

Characterization Analysis Of The Character In Short Story Entitled The Lottery

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Abstract. This research is based on an analysis of an American short story entitled The Lottery by Shirley Jackson. The purpose of this analysis is to examine and categorize the characterization of the character in the short story. The methods applied to analyze the data in this study is a qualitative method to describe in words the examination of the short story based on the characterization. The data source is collected through documentation and note-taking processes. For the results of this analysis the character in the short story classified into several types and detailed classifications of each character's traits, actions, and roles within the context of the narrative.

Keywords: American Literature, The Lottery, Intrinsic Element, Short Story

INTRODUCTION

American Literature originated as a branch of England Literature and by reason of its origin, American Literature occupies a different position from many other great literatures of the world. The literature is the written expression of its life, since it revealed the life of the people, its history and its literature are inseparably connected (Pancoast, 1900). The form of American literature is diverse from the orally transmitted myths, legends, lyrics, to the true story of the people with their history (VanSpanckeren, 2010). The theme itself is diverse in the form of religious, nature, journeys that reflect the experiences, values, and aspirations of American society.

One of the forms of American literature is short stories. A short story is a brief tale which can be told or read in one sitting (Lawrence, 1917). To comprehend deeper into the character of the story itself, the analysis of the story by referring to the characterization is essential. The interpretation and analysis of the literary works themselves constitute the inherent aspects (Wellek and Warren (1963:139). To put it another way, the fundamental aspects of literary works are known as inherent elements.

According to Nurgiyantoro (2010), personality and character play a significant role in the literary work itself. According to Ferdinan et al. (2020), characters are the actors in the story who drive it from one action to the next. Generally speaking, a character's behaviors and speech indicate who they are. Only the authors are familiar with the characters because they are their creations. Since the characters will be the primary focus of the story, it will take a lot of effort to figure out how to make them come to life (Zainuddin, 2020). The literary

characterization analysis facilitates a more profound comprehension of the several elements that contribute to the significance and influence of a narrative. A detailed analysis of the essential elements of Shirley Jackson's short story "The Lottery" could provide important insights. This essay investigates the rich literary composition and significance of "The Lottery" by looking at the character characterization.

RESEARCH METHOD

This type of research is qualitative descriptive research. Data is deconstructed into words or images and everything is presented accurately when using the descriptive approach. According to Nugroho and Rekha (2020) qualitative method of data collection involves obtaining descriptive sentences that attempt to fully explain each event that occurs in a given context as a result of the data's processing or analysis. The character in the short story "The Lottery" was described using descriptive analysis in this study. Sentences and utterances containing the character from the short story The Lottery serve as the study's data source. The writer employed note-taking techniques and the documentation method for gathering the data. "Documentation is the act of looking for data which concern with matters such as note, book, newspaper, magazine, transcript, and agenda,". Taking notes is the second method after that. It is the act of paying attention to something and making sure to remember it, according to Hornby (2010: 1004).

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The process of creating a character is called characterization (Gill, 1995). There are two methods for characterizing things. Direct characterization is used in the first instance, while indirect characterization is used in the second. The author directly describes a character's attributes, in accordance with Florman's (2017) theory of indirect characterization. A narrator, another character, or the concerned character themselves may provide a firsthand account of anything.

Conversely, indirect characterization is illustrated by the actions, thoughts, and appearance of the character as well as through the way the character interacts with other characters and responds to them (Minderop, 2005, p. 22). Direct characterisation is known as "explicit characterization," although indirect characterization is frequently referred to as "implicit characterization."

Characters in Shirley Jackson's "The Lottery" are presented through both direct and indirect characterization, providing the reader with a better understanding of their personalities, worldviews, and plot points.

1. Mr. Summers (Direct): Identified as the lottery official, Mr. Summers is directly mentioned as a pivotal participant in the ceremony. His position conveys a feeling of tradition and authority.
2. Old Man Warner (Direct and Indirect): Old Man Warner's endorsement of the lottery and emphasis on its lengthy history serve as a direct portrayal of him. His unwavering devotion to tradition subtly betrays a lack of curiosity and an aversion to change.
3. Tessie Hutchinson (Direct and Indirect): Tessie is depicted directly as a typical local citizen after winning the lotto. By becoming the chosen one, her initially carefree attitude changes significantly, indicating the effect the custom has on others.
4. Mr. Hutchinson (Indirect): Although he isn't given a lot of detail, Mr. Hutchinson is indirectly characterized by his lottery participation, which he did without seeming to object. This implies a willingness to comply with social norms.
5. Children (Indirect): The story's children are characterized indirectly by their excitement over the jackpot. Their informal stone-gathering suggests that violence has become the norm in the neighborhood.

These portrayals add to the overall mood of the narrative by emphasizing the contrast between the seemingly unremarkable locals and the unquestioning participation in a horrific ritual. The characters are given more depth and the story's themes are emphasized through the combination of direct and indirect characterization.

Characters that are further classified usually fall under the protagonist and antagonist categories. However, according to Lutters (2006: 81), a role or character can be divided into three categories based on what kind of role it plays: protagonist (whose role is to represent positive things in the needs of the story); antagonist (whose role is to represent negative things in the needs of the story); and tritagonist (the role of a companion, both for the role of the protagonist or antagonist).

Shirley Jackson's "The Lottery" deviates from the conventional protagonist, antagonist or tritagonist framework found in many stories. However, in this study the analysis can recognize important figures and how they relate to the main conflict:

1. Townspeople: Taken as a whole, the townspeople act as a protagonist since they embody the regular people who reside in the community. They unintentionally participate in the negative lottery tradition, nevertheless.
2. The Lottery Tradition: The lottery tradition itself might be viewed as the antagonist. The ritual and its sinister conclusion serves as the cause of tension, calling into question the moral and ethical standards of the community, even though no particular character stands in opposition to the villagers.

In "The Lottery," the lack of a definite protagonist and antagonist is deliberate, as the narrative centers on societal criticism and the unnerving quality of mindlessly adhering to detrimental customs. The prevailing mentality that permits the continuation of this kind of ceremony is the true enemy.

Authors employ a wide variety of personalities to tell their story, claims Bernardo (2001). Characters in Shirley Jackson's "The Lottery" can be categorized as either dynamic or static according to how they react to rituals and shifting circumstances:

Dynamic Characters: Developing (or Dynamic) character undergoes a permanent change in some aspect of character, personality, or outlook. The change may be a large or a small one; it may be for better or for worse; but it is something important and basic: it is more than a change in condition or a minor change in opinion (Perrine, 1985: 69)

1. Tessie Hutchinson: Like the other villagers, Tessie seems to follow the town's lottery ritual. Her demeanor, however, drastically changes when her family is selected. The word "dynamic" suggests that Tessie's personality changes throughout time, exposing nuanced aspects and internal turmoil. Her opposition to the lottery shows a change in her attitudes and behavior, which distinguishes her from static or flat personalities that don't change.

Static Characters: The Static Character is the same sort of person at the end of the story as at the beginning (Perrine, 1985: 69).

1. Old Man Warner: A yearly lottery is a community custom that Old Man Warner fervently supports. His unshakable dedication suggests that, despite the ritual's sad and deadly conclusion, he believes in its significance. His unchanging demeanor embodies the community's prevailing conventional and conservative outlook. Even when a ritual raises ethical concerns, his unwavering devotion to the lottery illustrates his unwillingness to challenge established practices and his aversion to change. His

unwavering views and demeanor underscore the opposition to reevaluating the lottery's morality.

2. **The Villagers (as a Collective):** Complying with the yearly routine, most of the villagers display a static nature. They never doubt or argue against the morality of the yearly rite; they always follow it. The momentum of ingrained customs keeps the villagers performing the ceremony. They stick to the practice since it has worked in the past and are resistant to changing. The villagers' camaraderie highlights the possible risks of mindlessly adhering to traditions without considering their morality. Contribute to the continuation of a tradition that may have unfavorable effects by following without thinking. While, there is a dynamic character challenging the tradition, the majority of the characters remain static, underscoring the story's commentary on the dangers of complacency and blind adherence to established norms.

Dramatic Characters: When the characters go through a lot of internal transformation within a story it is considered as dramatic characters. The circumstances they face frequently cause them to undergo a change in their personality, attitudes, or beliefs (Altenberd and Lewis 1966).

1. **Tessie Hutchinson:** Tessie is a pivotal character in terms of drama, and her deeds heighten the narrative. Like everyone else, she plays the lottery, but when her family is selected, she objects and attempts to get out of trouble. Tension is raised as the climax is approached by Tessie's complaints and attempts to dodge the consequences, which become a central theme in the story. The conflict that emerges and reaches its peak tension is known as the climax (DiYanni 2000:744), and Tessie's actions are essential to making this happen.
2. **Mr. Summers:** Mr. Summers plays a significant dramatic role as the lottery operator. In a dramatic or narrative sense, Mr. Summers is essential to the events that are taking place. The suspense and atmosphere of the story are greatly enhanced by his acts during the lottery. His commanding participation in the ceremony heightens the drama. He is a key player in the events that are transpiring because of his arranging and active participation in its execution, which give the proceedings authority and seriousness and affect how the villagers view and engage in the ritual.
3. **Bill Hutchinson:** Tessie's spouse, Bill, takes part in the lottery voluntarily and without apparent resistance. He participates in the yearly rite with the townspeople without displaying any overt resistance. When his family is chosen, he plays a more dramatic

role that heightens the suspense and emotion in the story. Bill takes the result of the lottery with no opposition, despite its startling nature and the possible fallout for his family. This demonstrates the town's deep-rooted adherence to the custom, illustrating how characters follow tradition unobtrusively even in the midst of a dire circumstance.

Expository Characters: In contrast, the main purpose of expository characters is to inform the audience or other characters. They are frequently employed in stories to provide background information, context, or other crucial facts (Altentberd and Lewis 1966).

1. **Old Man Warner:** Old Man Warner provides explanations through his comments and demeanor. His persona epitomizes traditionalism, as he fervently upholds the lottery and its past.
2. **Mr. Graves:** Mr. Graves assists with lottery logistics in his capacity as postmaster. Even if he doesn't exhibit many acts, his participation in the ceremony establishes him as a figure connected to the town's traditions.
3. **The Kids:** The story's kids take part in the lottery, highlighting how deeply embedded the custom is from an early age. Their presence acts as an explanatory element, showing the ritual's normality, even as their behaviors are part of the drama.

According to Altentberd and Lewis (1966), the difference in characterization may be analyzed based on the character's complexity, which can be divided into two categories: round characters, which are more complex and unique, and flat characters, which are more simply portrayed. Foster distinguished between flat and round characters in his work *Aspect of the Novels*. The richness and complexity of the characters in the short story "The Lottery" allow us to classify them as either round or flat.

Flat Characters:

1. **Tessie Hutchinson:** Tessie's identity as a wife and mother comes first. Her character is very straightforward in the story's context, with the emphasis being on how she responds to the lottery. This character is categorized as flat as, according to Foster's explanation (1970), her presence is apparent and simple to recall.
2. **Bill Hutchinson:** Similar to Tessie, Bill is presented as having a one-dimensional personality and few distinguishing characteristics. His participation in the lottery ritual and his role as Tessie's spouse define him mainly. One-dimensional people never need to be reintroduced and don't require the viewer to wait for character growth because they frequently lack the depth and complexity of round characters.

3. Mr. Summers: As the lottery official, Mr. Summers' persona is less uniquely created and more representative of authority and custom. In the ritual's framework, he fulfills his job, and his presence in the story is generally stable and doesn't significantly alter during the story.

Round Characters:

1. Old Man Warner: The author hasn't given a thorough description of Old Man Warner thus, his portrayal isn't very detailed. Compared to certain other characters, his character has more depth. He is a symbol of traditionalism and resistance to change. His persona symbolizes the community's traditional values. His presence adds depth to the story by posing a more nuanced perspective on the conflict between tradition and modernity.
2. The Townspeople (Collectively): The townspeople exhibit a variety of diverse responses to the lottery. Rather than responding in unison, the community members exhibit a range of attitudes and feelings. It's possible for some group members to exhibit reluctance or uneasiness, which suggests that not everyone is entirely at ease or accepting of the lottery custom. This collective representation highlights the diversity of viewpoints and feelings even within an apparently homogeneous group, giving the community dynamics more depth. It adds to a more nuanced and realistic portrayal of the community by highlighting the fact that opinions about the ritual are not always shared by all members of the group and that these differences can cause conflict.

CONCLUSION

Based on the study above, the qualitative descriptive research method used in this study involved obtaining descriptive sentences that fully explain each data in the given context. The data was deconstructed into words, and the characters were described using descriptive analysis. The analysis recognized important characterization and how they relate to the main conflict, providing a more profound comprehension of the narrative's elements. The results found that the characters in "The Lottery" can be classified into different types based on direct and indirect characterization and protagonist and antagonist. Another distinction is the classification based on how the character undergoes in shifting circumstances which are static and dynamic. The characterization is also analyzed based on their complexity, such as round and flat characters and dynamic and expository characters.

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