

Physical representation of female character in children's novels by children

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ABSTRACT

Literary work is a form and result of creative works of art whose objects are humans and their lives use language as a medium. Especially children's literature by children, basically has its own advantages. The storyline is unique and interesting and builds the expression of the child's world. This study aims to describe the physical aspects of female characters in children's novels by children. This paper is a qualitative research with a descriptive approach. The approach used in this study is a psychological literacy approach. The technique of collecting research data was done by reading carefully accompanied by marking. The analytical technique used is a symbolic hermeneutic technique. Based on the results of the study, the findings of this study relate to the physical aspects of female characters in children's novels which include physical aspects in terms of gender, physical aspects in terms of age, physical aspects in terms of facial characteristics, the physical aspect in terms of the clothes used, and the physical aspect in terms of the state of the body (senses).

Key words: physical, representation, children's novel, and children's work

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INTRODUCTION

The essence of literary works based on content is a representation of all the activities of people's lives. This confirms that the literary work itself was born and created by the community. One of the goals of literary works created is as a form of pouring out the creative process of society itself. Therefore, there are two things that bind the essence of literary works, namely literary works as creative and imaginative works. First, it is said to be a creative work because it requires creative ideas, ranging from topic topics, expressing ideas, to the use of language, such as choosing the right words. Of course it requires creative spaces as well. That is, the process of creating a literary work is not instantaneous.

Furthermore, secondly, it is said to be an imaginative work because basically, in the process of creating a literary work, it is not only supported by creative spaces, but also requires maximum empowerment of reasoning. The reasoning in question is the power of a person to interpret and interpret something imaginatively. The two binding processes of the literary creation process mentioned above also become spirits that cannot be separated from a literary work.

Based on general observations, literary works reveal more aspects of the author's life experience. Therefore, a novel based on content is a representation of the life of the community or the author himself which is appointed based on factual life, then fictionalized in the work. Thus the novel can be called the book of the journey of human life. Nevertheless, it is still presented using imaginative language as a characteristic that literary works are works of fiction. Therefore, a literary work is also a work of art which contains the creative process of the author. Djojuroto, (2006) and (Muhsyanur Muhsyanur, 2019) says that the essence of literature/literary work is a form and result of creative art work whose objects are humans and their lives by using language as the medium.

The main element in literary works, especially novels, is the character. Characterization in a literary work is an amalgamation of characters and character traits in a story. According to Atmazaki (2005), character is an important component in a story. Character is a person who is equipped with moral qualities and character which is what the dialogue says and what actions support (Widyahening & Wardhani, 2016). This is in line with Abrams' opinion (Burhan, 2013) that story characters (characters) are people who are shown in a narrative work, or drama that is liked to have certain moral qualities and tendencies expressed in speech and carried out in the form of action.

Purba (2010) states that the characterizations include matters relating to naming, characterization, physical condition of the character (psychological aspect), social condition of the character (sociological aspect), and character of the character. However, the thing that is the main supporter and cannot be separated from the character is something related to psychology. Aderia et al. (2013) and Ibrasma et al. (2013) explains that psychology is a science that investigates and studies behavior and various activities as a manifestation of mental life.

This study focuses on the physical aspects of female characters in several children's novels by children. The physical aspect of the female character is the same as the female character's self-image. A woman's self-image is a picture of a woman's world that is typical of herself and all kinds of behavior (Fahs, 2014 & Muhsyanur, 2021). Sugihastuti (2019) and Rokhmansyah (2016) states that women's self-image is a woman's state and view that comes from within herself, which includes physical and psychological aspects. It is also said that these aspects are a unity that has a relationship with one another in the construction of a self-image.

Women are physically an individual figure formed by the biological process of a baby girl, who in the course of her age reaches the adult stage (O'Neal et al., 2020) and (Waynforth, 2001). In the physical aspect, it is said that women experience different conditions from men. For example, pregnant, giving birth, and breastfeeding children. Lestari et al. (2021) suggests that physically women have a reproductive role which is then constructed as women's duties and responsibilities. Meanwhile, according to Irfarettha et al. (2013) the image of women seen from the physical aspect is a picture of women shown based on physical or outward characteristics which include age, gender, body condition (five senses), facial features, and clothing. Juanda & Azis (2018) adds that the physical image of women in a literary work is marked by the similarity between the characteristics of women in real situations and the images created by the author in literary works.

Based on some of these opinions, the physical aspect of women can be said to be something that is in women, both in terms of reproductive roles, body conditions (five senses), facial features, clothes used, age, and gender that are different from men. If it is associated with the physical image of women in literary works, then the physical aspects of women can be said to be all physical characteristics that have similarities with the characteristics of women in real situations. Therefore, this study focuses on examining the physical description of the female character in the children's literature. The physical depiction in question relates to internal and external. Internal matters, such as voice, tone, expression, and so on. While with regard to the external, among others, such as body style, expression of acting or hanging out, and so on. Basically, children's literary works have advantages compared to other literary works or in general. This is in line with the statement by Aprilia et al., (2020) that children's literature has extraordinary potential.

METHOD

This type of research is a qualitative research using a descriptive approach. The data and sources of research data are in the form of texts related to the physical aspects of female characters contained in several children's novels by children. The source of the data for this research comes from children's novels by children. The data collection technique in this study used a reading technique with a marking system. This is done to produce accuracy in data collection.

The data that has been collected is then selected and processed. The processing is based on data that is more in line with the research focus by using a grouping system. The data analysis technique used is a symbolic hermeneutic technique. The symbolic hermeneutic technique in question is interpreting and interpreting the data presented (Harris, 1997). Interpretation is giving the impression of an object (Wilson, 2011 & Klingler, 2021). In relation to this research, it is interpreting the data to answer the research focus.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results

The physical aspect of women's self-image in children's novels by children, based on the results of the study it was found that the image of women depicted through the main character in terms of gender was found in five children's novels by children, the depiction of the physical aspect in terms of age was found in four novels, the physical aspect in terms of characteristics The face is found in three novels, in terms of clothing it is found in four novels, and the depiction of the physical aspect in terms of body condition is found in five children's novels by children. Following are the results of the analysis based on the data in the novel.

Discussion

Physical Aspect in terms of Gender

The physical aspect in terms of gender is found in five children's novels by children. The author of the novel is a girl, so the depiction of the main character as a girl is described according to what is in her. The following is an excerpt from the data in the novel

- (1) *“Halo teman-teman! Namaku Farah, terima kasih.” Farah adalah gadis cantik dengan balutan jilbab yang menutupi rambutnya (I/LF/16).*
“Hello guys! My name is Farah, thank you.” Farah is a beautiful girl with a veil covering her hair (I/LF/16).
- (2) *Gadis berambut cokelat pirang itu mengarahkan pandangannya ke sumber suara. Dia melempar seulas senyum sekenanya pada sosok yang kini ada di hadapannya. Lalu kembali merebahkan tubuhnya di sofa dengan malas (II/TWBL/11).*
The blonde brown haired girl turned her gaze to the source of the sound. He flashed a sly smile at the figure who was now in front of him. Then he lay back down on the couch lazily (II/TWBL/11).
- (3) *Lizabeth adalah temanku. Dia gadis cantik, baik, periang, ramah, dan sangat pintar. Sama sepertiku dia juga punya rambut yang halus dan enak disisir (III/LBC/9).*
Lizabeth is my friend. She is a beautiful girl, kind, cheerful, friendly, and very smart. Just like me he also has smooth and easy to comb hair (III/LBC/9).
- (4) *Aku duduk di kelas V di SDI permata indah, sekolah khusus perempuan (IV/TPS/13).*
I am in fifth grade at SDI Permata Indah, an all-girls school (IV/TPS/13).
- (5) *Aku termasuk gadis yang sangat suka menggunakan bandana rambut dengan bunga di tengahnya (VI/RC/38).*
I'm one of those girls who really like to wear a hair bandana with a flower in the middle (VI/RC/38).

Based on the data (1), (2), (3), and (5) the main character is described as a girl. The author's depiction of the main character in the story gives the reader the view that the character is female. In contrast to data (4), the author directly illustrates that the character is female by the actions she takes when she enters a special school for girls.

Data (1) describes the main character named Farah as a girl, this statement is evidenced by the description in the narrative by the author regarding Farah's physical condition when introducing herself in front of her friends. Data (2) describing the main character named Elsie as a girl is done by the author through the use of the word girl and narrative descriptions related to the main character's physical characteristics at the beginning of the story. Data (3) describes the main character named Mery as a girl, in addition to using the word girl, also through the character's actions when doing a monologue and describing her condition, starting with the description of her friend's condition. Data (4) describes the main character as a girl in the story, apart from the use of the word girl, it is also

seen when the author illustrates that the character goes to an all-girls school. Data (5) describes the main character as a girl through the use of the word girl and is also reinforced by the character's actions when describing the attributes she wears.

Based on these data, it can be concluded that female writers tend to describe the same gender as themselves, namely the female gender. This is done to get a true depiction of girls.

Physical Aspect in terms of Age

The physical aspect in terms of age is found in four children's novels by children. Through the depiction of the main character, the child writer describes the female character at a young age or in childhood, namely 11-12 years. The age is in accordance with the conditions experienced by the author, as has been said that child writers tend to describe themselves in story characters. The following is an excerpt from the data in the novel.

- (1) *Viola Agneta Salsabila adalah sahabatku. Anak berumur 12 tahun sama denganku, yang sama-sama gemar bermain musik menggunakan biola, viola, piano, dan beberapa alat tradisional Indonesia seperti angklung dan gamelan (I/LF/83).*
Viola Agneta Salsabila is my best friend. A 12 year old child like me, who both likes to play music using the violin, viola, piano, and some traditional Indonesian instruments such as angklung and gamelan (I/LF/83).
- (2) *Saat ini umurku 11 tahun (IV/TPS/14).*
I am currently 11 years old (IV/TPS/14).
- (3) *Hai, kenalkan namaku Vexia Reziella dan biasa dipanggil Vexia. Sekarang usiaku dua belas tahun dan sudah duduk di kelas Tab.VII di Chrysan College, sekolah pali terkenal di Chrysan(V/MDV/11).*
Hi, my name is Vexia Reziella and usually called Vexia. I am now twelve years old and in the Tab.VII class at Chrysan College, the most famous school in Chrysan(V/MDV/11).
- (4) *Sabrina adalah reporter cilik dari kelas lima (VI/RC/37).*
Sabrina is a little reporter from fifth grade (VI/RC/37).

Data (1) illustrates that the age of the main character I or the main character is 12 years. Through the depiction of the age of the main character, it can be concluded that the main character is a young woman. Data (2) confirms that the main character is also 11 years old, that is, the age at which a person is still in the stage of child development (not yet an adult). The author gives a direct description of the main character's physical condition based on age. Data (3) is not much different from the previous data, the main character in children's novels by children is described as a girl who is 12 years old and sitting in Tab class. VII or equivalent to grade VI SD if in Indonesia. Data (5) describes the main character as a young girl when the author illustrates her as a child who is still in school at the fifth grade of elementary school. In Indonesia, in general, children who are in fifth grade of elementary school are 11-12 years old.

Based on these data, it can be concluded that in children's novels, the main character is also described as a child, through the depiction of the age of the main character, namely children aged 11-12 years. However, according to the science of child development, at the age of 11-12 years, children have started the process of finding their identity so that there will be many problems experienced by children.

Physical Aspects in terms of Facial Characteristics

Physical aspects in terms of facial features are found in three children's novels by children. The facial features depicted through the main character in the novel conclude that the character is a woman. Girls writers emphasize the depiction of female facial features in the story. The depiction of male facial features is almost never depicted in all children's novels by girls. This problem occurs

because female writers tend to position male characters as merely complementary characters in the story, not characters who have an important influence in the story. Here are the data in the novel.

- (1) *Gadis dengan bola matanya yang coklat dan bulu mata yang lentik itu tertawa kecil ketika mendengar ucapan Bunda (II/TWBL/13).*
The girl with brown eyes and thick eyelashes laughed lightly when she heard Mother's words (II/TWBL/13).
- (2) *Lizabeth adalah temanku. Dia gadis cantik, baik, periang, ramah, dan sangat pintar. Sama sepertiku dia juga punya rambut yang halus dan enak disisir (III/LBC/9).*
Lizabeth is my friend. She is a beautiful girl, kind, cheerful, friendly, and very smart. Just like me he also has smooth and easy to comb hair (III/LBC/9).
- (3) *Mataku bulat dan berwarna coklat. Hidungku tidak terlalu mancung sih, tapi sangat sesuai dengan bentuk wajahku cantik kata banyak orang (V/MDV/11).*
My eyes are round and brown. My nose is not too high, but it fits my face shape, many people say (V/MDV/11).

Data (1) describes the facial condition of the main character, the author describes the main character as a girl with facial features that have brown eyes and curly eyelashes. In data (2) as well, the author describes the main female character with beautiful facial features and has smooth hair and is easy to comb. Data (3) describes the facial characteristics of the main character, namely round brown eyes, a proportional nose and a beautiful face. The depiction of facial features by female writers in the novel, proves that the author is very interested in physically beautiful and beautiful women.

Based on these data, it can be concluded that female writers will provide characteristics according to their understanding of women. The female characters are always depicted as beautiful and near perfect in the story. Girls writers strive to make girls more prominent in the story than boys.

Physical Aspect in terms of Clothing Used

The physical aspect of the clothes used are found in four children's novels by children. The author describes the main character as a girl also through the depiction of the clothes worn by the characters. The clothes that are generally used by girls are described by the author in the novel. The following is an excerpt from the data in the novel.

- (1) *Aku mandi dan mengenakan baju seragam merah putih berlengan panjang dan mengenakan jilbab putih (I/LF/76).*
I took a shower and wore a long-sleeved red and white uniform and wore a white headscarf (I/LF/76).
- (2) *Baju berwarna merah muda dengan ribuan glitters yang berkilauan. Itu gaun favoritku, aku langsung menyambar baju itu dan berganti baju. Saat keluar, aku berkaca di cermin. Gaun itu tampak indah di tubuhku (III/LBC/28).*
A pink dress with thousands of glittering glitters. That's my favorite dress, I immediately grabbed it and changed. When I came out, I looked in the mirror. The dress looks beautiful on me (III/LBC/28).
- (3) *Ketika aku dan Diva berjalan kaki untuk sampai ke sekolah, aku dan Diva terkena cipratan air kubangan! Rokku dan Diva pun basah dan kotor (IV/TPS/43).*
When Diva and I walked to school, Diva and I were splashed by puddles! My and Diva's skirts were wet and dirty (IV/TPS/43).

Data (1) describes the main character as a child who wears a long-sleeved shirt and a headscarf which is identical to women's clothing in general. The use of hijab is usually used by all Muslim women, both children and adults. Data (2) also describes how the main character is a girl who wears pink clothes with glittering glitters. The depiction illustrated by the author regarding the clothes of the female characters is not much different from the real situation. Where girls prefer pink and something shiny, to emphasize their feminine identity. Likewise with data (3) when it is described that the main character wears a skirt to school, in real life skirts are only worn by female students while boys do not.

Based on these data, it can be concluded that children's writers also provide an overview of female characters through the clothes used, not only from their actions and facial features. The characters in the novel are described in their entirety to get a complete depiction of women.

Physical Aspects in terms of Body Conditions (senses)

Physical aspects in terms of body condition (pancaindra) are found in five children's novels by children. The female characters described by the author are also shown through the behavior of their bodies. The following is an excerpt from the data in the novel.

- (1) *Langkah Farah dan temannya terdengar ramai saat menuju kantin. Suara sepatu Farah yang sudah usang beradu dengan sepatu lincah dan mengkilap milik perempuan di sebelahnya (I/LF/20).*
The steps of Farah and her friends sounded crowded when they headed to the canteen. The sound of Farah's worn-out shoes colliding with the bright and shiny shoes of the woman next to her (I/LF/20).
- (2) *Elsie mengukir senyumnya. Lalu mengangguk-anggukkan kepala seraya memasang wajah memelas (II/TWBL/32).*
Elsie cracked a smile. Then nodded his head while putting on a pitiful face (II/TWBL/32).
- (3) *Elsie mengacungkan jempol tanda mengerti (II/TWBL/57).*
Elsie gives a thumbs up sign of understanding (II/TWBL/57).
- (4) *Aku berjalan dengan langkah gontai sampai di luar (IV/TPS/45).*
I walked with unsteady steps until outside (IV/TPS/45).
- (5) *Aku melambaikan tangan (V/MDV/19).*
I waved (V/MDV/19).

Data (1) describes the steps of the main character named Farah as a woman while walking, the child is described as a female character who walks with fast steps. In data (2), it can be seen how the main female child character uses head movements as a signal for the actions to be taken. The depiction of the character's actions suggests that the female character doesn't talk much, so she chooses to use body language. Data (3) describes how the female character uses her thumb to express an attitude of understanding or understanding, the actions taken by the main female character also indicate that the female character does not like to say a lot of words so she chooses to use sign language through her limbs. Data (4) describes the body condition of the main female character who always walks slowly. In general, these actions are always done by women to reflect the feminine side. Data (5) describes the main female character who always waves as a sign of meeting or parting with other people. This body condition is usually also owned by men, but in children's novels, these actions are more dominantly carried out by women, especially the main character.

Women have a special physical character (Prismanisa, 2021). Based on these data, it can be concluded that the main female character is fully described by the author. The female character is also depicted through the state of her limbs as a sign in carrying out an action and behavior.

CONCLUSIONS

Literary works have an important role in various aspects of human life for all people. Literary works are not only limited to reading material, let alone complementary libraries. The essence of literary works is a representation of real world life that shows expression. Especially children's literature by children, of course very interesting to study.

A literary work, especially a children's novel in children's novels, cannot be separated from the psychological elements. In this study, it was found that the physical aspects of the female main character were described through the state of the body (five senses), facial features, clothes used, age, and gender of the female main character in children's novels by children. Thus, an interesting finding from this research is that children's novels by children tend to highlight the psychological aspects of the characters.

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