

## THE REPRESENTATION OF HERO AND VILLAIN IN SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE'S SELECTED SHORT STORIES OF *THE ADVENTURE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES*

(Representasi Pahlawan dan Penjahat dalam Cerita Pendek Pilihan dari *The Adventure Of Sherlock Holmes* Karya Sir Arthur Conan Doyle )

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### Abstract

The study emphasizes on the representation of hero and villain in six short stories of *The Adventure Of Sherlock Holmes* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and how these characters impersonate as the ideal person in Victorian Era. The objects of this study are the hero and the villains as the characters in the short stories. We analyse the representation of the hero and the villains by using Stuart Hall's representation theory. *The Adventure Of Sherlock Holmes* is collection of mystery genre short story is directly represents the heroism of the main character, he is Sherlock Holmes, and the villains as his enemies from appearance and work. Through the representation theory of Stuart Hall, the research shows that the hero and villains in *The Adventure Of Sherlock Holmes* are created as perfect competitors in Victorian era where mostly British people are they have good quality of intelligence, whether they are good or bad people. Here, intelligence competition becomes a representation of British society.

**Keywords** : Representation, Hero, Villain, Victorian

### Abstrak

Studi ini menekankan pada representasi pahlawan dan penjahat dalam enam cerita-cerita pendek *The Adventure Of Sherlock Holmes* karya Sir Arthur Conan Doyle dan bagaimana karakter-karakter tersebut berperan sebagai tokoh ideal pada masa Victoria. Objek penelitian ini adalah sang pahlawan dan para penjahat sebagai tokoh-tokoh dalam cerita pendek. Kami menganalisa representasi dari sang pahlawan dan para penjahat dengan menggunakan teori representasi Stuart Hall. *The Adventure Of Sherlock Holmes* adalah kumpulan cerita pendek bergender misteri yang secara langsung merepresentasikan kepahlawanan dari tokoh utamanya, dialah Sherlock Holmes, dan para penjahat sebagai musuh-musuhnya dari aksi dan pekerjaan. Melalui teori representasi Stuart Hall, penelitian menampakkan bahwa sang pahlawan dan para penjahat pada *The Adventure Of Sherlock Holmes* diciptakan sebagai pesaing sempurna pada masa Victoria dimana hampir keseluruhan orang-orang Inggris adalah mereka yang memiliki kualitas inteligensi yang bagus, apakah mereka adalah orang baik atau buruk. Disini, persaingan intelijen menjadi sebuah representasi orang-orang Inggris.

**Kata Kunci**: Representasi, Pahlawan, Penjahat, Viktoria.

### Introduction

Departing from the desire to create a character who understands about forensic science and medicine and have the ability deductions like his professor and mentor during his lecture, Dr. Joseph Bell. As well as methods and the ways of thinking differently from the average person makes it highly admired the fans of the character. Sherlock Holmes is the known as the most

famous fictional detective characters all of the time. However, being famous does not necessarily mean he is the best-understood character of all time in terms of plain stereotype of British people. Fame can have the wide effect, and since Holmes has been interpreted so many time, it can be told exactly the Holmes that readers encounter in the story is much of resemblance of the most British people on the year with our preconceptions of him, complete with a pipe, a

deerstalker hat, and his awesome science of deduction for every discovery. Hence, the readers meet in the stories are recognized that Holmes as a genius superhero to every reader. It is described in Scandal in Bohemia, (1915:5-6)", about the incredible example of deduction applied by Holmes. The thing that is remarkable about Sherlock Holmes's character is that most of his work is well accomplished in the earlier stories. It assumes that anyone read Sherlock Holmes short stories already knows Sherlock Holmes is a great detective. All the other details are striking points to remind everyone of the brain of a genius British man. However, the great idea of Sherlock Holmes always has a rivalry.

Sherlock Holmes who plays as the hero there must be has a villain as his rival. But, in the long stories, this is not enough if only one competitor. The author also gives some antagonists who should be the opposite of his favorite character, Sherlock Holmes, as competitors that cannot be underestimated. The study focuses on the analysis of the main characters that represent hero and villain, and how these main characters impersonate as the ideal person in Victorian era. The objects of this study are the hero and the villains as the characters in the story. The writer uses qualitative method which analyzes the data has been collected from text or words and discourse. The writer analyzes the representation of characterization of main characters by using Stuart Hall's representation theory. This research uses representation theory of Stuart Hall which is to make us know the meaning of a thing. Representation works through a system of representation, and the system consists of two major components, "concepts in mind" and "language", and both of them are related. Language is able to do this because it operates as a representational system. In language, we use sign and symbols. This representation lead this short story to an understanding; the representation of *The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes* story is full of depiction; in which villain and hero are boost with the high intellectual degree and knowledge. Sherlock has a beyond intelligence to deduce and unveil mystery while his enemies has the same intelligence. It produces ideas to the reader where the intelligence becomes a representation of British citizen which are implied in the story, and all British people are smart though they are bad or good people. This representation leads this short story to an understanding; the representation of *The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes* story is full of depiction; in which villain and hero are boost with the high intellectual degree and knowledge. This representation theory leads to the understanding that the representation of "*The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes*," there are descriptions of in which the hero

and the villains have the inclination of their intelligence is more prevalent than the people in general.

### Research Methodology

The writer analyzed the representation of characterization of main characters by using Stuart Hall's representation theory. The writer uses qualitative method which analyze the data has been collected from text and discourse. The data collection, documentary, uses written materials as a basis of research. The textual data taken from various documents related to the topic. From the author, the data can be found directly. And, the other data is selected from the description presented by Dr. Watson and collected as a quote. Then, the series of quotes and the information is processed into the analysis by the writer. The writer uses two kinds of data in this research; primary data and secondary data. Primary data is information that shows the actions and events that are created by the characters in the story; Holmes as a hero and the villains as his rival. The authors also collects 'secondary data' from the Victorian era as the background of the creation of literary works, that is Victorian era, and the people who live in the era.

These work provide information about the conditions in Victorian era, the role of the community, and the primary data that supports the analysis. Then in the data processing of this thesis, the writer begin to analyzes the references by reading and understanding it. Then, the next step is use descriptive method to describe the facts followed by analysis of the activities. After that, the data has been taken from Doyle's works is analyzed by using the Stuart Hall's representation theory.

### Results of Data Analysis

By describing the representation of hero and villains in the story represented in Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's selected short stories of the *Adventure of Sherlock Holmes*, it can enlarge the knowledge and understanding about literature. This research will explicitly show the possible general representation of hero and villains in the stories, and this research also analyze the Sherlock Holmes' environment. The second is to describe the Victorian society in general and how the ideal man in Victorian era. The hero and the villains be reviewed symmetrical with the general public of Victorian, and it gives a new comprehension about representation for the study of English literature and will be important for the analysis of the same topic.

### Discussion

Sherlock Holmes was created by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in the nineteenth century where there was an enormous scientific development in the field of photography, dactyloscopy and biology. This development affected the police investigation. It is also reflected in the novels. The whodunit story in England is characterized by involving this new scientific progress. Since the lay people do not have the chance to investigate this new scientific progress, the detective novel then describes the technique of dactyloscopy or chemical blood testing processes to the readers. Therefore, it will become popular. Victorian readers may see Holmes as a hero and their ideal Victorian man because he validates the faith that they have placed in science and logic. It is thus not astonishing that Michael Kurland writes that "Sherlock Holmes was the perfect Victorian; not as we today imagine Victorians: uptight, prudish, repressed, overly mannered, and ridiculously dressed prigs, but as the Victorians thought of themselves: logical, clearheaded, scientific, thoroughly modern leaders of the civilized world" (Kurland, 2003:X).

Masculinity shows how ideal man is perceived in daily performance. Masculinity in physical strength, bodily training, and intellectual development is valued in idealized men of the Victorian era.

Conan Doyle is aware of this trend thus he creates Holmes as a tall, athletic man with signs of addiction, deerstalker hat and a tobacco pipe. Conan Doyle also uses his knowledge in medicine to give intellectual part for Holmes character. If we look carefully, Doyle exactly creates the reality in the form of text to represent the real condition or situation of Victorian era. In other words, this novel presents social and economical standard for Victorian people. Hall mentions, "The 'message form' is the necessary 'form of appearance' of the event in its passage from source to receiver." (2005:118). Therefore, 'meaning' of the text is set by the situation/condition where and when they show up.

People know he smokes with a meerschaum pipe, wears a deerstalker cap, and arrives at his brilliant conclusions. It is the message that the author wants to emerge to its society. Hall explains about this message production that there is an observation in the society to get the real condition of Victorian era, then it transforms into the form of a story. The production of the reality in the form of a novel is framed by constructing a good character of hero and bad villain character as its discourse offered by this novel. Hall calls this process as 'encoding'; the first moment of meaning production (2005:118).

The common concept happened in process of production; if there is production, there must be consumption. The consumption, here, is also a process of understanding the hidden representation of Sherlock Holmes. Hall notes this process as the moment of production, but in the larger sense (2005:119). This process can be called as decoding moment. On the other hand, throughout a system code of language and the coil of discourse chain, Doyle makes a portrait of Sherlock Holmes as real as people know in their real life condition. People as if accept and believe the depicted condition of the novel but "The codes of encoding and decoding may not be perfectly symmetrical" (Hall, 2005:119).

The review above has provided an explanation of the description of the ideal man in Victorian era, Holmes is known for his astute logical reasoning, the ability to adopt almost any disguise and he uses forensic science to solve the cases they handle. That review is a remarkable about Sherlock Holmes's character. It assumes that anyone reading Sherlock Holmes short stories already knows Sherlock Holmes is a great detective. All the other details are striking points to remind everyone of the brain of a genius British man. However the great idea of Sherlock Holmes always has a rivalry. Sherlock Holmes who plays as the hero there must be has a villain as his rival. But, in the long stories, this is not enough if only one competitor.

The author also gives some of the antagonists should be the opposite of his favorite character, Sherlock Holmes, as competitors that cannot be underestimated. These several villains as his enemies; Charles Auguste Milverton, is a mastermind criminal in blackmailing. Milverton enjoys hurting people for money. This sort of cruel intention is much worse than someone who commits a crime. He gains money through blackmailing many reputable people who want to stay in power. As a woman, Irene Adler feels right to be an expert in the field related to intellectual; it turned out that Holmes also experienced the same thing by being fooled several times by his ego so that he had to admit that Adler not just any woman, he is an intellectual rivalry that also inspires him. The other one, is Irene Adler. Holmes met her in the first time on the story entitled *Scandal in Bohemia*. One day, the King of Bohemia, came to meet Holmes privately at his home and asked for help. The king was involved a scandal and wants to retake his photo from the woman named Irene Adler. He afraid that if one day Irene Adler exploits the photo to blackmail. But what the happens is, Holmes actually were fooled by her and fell in love to her. In "The Five Orange Pips", Holmes said he only unbeaten three times, twice by men and once by a woman. The same depiction as the ideal



man in Victorian times apply to the criminals that we call antagonistic character. Conan Doyle created a serious competitor of Sherlock Holmes in his work, the context of the time in which there must be someone who should be the great enemy of Holmes and strengthen the existence of our ideal man. In his work, 'The Final Problem', there is a conversation that strengthens that Professor Moriarty as well as an ideal man in that era.

The general perception about the Victorian era is the contradiction between modernization and progress on the one hand, social norms and the rigid class structure on the other side. The result is a wide range of hypocrisy in the form of a commitment to morality and decency, which in essence covers violations of this commitment, especially among the middle and upper classes of England. This assessment is very prominent in Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's works. Broadly speaking, this assessment is quite clear. Professor Moriarty has all the covers that he has similarities with Sherlock Holmes; he is smart, not a laborer worker, prioritizing the public interest for the development of the State through intelligence. In addition to the heroic action against criminals incredibly, Holmes' amazing action when he was solved some cases with qualitative methods as reviewed in the story of "The Copper Beeches", "The Blue Carbuncles", "The Five Orange Pips." With his extraordinary reasoning, we can conclude that he really belongs to the category of the ideal Victorian man. But Doyle is raised again his portion of existence by creating a character 'Professor Moriarty' as a competitor whose his ability is equivalent to Sherlock Holmes. Even a woman can also compete his intellectual ability.

Beside his intellectual ability, Holmes exactly still thinks them as a distracting element in his attention like an orthodox Victorian. He is not able to comprehend the nature, needs and sensibility of women. Holmes without any regret proposes marriage to the housemaid of his suspect. Probably Holmes is a virtual kind hearted man, but his idea contains masculine view with its regard on women is inferiority. Holmes exactly wishes to maintain social order for his Victorian upper class. He flits from one relationship to the next. What unfolds in his works is not a multitude of characters and fates in a single objective world, illuminated by a single authorial consciousness; rather a plurality of consciousnesses, with equal rights and each with its own world, combine but are not merged in the unity of the event.

This was the norm at that time, so he sees nothing wrong with his actions at all. He is still regarded as a hero. He has a passion for solving the problems and a devotion to justice as compared to the

villains who display a devotion only to themselves. Sherlock Holmes fights back the crime to preserve order and he enjoys it. Sherlock Holmes is the type of hero when crime is growing rapid. It looks heroic, but standard of crime at that time is based on Victorian value. It means sometime what is preserved by Holmes is Victorian standard that surely it is upper class taste. Unconsciously, Victorian has often oppressed what they call as "other" women. Nonetheless, Victorian era has its regime of truth. This truth comes from interpretation of certain class. The man of upper class society as the dominant class has the cultural and economical modal to interpret that black or women are bad. This interpretation thus is different from many readers in Victorian suppose Holmes as a hero. It must be understood that on Victorian readers' interpretation, Holmes never exists. His subjectivity is the created entity, the product of the given meaning. The truth here is structured within discourse. It is related with certain topic and it exists within a moment and specific historical condition with a formation and discursive. Therefore, Sherlock Holmes' story is open-ended text with multi-interpretation standard.

Finally, reading a literary work, there will always be the structure of reality represented in the text. The reality or the context that becomes background of the work sometimes really fit to, or even, does not fit to the story. The text itself tends to create its own imagination. This imagination does not emerge without the ideology brought by the author but the motives of author in this case, are not regarded as the important one. The most important is the text. The text can distract the reality within its narration. When Holmes' popularity changes the sight of the readers so that they consider Sherlock Holmes to be a real person, many people consider the character of Holmes is the author itself.

Stuart Hall in his book *Representation: Cultural Representations and Signifying Practices* (1997) sees this not just as a representation of an object but also connects the representation with politics. For Stuart Hall representation is not only a process of signification connecting the mind with a discourse where the meaning creates a discourse and political contest in which the winner is usually the ruler gives meaning to the representation of the object. There was also a relationship and a process. Representation is a mechanism in exchanging power, there are specifications smaller areas and there is also denial and cancellation. Representation is one of the main concepts in cultural studies, because the previous process is loaded with construction by the dominant party in this Sherlock Holmes case is the depiction of highly intelligence character of England no matter

good or bad his attitude. Representation of socio-cultural, political, and social realities even itself is a reality that is constructed by the dominating force. These assumptions are used to view various political phenomenas spawned by the offering of political concept and representation. Political representation is a concept developed from thoughts (ideas) about "representation" by Stuart Hall (1997). Political representation is a political construction that allows a group of people symbolically identify themselves as part of a certain collectivity in which the practice in the identification process mobilizes the political purposes, in this manner the stereotype of British people with high intelligence. Thus, a novel is not mere beautiful letters but also has serious position to provoke readers. Exploring the political representation of various representations in each character refers to the relations of power where the readers are enchanted by the ability of each character to unveil mystery. However, people can determine their own meanings based on culture and system of representation that they have and use to form communication with others.

In such way, Sherlock Holmes novel is no longer said as a mere story of a detective but there is strong power inscribed in each characterization. A representation of political identity is closely related to the construction process the strength of power that surrounded each character. In short, the narration of each displayed character creates a discourse that form, define and produce knowledge. The discourse is not only regulated but also can be said to be in a certain social and cultural conditions, which also controls who is allowed to speak, where, and when. It means that it produces social relations and identity.

### Conclusion

As the writing comes to an ending and also to answer the problems of research, Sherlock Holmes as detective story is rife with identical British character which is not neutral but political.

The representation of Sherlock Holmes story is full of depiction in which villain and heroes are boost with the high intellectual degree and knowledge. Sherlock has a beyond intelligence in his sleeve to deduce and unveil mystery while his enemies has the same intelligence. It produces ideas to the reader where British people are all smart though they are bad or good people. Intelligence becomes a representation of British citizen which are implied in the story. This happens because the frame of knowledge is encoded in the story to make the readers think in such way.

This representation however is political. The representation of vice and virtue in each character

shows that no matter the attitude of character belongs to the people of British, though fictions in the story, posses a high intelligent as their power. In this manner, the novel is political and provocative to lead readers in certain kind of image where heroes and villain are in the equal of knowledge as well shaping people's mind of how they see people in British doing their activities of consulting crimes. In conclusion, dynamic character revealed in this study shows the hideous patterns, namely identity and political representation. In the position of Sherlock as a literary work has signified cultural symbol synonymous with intelligent people of English. This stereotype is encoded in which can be regarded as an identity. Where literature work also has strong contribution to carry on certain frame of knowledge to represent a certain culture that can be taken for granted for some non critical readers. The way to represent villain and hero though fiction has established a strong discursive power which makes novel becomes important to shape reader's mind.

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