the primary concept or create a literary work, and all fiction must have a core theme or express a goal. Theme is the concept that underpins a story.

#### **2.2.5. Plot**

The plot is the overall plotline or structure, a thread of struggle between two opposed protagonists. Plots are classified into two types: closed and open plots. This classification is based on how an author portrays the conclusion of his narrative. According to Sudjiman (1988:43), plot is a meticulously planned and lived chain of events that drives the tale from complexity to climax and conclusion.

Meanwhile, Aminudin (1987:83) defines plot as "a set of occurrences generated by stages of events that experience a tale portrayed by the players in the story." Oemarjati (1962: 94) said the same notion, saying that the plot is the framework that assembles the events in the story that are placed rationally. As a result, the plot is a set of events or phases of events in the storyline that lead to the climax.

Plot has five fundamental components as follows:

1. Exposition, The story's commencement, when the characters and location are unveiled. The exposition is the story's introduction to the characters and location. The exposition attracts the reader by delivering enough interest and knowledge to the intended audience to entice them to keep reading.
2. Rising Action, This is when the story's events grow convoluted and the conflict is exposed (events between the introduction and climax). The escalating action in the storyline reveals the conflict or challenge. This section of the story informs us what the main character or protagonist is up against. The primary character battles with this issue or challenge during the increasing action.
3. Climax, The climax of a tale is the point at which the conflict or dilemma changes or is resolved. Something occurs in the climax to produce a significant milestone for the story's characters.
4. Falling Action, The falling action is the sequence of events that occurs following the climax; it is where the protagonist must respond to the changes that take place during the story's climax. The events and complexities start to sort themselves out. The reader is aware of what happened next and whether or not the dispute was resolved (events between climax and resolution).
5. Resolution, This is the story's final result or unraveling of events. The phase of a narrative or play that follows the climax and sets a new



norm, a new condition of affairs—the way things will be from then on.

The author frequently ties up loose ends in the novel to bring the plot to a conclusion.

#### **2.2.6. Settings**

Setting is the natural, constructed, political, and transitory environment, encompassing all that characters know and own. Fictional characters, like all humans, do not live in isolation. They become human by interacting with other characters, but they also get identity as a result of their cultural and political allegiances, assets, jobs, and place where they live, move, and have their existence.

According to Yudiono (1986:35), the setting is a portrait or image of the location or time of events occurring. Furthermore, according to Aminudin (1987:67), setting is the background of events in a work of fiction in the form of location, time, and event, and it contains physical and psychological properties. Brooks et al (in Tarigan, 1984:136) have a similar viewpoint, stating that the setting is the physical foundation, the components of place and space in a tale. Furthermore, Sudjiman (1988: 87) contends that the setting is all details, reference guidelines, and the context in which events in the work occur. In a work of fiction, the setting provides information about the location, time, event, and physical environment.

In a novel, the setting is the location where the tale is told. The backdrop complements and amplifies the actions of the story's characters. The location gives a plot foundation and a perception of realism to the reader, creating an

atmosphere as if it truly existed and occurred. Setting refers to the location or period of events in a literary work. There are two types of backgrounds or settings: material backgrounds and social backgrounds. The material setting is a depiction of the character's natural background or surroundings. The social environment is a depiction of manners, conduct, conventions, and life perspectives.