

ANALYSIS OF AMBITIOUS CHARACTERIZATION  
OF THE EVIL QUEEN THROUGH PLOT DEVELOPMENT  
“SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS” FILM

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**Abstract**

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**Keywords:**

*Prose fiction,  
Ambitious  
characterization,  
Plot  
development,  
Novel,  
Film Adaptation.*

This study presents how prose fiction can be reflected in human life through a feminist literary criticism approach one of them is to identify the ambitious characterization of the Evil Queen in the novel and film adaptation entitled Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs through plot development is closely related to human life. Human characterization certainly has an ambition that they will do anything to get what they want. This study has the purpose that to find out the ambitious characterization of the feminist side of the Evil Queen through plot development between this novel and the film adaptation of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. This study used qualitative methods by reading the novel and watching the film adaptation of “Snow White and The Seven Dwarfs”. The result of this study is the Evil Queen has an ambitious characterization that is closely related to the feminist side both in the novel and film adaptation of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.

**Kata Kunci:**

Fiksi prosa,  
Karakterisasi  
ambisius,  
Pengembangan  
plot,  
Novel,  
Adaptasi Film.

**Abstrak**

Penelitian ini menyajikan bagaimana prosa fiksi dapat direfleksikan dalam kehidupan manusia melalui pendekatan kritik sastra feminis salah satunya adalah mengidentifikasi karakterisasi ambisius dari Evil Queen dalam novel dan adaptasi film berjudul Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs melalui pengembangan plot yang erat kaitannya terhadap kehidupan manusia. Karakterisasi manusia tentu memiliki ambisi bahwa mereka akan melakukan apa saja untuk mendapatkan apa yang mereka inginkan. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menemukan karakterisasi ambisius sisi feminis Evil Queen melalui pengembangan plot antara novel dan film adaptasi Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif dengan cara membaca novel dan menonton film adaptasi “Putri Salju dan Tujuh Kurcaci”. Hasil dari penelitian ini adalah Evil Queen memiliki karakterisasi ambisius yang erat kaitannya dengan sisi feminis baik dalam novel maupun film adaptasi Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Prose fiction has a narrative that is used for entertainment, it may take the form of oral, literary, or storytelling, and plays a role. One type of prose fiction is a novel. A novel entitled *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* has written by Brother Grimm fairy tale and was first published in 1812 (Kuhn, 2010). After the brothers Grimm published their fairy tale, the Walt Disney Production Films adapted the novel, which was once filmed in 1937 (Kawan, 2008). The novel by Brother Grimm has closely related to its film adaptation by Walt Disney. The story of this novel by the Brothers Grimm changed a film that was adapted by Walt Disney. The Walt Disney Production Film made changes to the story in the novel and film to make the story more interesting than the novel so it does not make the audience feel bored. Also, Walt Disney's films introduced the ideas of culture, morality, gender, and crime through magical images and stories (Rabison, 2008). The story of the element in the novel and film adaptation by Walt Disney shows the characterization of the Evil Queen. The Evil Queen is one of the main characters in the story of *Snow White and The Seven Dwarfs* which has a feminist side.

A feminist literary approach is an approach that emphasizes the feminine side of literary work. Women did not have formal rights and they were not represented in the law so they did not have justice (Jenainati, 2014). Most women, from attaining higher education in which the action of this approach is organized by feminism in support of women's rights and interests. There is two criticism written in a woman's book, which can include, such as the attitudes toward female characters in a literary work and it can help us expose woman's roles in society in a literary work (Kolodny, 1975). This approach recognizes the invisibility of women's lives and also active in the important work of justice in their lives and also active in the important work of justice in their lives (Eagleton, 2014). In addition to justice, women's lives can also be viewed as being attached to women, for example, their attitudes, characters, behaviors, and traits that exist in women. Feminist literary criticism can be used to analyze the characterization of literary criticism, such as beautiful, ambitious, diligent, tough, or other characterization. The ambitious characterization refers to an attitude where humans will work very

hard, doing anything to achieve their desires or goals. According to (Wulandari, 2014) characterization can be divided into two types, such as characterization through physics appearance and personality. To analyze the ambitious characterization of the evil Queen, the plot development as an intrinsic element makes it easy to understand each scene.

Plot development can be defined as the sequence of events in a narrative and it has a particular effect on the audiences or readers over time (Riedl & Young, 2004). The term plot is used in poetics and critical literature (Egan, 1978). However, this essay discusses prose fiction especially narrative. The plot element has many diagrams, one of the diagrams is suggested by Freytag in prose fiction. It contains the plot structure such as the introduction, rising action, climax, falling action, and also the resolution of the story (Lestari & Wibowo, 2019). Besides, the plot development also has another aspect which has closely related to the structure of the plot such as the beginning, point of attack, middle of the plot, and the end of the story. Therefore, this film adaptation by Walt Disney changes the real story from the novel by Brother Grimm. The researcher will find out the ambitious characterization of the Evil Queen character in *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* novel and film adaptation through plot development.

## **METHOD**

To analyze the ambitious characterization of the Evil Queen through the plot development of the novel and film adaptation of this story, the researcher uses the qualitative method. Qualitative research is a type of research in which researchers rely heavily on seeking information obtained from objects or participants, explaining and analyzing words, and conducting research subjectively (Creswell, 2008). Readers use this method when watching with attention and discipline an object to understand its deeper meaning (Brummett, 2018)The researcher also uses descriptive analysis techniques by reading the novel and watching the film adaptation, then analyzing using Representation theory and feminism concepts such as ambitious characterization sides. The researcher also provides images from the film adaptation. This method is

important to analyze in detail things in literary work to find out the ambitious characterization of the Evil Queen.

## FINDING AND DISCUSSION

The film *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* is an action film that was adapted from the novel by Brother Grimms. This novel also focuses on the character of the Evil Queen. Which, the Evil Queen wants to be the fairest of them all and refers to a feminine woman but she looks like an ambitious person. Analyze the ambitious characterization, which is based on the physical appearance and personality of every plot scene. The following analyzes the ambitious characterization based on physical appearance and personality through plot development.

**Table 1: The plot development contains the ambitious characterization of the Evil Queen.**

No	Aspect of Plot	Novel	Film Adaptation	Note
1.	Beginning	The writers began the story by introducing Snow White's mother namely the Queen who hoped her daughter has a beautiful face.	The director began the story by showing the Evil Queen standing in front of the magic mirror and she asked her mirror who is the fairest of them all.	Physical Appearance
2.	Point of attack	The king as Snow White's father married again with the new queen namely the Evil Queen. She was the prettiest in the castle. However, she was obsessed with a wonderful mirror. She was very beautiful but she was proud of her beauty so much. She wanted as the fairest of them all what based on the magic mirror said. Then, Snow White grew up and became a beautiful young girl and the Evil Queen asked the mirror about who was the prettiest of them all then she got	The Evil Queen asked the magic mirror who was the fairest of them all and she knew that Snow White was the fairest, she became angry and wanted to kill her.	Personality

		angry and envious			
3.	Middle plot	of	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The Evil Queen commanded the Huntsman to kill Snow White in the forest</li> <li>2) The Huntsman tried to kill Snow White in the dark forest, but he failed.</li> <li>3) She came to the Dwarfs' cottage as an old woman and she offered to lace up Snow White's corset then she laced her so tightly, but she failed</li> <li>4) She asked the magic mirror as usual about the fairest and prettiest.</li> <li>5) She came to the Dwarfs' cottage again and offered a poison comb to Snow White but she failed again</li> <li>6) She asked the magic mirror again who is the fairest of them all</li> <li>7) She did not give up, she became an old woman and she gave a poisoned apple to the Snow White and she managed to kill her stepdaughter in this way</li> <li>8) After managing to kill her stepdaughter by giving her a poisoned apple, she asked the mirror again about who is the fairest of them all, then finally magic mirror said she is the fairest of them all.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The Evil Queen commanded the Huntsman to kill Snow White and take her heart in the forest but he failed to kill her</li> <li>2) She asked the magic mirror the fairest or prettiest of them all, then he answered still Snow White</li> <li>3) She knew that Snow White was in the Dwarfs' cottage, she made her potion namely a poison apple for Snow White</li> <li>4) She gave a poisoned apple in the form of the witch</li> <li>5) She managed to kill Snow White.</li> </ol>	Physical appearance and Personality
4.	End		The Evil Queen came to Snow White's wedding and she saw Snow White then she fell and died.	The Evil Queen run into the mountain and fell from the mountain because of a lightning strike.	Personality

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The following are the ambitious characterization of the Evil Queen through plot development between the novel and film adaptation of *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, as follows:

## **1. Beginning of the story**

### **Ambitious characterization through appearance**

To find the ambitious characterization, the researcher makes certain assumptions about the facial feature, dress, and physical build. It is based on the appearance of the Evil Queen in this film. The beginning of the story of the film adaptation contains ambitious characterization that can show the appearance of the Evil Queen.

**Picture 1: Appearance of the Evil Queen at the beginning**



In the beginning part, she uses the robe, crown, and makeup worn by the Evil Queen. After seeing the appearance of the Evil Queen, it can be assumed that she is someone who has a tough character, and also with all her gestures asking the magic mirror at the beginning this indicates that she is someone who has a character who wants to have everything.

## **2. Point of attack**

### **Ambitious characterization through personality**

In the beginning, The Evil Queen has shown her antagonist's characterization, especially her ambitious nature. When the Evil Queen knew Snow White is the fairest of them all for the first time in the conversation below.

- The Evil Queen* : “Mirror, Mirror in the wall, who is the fairest of them all?”
- Magic Mirror* : “Famed is thy beauty, Majesty. But hold, a lovely maid I see. Rags cannot hide her gentle grace. Alas, she is fairer than thee.
- The Evil Queen* : “Alas for her! Reveal her name!”
- Magic Mirror* : “Lips red as the rose. Hair black as ebony. Skin white as snow.”
- The Evil Queen* : “(frustrated) Snow White!”

She was mad when the magic mirror described the characterization of Snow White as the fairest of them all to her. She did not want if her position replaced with other people. She was a very beautiful woman but because of her ambitious nature, she was proud of her beauty so much. It makes her have an Evil nature. The Evil Queen did not want if someone to replace her position as the fairest of them all. The Evil Queen has the same with women in the real life. Based on the Women in the real life that they women should be more beautiful or have perfect physiques. The ambitious nature of the Evil Queen is the same as the other women in real life that she must get what she wants.

### **3. Middle of the plot**

#### **Ambitious characterization through personality**

In the middle of the plot between the novel and film adaptation that contains the ambitious characterization of the Evil Queen. The Evil Queen commanded the Huntsman to kill Snow White in the forest, bring her heart in the box. But he failed to kill the Evil Queen’s stepdaughter.

**Picture 2: The Evil Queen personality in the middle of the plot**



From the Picture 2, the Evil Queen seems that she he is a man so passionate about doing anything for what she wants that she ordered others to kill her stepdaughter. Then, she tries to kill again and came to the Dwarf's cottage and gave a poisoned apple to Snow White. She managed when she gave a poisoned apple to Snow White that make her dead. Besides, she also usually asked the magic mirror about who is the fairest of them all.

#### **Ambitious characterization through appearance**

In the middle of the plot, the Evil Queen changes her appearance seems like an old witch bringing a poisoned apple. Her gesture becomes an old woman who has a weak body. In this picture when the Evil Queen chance to become an old woman below.

**Picture 3: Appearance of the Evil Queen become the old witch**



The Evil Queen becomes an old woman to make Snow White believe and feel poor when she offers an apple to cook the apple pie. This can be an ambitious characterization that the Evil Queen can become an old witch to get what they want The Evil Queen is the same as also with the women in real life. They will do anything to get what they want to be the perfect and the prettiest even though in evil things.

#### **4. End of the story**

##### **Ambitious characterization through personality**

The plot development is shown at the end of the story, the Evil Queen runs into the mountain, then wants to fall the stone there but she fell down the mountain because of a lightning strike and then died at the moment.



**Picture 4: The personality of the Evil Queen in the end of the story**



Based on Picture 4, the Evil Queen wants to fall the stone to want to kill the seven dwarfs. It reveals the Evil Queen have a very ambitious characterization to save herself at the moment. Therefore, the end of the story in this novel and film adaptation shows that the ambitious characterization of the Evil Queen does not kind to others because it can harm other people. At the end of the story, the Evil Queen gets karma because of her evil behavior and manner.

After analyzing ambitious characterization through personality, the researcher will provide an assumption that The Evil Queen has an ambitious character. The Evil Queen is a queen who once married Snow White's father after her mother died. then his father married the Evil Queen. This can be seen from the figure of a woman who has high ambition as a queen who does not want to be outdone by other people, even by her stepdaughter. When the Evil Queen wanted to get her stepdaughter's heart, it is because she saw the heart is as beautiful as Snow White (Stringham, 2010). She didn't even have the heart to kill his stepdaughter to get what she wanted.

After analyzing in terms of appearance, The Evil Queen uses robes, crowns, and makeup that signify herself as a queen. However, based on the earlier chapters, the evil Queen had already shown that she had a tough temper. Also, The Evil Queen is willing to change her appearance to become an old grandmother who resembles an old witch, making her a very ambitious

character. This result is in line with Towbin et al., (2004) women think consistently in a situation where appearance is most important than expected behavior. This research has presented an ambitious characterization of the Evil Queen. She has a tough character, brave, and is strong. It differences with Datta (2020) state that woman are expected to be receptive and caring. All of the characterizations are seen from the physical appearance and also the personality of the Evil Queen.

## **CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, feminism can make women aware of their rights so as not to be oppressed and also make women know what is special in themselves, such as physical, attitude, and manner. This type of approach literary also contains roles that should women tend to want to be followed in social life mean showing ambitious characterization. The novel and film adaptation entitled *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* have shown the ambitious characterization of a woman character such as the Evil Queen through Plot Development. This study revealed that not all ambitious characterization is good for other humans. The Evil Queen shows that her characterization is very ambitious in this story and that she will do anything to get what she wants namely want to kill Snow White because she wants to be the fairest in the world but she fails and lost until dies because she gets karma. The Evil Queen can be a lesson for all humans for not to make others harm and evil to others. As humans, we must do good things even though we have a strong ambition for something, do not let that ambitious characterization can hurt others.

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