



THE DYNAMIC CHARACTER AS SEEN IN J.R.R TOLKIEN'S THE HOBBIT NOVEL

Mac Aditiawarman, Fitri Mardhatillah

Fakultas Sastra Universitas Ekasakti
mac_aditiawarman@yahoo.com

Abstract

This research entitled "The Dynamic Character as seen in J.R.R Tolkien's The Hobbit Novel" about Thorin Oakenshield's dynamic character, the king who wants to take back his kingdom. This research is limited on basic ideas that relate to the observation into three questions as follow: (1) Why does Thorin also has an important role (2) Why is Thorin not the true leader (3) Why does Thorin change his role from hero to villain. The purposes of the thesis are, (1) To analyze Thorin's role in the Hobbit novel, (2) To analyze Thorin's role as a leader who considered not the true leader, (3) To analyze Thorin Oakenshield's dynamic character as the story progress. This theory using Teeuw and Pradopo about structural analysis and Griffith about dynamic character.

As for data analysis method, the writer uses systematic procedures by understanding the novels, the characters, as well as the structural theory. Data collection technique uses documentation technique in finding relevant data to the subject of analysis. The results are: (1) Thorin who has important role in the Hobbit novel, (2) Thorin as the leader of the company but his quality as the leader is so bad, (3) The dynamic character of Thorin when he get back his kingdom.

As conclusion, Tolkien shows that the crownless king has desire to get back his kingdom and becomes blind to the presence of the people around him. However, before his death he admits his wrongs to Bilbo. The moral value from this story is the world would be a better place if people cherished friendship and joy over wealth and success.

Keywords: Role Analysis, Leadership, Dynamic Character

© 2018Jurnal JILP

I INTRODUCTION

One summer's day long before The Hobbit story existed. J.R.R. Tolkien was sitting by the window in his study at Northmoor Road (his Oxford home). One of his student's papers that he was supposed to give a grade for was empty, then, he wrote on it the famous sentence. 'In a hole in the ground there lived a hobbit' before he knew what hobbits were like and how The Hobbit story would be. Later Tolkien created The Hobbit original story for his children John, Michael, and Christopher. He had not typed or written it down, but rather, it was in his imagination. He would tell the story to his

children after tea time in the evening; the ending, however, was roughly done. Without the student's empty examination paper and Tolkien's children, The Hobbit story would never have existed and if The Hobbit had never existed, there would be no Thorin Oakenshield. Thorin Oakenshield is a dwarven king who lives in exile because of a greedy dragon named Smaug. For a long time, Thorin a waits an opportunity to take back what the evil dragon has stolen from him and his kin. Fortunately, he has his company that consists of twelve dwarves on

doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.2404365

Jurnal JILP (Langue and Parole) Vol. 2 No. 1 (2018) ISSN : 2579-5449

This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/).

which he can rely. He is also assisted by a wizard (Gandalf) and a hobbit (Bilbo Baggins).

The background of the problems provided the reasons for the problem in this research. Therefore, the writer began with described the fact, problem, and solution to this writing. The fact in this research was about Thorin's Oakenshield the king of dwarves's character. However, the problem came when Thorin found his treasure and betrayed his promise to the people. He did not want to share his treasure to

the people. The solution to this problem is to analyze Thorin Oakenshield character from hero to villain and back to hero.

As the background of problems, reasons for choosing the problem of the dynamic character of Thorin Oakenshield, the novel, author of J.R.R Tolkien, and literary work of The Hobbit are described in systematic order. These background gave the foundation of the writer in wrote this research.

II RESEARCH METHODS

The The focus in this sub-research is the character of Thorin Oakenshield, as the king of dwarves. Thorin is the descendant of the King Under the Mountain 'the Lonely Mountain' who lost his kingdom when Smaug came and ousted the dwarves from their home. He has great bravery and integrity, but his love for the treasure that was stolen from him and his people leads him behave selfishly and stubbornly even after he has won it back. Thorin Oakenshield, he brings out the best in others but the worst in himself, and his contradicting traits come through in the end. Some may find him useless to the plot, others might see him as essential to the growth of others characters. His position may be challenged, but his history will forever remain the same. He is Thorin Oakenhield, the greedy, arrogant, first leader of the expedition, who gains wisdom only his death.

In order to get back his kingdom from the evil dragon, Thorin convinces the dwarves and The hobbit to join the adventure of course after Gandalf told him so. As we know, Thorin's role is really important, because without Thorin, there is no ambition to take back the dwarf's kingdom. And without that desire there is no adventure that lead Bilbo Baggins break his rule about never leaving his hole. In other words, The Hobbit story would never be existed.

Thorin thought of himself as a person with high importance because of his bloodline. He is clearly in charge of the dwarves and does not stand for anyone questioning his authority. He is also the leader who leads the dwarves, Gandalf and Bilbo on a trip to the lonely mountain.

“This last belonged to Thorin an enormously important dwarf, in fact no other than the great Thorin Oakenshield himself, who was not at all pleased at falling flat on Bilbo's mat with Bifur, Bofur, and Bombur on top of him.” (14)

At the beginning of the novel, Thorin showed up at the tea party with Bifur, Bofur, Bombur and Gandalf. Thorin, described as an “enormously important dwarf”, was not all pleased at falling at flat with the three other dwarves on top of him and stood to meet Bilbo with haughty frown on his face. This is the first impression we have of him. Thorin as the leader of the dwarves of Ered Luin, drinks red wine, sings and plays a golden harp. He gave speeches that were wordy but often strayed from the point.

In The Hobbit novel, Thorin Oakenshield got attention from the readers. His birthright made him the descendant of the king. His desire to get back his kingdom made this story. What is not mentioned in the hobbit novel and later expanded on by Tolkien in other works is that regaining the treasure was not the only reason for thorin's desire to defeat Smaug. It was also a desire to restore the Mountain and lands to his people.

In the first chapter Thorin tells Bilbo the story of the sacking of Erebor The Lonely Mountain by Smaug the dragon, and how his family and people had been exiled as a consequence. The dwarves sing of seeking a treasure that lies buried under a mountain guarded by dragon. Thorin addresses the group, including Bilbo, whom he calls a fellow conspirator, reminding them that they are embarking the next day on journey from which

doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.2404365

they may not return. But, Bilbo who against the planned with the dwarves change his mind after hear the dwarve's song.

Thorin is the heir of Durin, King in exile. He is simply described as very important dwarf. He has seen a deal of tragedy in his lifetime, and has worked along and hard to establish a settlement and living for his people in Ered Luin (The Blue Mountains). He has a burning desire however to re-establish his people back in Erebor, to reclaim his land, his people's wealth and his rightful inheritance

It is implied in the story that Thorin Oakenshield as the importance dwarf. He leads

III RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this part, the research is focused on the character of Thorin's leadership, as he is the king of dwarves who lead the journey to the Lonely Mountain. He leads twelve dwarves, Bilbo and Gandalf the grey to reclaim his kingdom back from the evil dragon named Smaug in a quest that is known as the Quest of Erebor. Thorin is known as the exiled King of Durin's Folk. Therefore the reader assumes that he has qualities and makings of a leader. However, as the story progresses, the reader realized Thorin is an incompetent leader of the Company as seen in chapter two, "Roast Mutton", when all the dwarves get captured by the trolls. Thorin's attempts to save his friends but he gets captured as well. The person who comes to slave them is Gandalf (38-40).

Thorin's lack of leadership is when all the dwarves and the hobbit get carried off by the goblins down into their mountain. Gandalf once again comes to their rescue. While they are still in the goblin cave Gandalf has to order Thorin to draw his sword as he stands dumbfound in the face of danger. They prove that when under pressure Thorin is more of a foot soldier than a general, needing orders rather than giving them, inversely proportional to what he said. "I will keep this sword in honour," he said. "May it soon cleave goblins once again!" (62).

Those words are so contradictory with the fact when Thorin and his company get captured by trolls. Gandalf is the one who save them. Actually Thorin has no chance to slain the trolls indeed Gandalf does it. Another example of

the journey to the Lonely Mountain. At first, readers believe that Thorin will be the hero and got the important role.

To conclude, Thorin as the king of dwarves, his grandfather was Thror the great King under the mountain, thus giving him the birthright as the leader of the dwarves. As the king of the Lonely Mountain he has to reclaim his kingdom from the evil dragon who took the kingdom from him. His desire to get back his kingdom made the story of *The Hobbit*.

Thorin's lack leadership is when Thorin and his company ran into a ruthless thunderstorm in the Misty Mountains, Gandalf found a primitive shelter under a hanging rock.

Lacking the courage to go out and seek a better shelter himself, Thorin instead complained that "this won't do at all" (Tolkien:57). The group proceeded to argue over who will go out and find a better shelter. Thorin was unwise, squabbled, and lacked courage in the face of a thunderstorm. This is not what a leader does. Throughout the entire journey, Thorin himself, complained, got depressed his company argued regularly, and they got captured several times. While being held captive in the Elvenking's dungeon, Thorin "was too wretched to be angry any longer" (Tolkien:175) and was even thinking about spilling the beans to the enemy about the treasure. Thorin lost all hope in the cause. A competent leader doesn't give up even in the face of a hopeless situation. Competent leaders will fight till the end and never lose sight of their mission.

The people of Lake Town do not believe in Thorin's ability to slay the dragon. After all, he did not strike them as a king or a warrior. On the off chance that he might succeed, the Lake folk decide to help him so that the town might prosper again. Even when they see a light coming from the Mountain, some people remain doubtful: "Perhaps the King under the Mountain is forging gold, ... 'Wich king?' said another a grim voice. 'as like as not it is the marauding fire of the

dragon, the only king under the Mountain we have ever known” (285-286).

Due to the lack of leadership on Thorin’s part, Bilbo becomes the dominant character. This appears more often as the story progresses when the hobbit get used to the idea of being burglar. He saves Thorin and Company from the giant spiders in Mirkwood, as well as helping them escape from the Wood-elves after being imprisoned by them. Another example of Bilbo’s leadership is when the dragon realizes that someone in his cave and stealing treasure from him, he gets very angry and flies out of the Mountain in search of the thief. The Company takes refuge where they can to avoid the seeking eyes of Smaug. They would all have died if Bilbo had not been present at that time.

Thorin has the title of a leader and he is the rightful king of Erebor but he does not possess the qualities of leadership. Bilbo Baggins, however, a hobbit who loves the comforts of his life and despises adventure, demonstrate his resourcefulness throughout the story and gains respect from the wizard and the dwarves. He makes fast decisions under pressure and is very patient with the dwarves in trying times; transforming from a lazy hobbit into respected leader. Therefore, Thorin and Company often rely on the Hobbit to be in charge of the big decisions such as after Bilbo saves the dwarves’ life from the spiders.

“Where were they, and where was their path, and where was there any food, and what were they going to do next? There questions they asked over and over again, and it was from little Bilbo that they seemed their opinion of Mr. Baggins. (152)

In the Quest of Erebor, Gandalf explains to Thorin, before the quest begins, that everything must be planned beforehand and Bilbo cannot be allowed room for second thoughts. Despite this, in *The Hobbit* novel, it seems that Thorin has not planned anything. The Company arrives at the Lonely Mountain only with Gandalf’s warning to take Bilbo with them or else they will not succeed in taking back their kingdom. After finding the secret entrance into Erebor, Bilbo goes inside and upon finding the treasure, as a burglar, he decides to steal a cup from the hoard to bring back as proof for the dwarves that the treasure can be approached without being incinerated. They are overjoyed to

see the old treasure, until they hear the dragon waking up. They all blame the poor hobbit and say that he has angered the dragon. Bilbo angrily says “what else do you suppose a burglar is to do? ...I was not engaged to kill dragons, that is warrior’s work, but to steal treasure.” (255)

He has made his point and the dwarves apologize to him. After that Thorin asks the hobbit, who now seems to be the leader of the group, politely what they should do next and Bilbo tries his best to come up with a solution. In contrast, in *The Hobbit* films, Thorin arrives at the Mountain with no actual plan, except for sending the burglar in there to find the Arkenstone so that he can use it to convince the dwarven armies to help kill the dragon.

Thorin lacks the virtues of loyalty, honor, dignity, and commitment to the cause. This is not what a leader does. From beginning to end, Thorin’s motivation was self preservation. Virtues of a competent leader was something that Thorin didn’t possess. Furthermore, Thorin made bad choices, was weak, and gave in to greed. In the end on his death bed, Thorin does do one brave and heroic action: he admits his mistake and asks for forgiveness.

1.1 Thorin’s Dynamic Character from Hero to Villain and Back to Hero

Unsurprisingly Thorin Oakenshield the king of dwarven who made the readers believe that he is the hero, but it is later revealed that he is not a true leader. He also change his character become villain when he found his treasure. He got “Dragon-sickness” right after he found his treasure.

According to Fisher, dragons are famous for their love of gold. So, famous, in fact, that if anyone is known to have a great affection for it, it is said that they have “dragon sickness” as seen in *The Hobbit*, the previous Master of Lake Town died miserably after succumbing to dragon-sickness which led him to starvation. In *The Hobbit* movie, Thorin’s grandfather Thrór also falls to the dragon-sickness. A sickness had begun to grow within him, it was a sickness of the mind. And where sickness thrives, bad things will follow.

The vast amounts of treasure attracts the attention of the most evil dragon of the North, Smaug, who comes and eventually takes over

doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.2404365

Mountain, but only after killing many of the inhabitants and driving the survivors away. After Thrain is captured and his ring taken, he is thrown into a dungeon in Dol Guldur never to be heard from again and believe dead. It then falls to Thorin to take revenge on the dragon. Moreover, after Smaug dies, Thorin does not want to share the treasure with anyone except his kin and Bilbo. He had the treasure on his mind since he was a young man. Seeing it pushes his mind since he was a young man. Seeing it pushes his mind over the edge and the dragon sickness takes hold of him. So, when he enters the dragon's lair he is surrounded by the treasure which he has obsessed about for so long and becomes greedy and corrupted. According to fisher, Thorin's destiny is to succumb to dragon sickness. It is in his blood, his inescapable heritage. The dragon sickness falls on him just like his father and grandfather.

Tolkien's dwarves are not only easily possessed by the dragon-sickness but their connections with treasure are instinctive as seen in *The Hobbit*, the end of chapter two, "Roast Mutton". After Thorin's company finds the treasures in the troll hoard, the dwarves take it out and bury it in a secret place. After Thror, Thori's grandfather, dies, his son Thrain inherits the burden of reclaiming Erebor and taking revenge on Smaug upon his disappearance the duty falls to Thorin. Thorins' greed begins to show after he gets into the dungeon of the dragon. He murmurs to himself about the Arkenstone and does not talk to anyone about it. He tries to search for the Arkenstone, the gem that he has desired for so long but luck is not on his side. Bilbo manages to find it before Thorin does and the hobbit burglar thinks of taking it as his fourteenth share of the treasure. He decides however that it is not worth keeping if the price of it is to sacrifice his friendship with the company. Not only did Thror, Thrain and Thorin become greedy after getting the dragon-sickness but the Master of Lake-town as well.

After Smaug's death, Thorin and company assumes that treasure officially belongs to them and Thorin's greed becomes stronger. The Lake-town people are coming with them as well but only because Smaug had burned their homes and killed many of their people, they come to ask Thorin for some share of the treasure so they can rebuild the town who destroyed by Smaug the

evil dragon. The raven warns Thorin to not trust the Master of Lake-town but the dragon slayer, Bard. Thorin appreciates what Roac tells him but he angrily declares that he will not share any gold even in the event that it would lead to war with men and elves. Although the raven wishes for peace between the dwarves, elves and men he has no words against Thorin.

"So much for joy, Thorin Oakenshield. You may go back to your halls in safety; all the treasure is yours- for the moment. But many are gathering hither beside the birds. The news of the death of the guardian has already gone far and wide, and the legend of the wealth of Thror has not lost in the telling during many years; many are eager for a share of the spoil. Already a host of the elves is on the way, and carrion birds are with them hoping for a battle and slaughter. By the lake men murmur that their sorrows are due to the dwarves; for they are homeless and many have died, and Smaug has destroyed their own. They too think to find amends from your treasure, whether you are alive or dead." (299-230)

Before Roac flies away, Thorin asks him to send a message to his kin, especially Dain, Thorin's cousin in the Iron Hills to help him and his company defend the treasure. While Thorin is waiting for his kin to come and join in defending the treasure, he orders the company to go defend the mountain. Bilbo however, feels as if he is on the wrong side. He thought that his adventure was finally over after the death of the dragon. He would rather give most of his adventure was finally over after the death of the dragon. He would rather give most of his share away if it meant there would be peace. However, Thorin's greed has blinded him and he has no fear for the coming war.

Thorin will not parley if there were armed men on his gate and Bard still try to negotiate with Thorin. In the name of Esgaroth, someone said and told Thorin to share the treasure once again. Thorin seized a bow of horn and shot an arrow at the speaker. It smote into his shield and stuck there quivering. Since Thorin answer in that way, the people from Lake town declare a war to the dwarves. Thorin and his company could not leave the mountain until Thorin want to share his treasure.

After they leave, Thorin ask his company to found Arkenstone who is worth more than a river of gold in itself. Bilbo who already found it

doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.2404365

choose to keep quiet and hide it from Thorin. When Bilbo got the chance to escape from the gate he comes to Bard and the elve. He gave the Arkenstone to Bard hope that Bard could made Thorin change his decision with that thing. The next day the banner of the Forest and the Lake were seen to be borne forth again. A company of twenty was approaching. At the beginning of the narrow way they laid asside sword and spear, and came on towards the Gare. The dwarves wondering when they saw Bard and Elvenking among them. Bard comes to Thorin and asking is Thorin still on the same mind. Thorin answered that he is still on the same mind until Bard talked about The Arkenstone. Thorin was stricken dumb with amazement and confussion. He is wondering how come Bard has the Arkenstone until Bilbo shouted that he was the one who gave that gem to the Bard. Thorin furious on Bilbo and grasping him with both hands.

Shortly, there is a war between dwarves, men, goblin, and elves. Thorin fell after the Battle of Five Armies where the victory goes to dwarves, men, and elves. Thorin manages to make a peace and remain friends with Bilbo before he says farewell to the hobbit and Middle-Earth.

IV CONCLUSION

This After the writer finish the research, finally conclusion of the research are:

1. Thorin Oakenshield is one of the important role in The Hobbit novel. Thorin is the descendant of the King Under the Mountain who lost his throne when Smaug the evil dragon came and ousted his people and destroy his kingdom. Thorin as the grandson of Thror the great king in the lonely mountain made him the rightful king of Erebor by birth. Thorin has great bravery and integrity, but his love for the treasure that was stolen from him and his people leads him behave selfishly and stubbornly even after he has won it back. In order to get back his kingdom Thorin gathered and convinced the dwarves and the Hobbit to join the adventure. Thorin's role really important in this novel. His desire and his ambition to get back his kingdom made this story. Without Thorin there is no adventure, and

By taking back his words and deeds that he had said and done to Bilbo, Thorin expressed regret for his actions and wished he had never been such a fool. All in all, Thorin was not in any way a heroic leader in The Hobbit. But he does not deserve to die cause he redeemed himself at the end when he asked for forgiveness. It takes a lot of courage to admit his mistakes. Due to his sincere apology and remorse, Thorin finally became a hero as he drew his last breaths and his life came to a close. Thorin realizes that the world be a better place if people valued food and the joy of cheer and song more than the wealth of gold similar to the hobbit' simple way of lives. In his last moments before he passes away, he is free from the rings influence and says: "I am sorry. I have paid..Farewell, Aragorn! Go to Minas Tirith and save my people! I have failed" (Tolkien, LOTR 538).

To conclude, the dynamic character of Thorin Oakenshield realize that he has wrong. His desire to get back his kingdom lead him to the dark path and did not want to share his treasure to the people. After the battle of five armies, Thorin has fallen and admit his wrong decision to Bilbo. He realize that friendship, joy of cheer and song is more value than welth and success.

if there is no adventure there is no The Hobbit story.

2. Thorin as the leader of company and as the king of erebor made the reader believe he has a great leadership. He leads twelve dwarves, Bilbo and Gandalf the grey to reclaim his kingdom back from evil dragon 'Smaug'. Through his character, the readers assumes that he has qualities and makings of a leader. However as the story progesses, the reader realized Thorin is an incompetent leader of the company as seen in the several chapters. One of the act that reveal Thorin's lack leadership when Thorin and his company get captured off by Goblins. In that situation, Gandalf the wizard comes to rescue them. In another chance when the dwarve in dangerous situation, Bilbo comes with the ideas. Bilbo Baggins who proves himself that he can be brave and useful for the company saves the company from the giant spiders in Mirkwood, as

doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.2404365

well as helping them from escape from the Wood-elves after being imprisoned by them.

3. Thorin's character in The Hobbit novel is dynamic character. His character at the beginning of the story who made the readers believe that he is the hero from this story, unsurprisingly change as the story progresses. Thorin who just got back his kingdom rejected when bard comes to negotiaton. Shortly, the war between dwarves, men, elves, and goblin is inevitable. Thorin fell after the Battle of Five Armies where the victory goes to dwarves, men, and elves. Thorin admit his wrong decision to choose wealth over the friendship.

For the writer, this thesis has been an effort to prove her study and at the same time to deepen

her skill about literary work through writing. However, this research is still far from being perfect, so the writer wants certain inputs and critics from the readers in perfection of this writing. The writer hopes this research can add a new expression in literature world, especially English Department, Faculty of Literature, Ekasakti University. For the readers, the writer also hopes that this writing will give the contribution to the English Department students and whoever may be interested in the subject being discussed. It can motivates the English learners to read literary works, especially in the genre of fantasy.

Bibliography

- Abrams, M. H. and Harpham G. G. 2009. *A Glossary of Literary Terms*. London: Wadsworth
- Aryobimo, Priambada. 2017. *Bilbo Baggins' Self-Actualization in J.R.R Tolkien's Novel The Hobbit*. Thesis. Semarang: Universitas Dian Nuswantoro
- Bernet, Morton and Berman Burton. 1991. *An Introduction to Fiction*. Boston: Little Brow and Company
- Bogdan, R.C and Biklen, S.K.1982. *Qualitative Research for Education : An Introduction to Theory and Methods*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, Inc
- Griffith, Kelly. 1986. *Writing Essays About Literature : A Guide and Style Sheet*. New York: Harcourt, Brace Jovanovich. Inc
- Hood, Dave. 2010. *How to Analyze Fiction*. <https://davehood59.wordpress.com/2010/01/28/how-to-analyze-fiction/>. Accessed on December 4th, 2017 at 05:37 PM
- Juliana, Rikky. 2015. *The Courage of Bilbo Baggins in J.R.R Tolkien's The Hobbit or There & Back Again*. Thesis. Jawa Barat: Universitas Gunadarma
- Kenny, William. 1996. *How to Analyze Fiction*. New York: Monarch Press
- Luxemburg, Jan Van. 1986. *Pengantar Ilmu Sastra*. Jakarta: Gramedia
- Pradopo, Rahmat Djoko. 1985. *Bahasa Puisi Penyair Utama Sastra Indonesia Modern*. Jakarta: Pusat Bahasa
- _____. 2001. *Metodologi Penelitian Sastra*. Yogyakarta: Hanindita Ghasa Widia
- Perrine, Laurence. 1974. *Literature: Structure, Sound and Sense*. New York: Hartcourt College Publishers
- Satoto, Soediro. 1993. *Metode Penelitian Sastra*. Surakarta: UNS Press.
- Sugiyanto, Erlita Monika. 2017. *Bilbo Baggins' Heroic Qualities in J.R.R Tolkien's Novel The Hobbit*. Thesis. Yogyakarta: Universitas Sanata Dharma
- Sumardjo, Jakop dan Saini K.K. 1997. *Apresiasi Kesusasteraan*. Jakarta: Gramedia
- Teeuw, A. 1983. *Membaca dan Menilai Sastra*. Jakarta: Gramedia
- _____. 1988. *Sastra dan Ilmu Sastra: Pengantar Teori sastra*. Jakarta: Pustaka Jaya.
- Tolkien, J.R.R. , 1937. *The Hobbit*. London: Harper Collins Publisher
- Tolkien, J.R.R. , 1980. *Unfinished Tales of Numenor and Middle-earth*. London: Harper Collins Publisher