

**ADUNNI'S CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT IN ABI  
DARE'S *THE GIRL WITH THE LOUDING VOICE***

**THESIS**



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ADUNNI'S CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT IN ABI DARE'S *THE GIRL  
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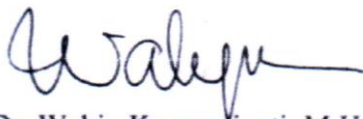
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## ABSTRACT

Maulidina, F. (2023). *Adunni's Character Development In Abi Dare's The Girl With The Louding Voice*, English Literature Department, Faculty of Adab and Humanities, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Advisor: Sufi Ikrima Saadah, M.Hum.

This study aims to analyze Adunni's personality development. One of the main characters in Abi Dare's novel entitled *The Girl With The Louding Voice*. The study focuses on two research questions ; they are; How is Adunni's character described in the novel and how Adunni's personality development is depicted in the novel

This study uses a qualitative method. the main data was taken from the novel entitle *The Girl With The Louding Voice* written by Abi Dare. The secondary data were gathered from articles, journals, and internet sources. The character and characterization theory are used to describe Adunni character and personality development theory is used to analyze the development of Adunni's personality.

The conclusion of this study was Adunni, as the main character of the story, experience personality development. At the beginning of the story, she is described as despair, strong, optimist, kind, and brave. Adunni decided to be tough, enthusiastic and courageous girl. The factors that responsible for her personality development are physical changes, strong motivation, environment, significant people, role changes, and self-concept.

**Keywords:** Character, personality development, Adunni's personality

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## ABSTRAK

Maulidina, F. (2023). *Perkembangan Karakter Adunni di dalam novel The Girl With The Louding Voice oleh Abi Dare*. Program Studi Sastra Inggris. Fakultas Adab dan Humaniora, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Pembimbing: Sufi Ikrima Saadah, M. Hum.

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis perkembangan kepribadian Adunni. Salah satu tokoh utama dalam novel Abi Dare berjudul *The Girl With The Louding Voice*. Studi ini berfokus pada dua pertanyaan penelitian; yaitu; Bagaimana karakter Adunni digambarkan dalam novel dan bagaimana perkembangan kepribadian Adunni digambarkan dalam novel

Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif. Data utama diambil dari novel berjudul *The Girl With The Louding Voice* karya Abi Dare. Data sekunder dikumpulkan dari artikel, jurnal, dan sumber internet. Teori karakter dan penokohan digunakan untuk mendeskripsikan karakter Adunni dan teori perkembangan kepribadian digunakan untuk menganalisis perkembangan kepribadian Adunni.

Kesimpulan dari penelitian ini adalah Adunni sebagai tokoh utama cerita mengalami perkembangan kepribadian. Di awal cerita, ia digambarkan sebagai sosok yang putus asa, kuat, optimis, baik hati, dan pemberani. Adunni memutuskan untuk menjadi gadis yang tangguh, bersemangat dan lebih berani. Faktor-faktor yang mempengaruhi perkembangan kepribadiannya adalah perubahan fisik, motivasi yang kuat, lingkungan, orang-orang penting, perubahan peran, dan konsep diri.

**Kata Kunci:** Karakter, pengembangan kepribadian, kepribadian Adunni.

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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background Of Study

According to Wellek & Warren (1956, p. 3), literature is a work of human creativity that uses language to express aesthetic and imaginative characters. Literature can be defined as an artistic use of language that seeks to communicate significant human experiences. On the other hand, literature was not just a means of entertainment or diversion but a means of exploring the human condition and expressing ideas and emotions that could not be communicated in any other way. Literature emphasizes its complexity, connection to language and human communication, and purpose of evoking aesthetic experience (Wellek & Warren, 1956, p. 5).

Sometimes in literary works, the character's experiences throughout the story have personality development. According to Freud (1923), personality development is driven by unconscious conflicts, and successful resolution of these conflicts is necessary for healthy personality development. Permanent traits, which may or may not be unique to the individual, constantly influence personality (Eysenck & Allport, 2001). According to Murphy (1972), there are nine techniques to determine someone's personality: personal description, character as viewed by others, speech, experience, the conversation of others, responses, direct comments from the author, the character's mind, and mannerisms. Meanwhile, Corr and Matthews (2009) say that a character's personality is defined by a set of behaviors,

cognitions, and emotional patterns that emerge from biological and environmental factors.

Character's personality development became the highlight of this research. One literary work that presents a topic about a character's personality development is the novel *The Girl with The Louding Voice* by Abi Dare. This novel was published in 2020. *The Girl with The Louding Voice* by Abi Dare is a novel about a 14-year-old girl from a rural village in Nigeria named Adunni who dreams of getting an education and becoming a teacher. However, her dreams are shattered when her father agrees to marry Adunni to an older man who already has two wives in exchange for money. Adunni refuses, but her father still sells her into slavery to pay off his debts. Adunni's life becomes a series of hardships and challenges, as she cannot attend school and is treated as an enslaved person in her husband's household. Determined to escape her situation, Adunni runs away and becomes a housemaid for a wealthy family in Lagos, where she faces many challenges and struggles to make her voice heard. In her new home, Adunni is subjected to more abuse and exploitation, but she also meets Ms. Tia, who is Madam's neighbor. Ms. Tia teaches Adunni to read, write, and speak English properly. Adunni fights to break free from the limitations her culture and society place upon her. Throughout the journey, she meets various characters who help and hinder her progress, and she ultimately learns to use her voice to advocate for herself and others.

From the explanation above, the researcher choose the novel *The Girl with The Louding Voice* by Abi Dare as the research data. This novel is interesting to



## 1.5 Scope and Limitation

The scope of this study focuses on Adunni's character in the novel *The Girl with The Louding Voice* by Abi Dare. Meanwhile, the limitation of this study is that it focuses on the character and Adunni's character personality development.

## 1.6 Definition of Keyterms

**Character** is a person, animal, or entity that takes part in the events of a story. Characters are typically depicted through their actions, dialogue, thoughts, and interactions with other characters. They can have distinct personalities, motivations, and emotions, which contribute to their development.

**Personality Development** is the process through which fictional characters undergo changes, growth, and transformation over the course of a story. It involves the exploration of their personalities, motivations, belief, and behaviors.

**Adunni's Personality** is She is Driven by a strong desire for education and dreams of becoming a teacher, hoping to create a better future for herself and other girls like her, Adunni's tenacity and unwavering belief in the power of education highlight her determination to overcome the obstacles in her path.



## **CHAPTER II**

### **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

In this chapter, the researcher briefly explains the theories that would be used to analyze Adunni's character and personality development. The researcher would discover characterization techniques in this novel. This data also includes minor characters. It is to examine how the main character interacts with the individuals around her.

#### **2.1 New Criticism**

New Criticism is a literary theory that emerged in the 20th century, primarily in the United States. It focuses on the close reading of the text itself rather than the historical or biographical context or the author's intention (Tyson, 2006). New Criticism is based on four key principles. First, the text is autonomous, which means that it should be analyzed on its own terms. The importance of ambiguity means that the elements contribute to the complexity and richness of the work. The role of the reader is created through the interaction between the text and the reader. New Critics emphasize the importance of close reading or careful analysis of literary elements such as imagery, symbolism, tone, metaphor, point of view, setting, characterization, and plot.

#### **2.2 Character**

A character is a fictional person or animal portrayed in a narrative work such as a novel, play, or short story. Characters are the individuals who participate in the events of the story and are essential components of the narrative. They may have

distinct personalities, backgrounds, and motivations that drive their actions and reactions throughout the story (Abrams, 1999).

According to Kelly (2018), a character in a literary work is any personage who performs, appears, or is referred to as performing a part. Nonetheless, all characters must have certain human characteristics, such as the ability to think, feel pain, or fall in love. Therefore, Kelly divided a character into protagonists and antagonists. A protagonist character is the leading character of the story. Meanwhile, the antagonist is the opponent of the protagonist.

A character who is relatively uncomplicated and does not have significant growth or change throughout the story, typically used to support the main character's development, is called a flat character. Meanwhile, a round character is a complex and multifaceted character who is well-developed and exhibits various traits, emotions, motivations, personality traits, and behaviors (Kelly, 2018). According to Kelly (2018), there are two characters according to character development. They are static characters and dynamic characters. As explained below:

### **2.2.1 Static Character**

In literature, a static character is a character that does not undergo significant changes in personality or perspective throughout the story. These characters tend to be consistent in their thoughts, behaviors, and attitudes from the beginning of the story to the end, and their role in the plot often provides contrast or highlights the development of other characters. Static characters can be important in a story

because they provide stability and consistency during the changing events and other characters (Perrin, as cited in Anggusta, 2021).

### **2.2.2 Dynamic Character**

A dynamic character is one who undergoes significant changes, growth, or development throughout the story, unlike static characters, who remain largely unchanged. Dynamic characters evolve due to their experiences, relationships, or challenges in the narrative. Dynamic characters often start the story with certain personality traits, beliefs, or behaviors that are challenged or tested as the plot unfolds. Through their actions, decisions, and interactions with other characters, they may gain new insights, learn from their mistakes, or develop new skills and abilities (Perrin, as cited in Anggusta, 2021).

## **2.3 Characterization**

According to Jones (cited in Soffi, 2022), characterization is a literary term used to describe the process of creating and developing characters in a story. It involves giving characters distinct traits, motivations, and personalities that make them unique and memorable to readers. There are two types of characterization; direct characterization involves explicitly stating a character's traits or personality. Meanwhile, indirect characterization involves revealing character traits through actions, thoughts, and interactions with other characters. According to Kelly (2018), there are several ways to analyze characterizations. There are:

### **2.3.1 Character's Physical Appearance**

Murphy (cited in Anggusta, 2021) states that a character's physical appearance refers to the visual and sensory details that describe their outward

appearance. It can include features such as height, weight, hair color, eye color, skin tone, facial structure, and clothing. A character's physical appearance can be used by the author to help readers visualize the character and create a mental image of them. It can also provide clues about the character's personality, background, and social status. However, it is important to note that physical appearance is not one aspect of a character's overall depiction in literature. A well-developed character should have depth and complexity beyond physical traits, including thoughts, emotions, motivations, and actions.

### **2.3.2 The Character's Actions**

Character actions refer to the behaviors, choices, and decisions a character makes in a story. The actions of a character help to move the plot forward and reveal important information about their personality, motivations, and relationships with other characters. Character actions can be both overt and subtle. Overt actions are explicitly described in the text, such as a character's decision to go on a journey or reaction to a particular event. On the other hand, subtle actions may be hinted at through the character's thoughts, feelings, or body language and can often be open to interpretation (Kelly, 2018).

### **2.3.3 The Character's Thought and Speech**

A character's thoughts are usually presented through their internal monologues or through a third-person omniscient narrator who can access them. A deeper understanding of their motivations, desires, fears, and doubts can help readers empathize with the characters and become invested in their stories (Kelly, 2018). Therefore, a character's speech is usually presented through dialogue or





### **2.3.5 Narrator's Comment**

A narrator's comment about the main character can provide insight into the character's thoughts, actions, and motivations. The narrator's comment can also shape the reader's perception of the character and affect their engagement with the story. The narrator's comment can be objective, observing the character's behavior, or subjective, revealing the narrator's opinion or attitude towards the character (Kelly, 2018).

### **2.3.6 Mannerism**

Mannerism can also play a role in character development, especially how a character changes or evolves over the course of a story. A character's mannerisms can be used to show how they adapt to new situations or deal with internal struggles (Murphy, 1972). Using mannerisms to illustrate character development, writers can make their characters feel more human and relatable by highlighting their challenges and struggles. It can help readers connect with the characters on a deeper level and become more invested in their journeys and growth.

## **2.4 Factors Affecting Personality Development**

According to Hurlock (1974), some factors affect personality development: strong motivation and self-concept changes. Strong motivation has a significant impact on personal growth. Motivation can arise from any aspect of a person. It might be derived from the significance of people, society, or goals the individual established. Relationships and society are usually the main motivators for people. Meanwhile, changes in a person's self-concept will impact his or her entire



examined Abdullah's personality development as the main character. In the beginning, the researcher found Abdullah's character is despair, impatient, kind, and well-spoken young man. Moreover, as a result, the researcher found that role changes, strong motivation, and self-concept have influenced his personality development into a realistic, brave, and smart man.

The last is *An Analysis on the Needs of Adunni in The Girl With The Louding Voice by Abi Dare* by Soffi Nurafni Ashari (2022). This study aims to describe Adunni's characterization and find out the way Adunni fulfills her needs in *The Girl With The Louding Voice* novel by Abi Dare. The result of this study shows that Adunni's characterization is described as a protagonist who faces various life problems. The five stages of the hierarchy of needs exist in the analysis of Adunni's character. They are; Adunni fulfills her physiological needs, then she fulfills her safety need, Adunni fulfill her belongingness, self-esteem by herself, she can fulfill her self-actualization.

The previous related studies above use different novels and theories, meanwhile the last previous study has the same novel but with a different study. The previous study using a hierarchy theory meanwhile this study using Kelly's theory, to analyze character development. This previous research inspired the researcher to conduct a study on Character development. The researcher used these related studies to expand her knowledge of personality development.

## CHAPTER III

### RESEARCH METHODS

In this chapter, the researcher presents the research methods used to analyze data and findings in the next chapter.

#### 3.1 Research Design

In this study, the researcher used a qualitative research method. Qualitative research methods encompass a variety of approaches that aim to understand and interpret human behaviors, experiences, and social phenomena in depth (Taylor et al., 2016:11). Qualitative research is about exploring and understanding the rich and complex tapestry of human experiences and capturing the nuances and meanings. The researcher applied descriptive qualitative research to analyze the novel. This study uses descriptive qualitative methods to describe the main character and the character's development. The researcher uses new criticism, character, and characterization theories. The researcher observes phrases, sentences, dialogue, thoughts, and feelings from Adunni's character. Besides, the researchers also use other ways to analyze by looking at the other character opinion, speech, and thoughts.

#### 3.2 Data Collection

In this part, the researcher explains the data found in the novel and the supporting data from other references. The researcher collected the main data from the novel *The Girl with The Louding Voice* and other references from other related





2. The researcher chose and highlighted all the quotations containing phrases, sentences, and dialogues that relate to Adunni's character and her character development.
3. After categorizing the quotation based on the problem of study, the researcher related all quotations with the theory and enhanced them with other sources to better understand the data.

### **3.4 Data Analysis Technique**

The next step is the researcher conducts some steps to analyze the data:

1. First, the researcher describes Adunni's character through the data from the novel
2. After explaining Adunni's character, the researcher also depicts how the situation and other characters affect Adunni's character development.
3. Last, the researcher conclude the study based on the result found.

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## CHAPTER IV

### ANALYSIS

This chapter contains an analysis aimed at answering the problem of the study. The researcher analyzes the main character, Adunni. First, the researcher describes how Adunni's character is depicted in the novel. The researcher then discusses Adunni's early personality. Lastly, the researcher explains Adunni's personality development.

#### 4.1 Adunni's initial personality

According to Kelly's (2018) explanation of the protagonist, Adunni is considered the protagonist of the story since the story is about Adunni's life journey to reach her dream of going to school. There are supporting characters that help her improve her character, personality, and knowledge, such as Ms. Tia and Kofi. Meanwhile, other characters are against her in the first story, such as her Dad and the environment.

As cited in Kelly (2018), there are two types of characters; flat and round. Adunni is described as a round character. It is because she is a multifaceted character. She has a lot of personality, which makes her seem like a human being. She also leads the reader through the plot from beginning to end.

According to character development, there are two characters: static and dynamic (Kelly, 2018). In the novel, Adunni is conceived as a dynamic character. It is because Adunni experienced significant transformations due to many events throughout the novel.















































































The quote above happened last night when Big Madam wanted to go to Adunni's room to ask about the phone call she received from Ms. Tia about Adunni's future. However, at that time, Big Madam even met her husband, who was about to rape her maid, and discovered that her husband was having an affair with her best friend, Caroline. So far, Adunni has been silent, but at that time, she felt she had to tell the truth about big daddy and his feelings for how she was treated. Adunni's character development in this part is that she becomes more courageous. She showed small courage that could change her life. Adunni became someone who was able to say what should be said. This was influenced by his self-concept changes, in which she did not want to always be silent and let bad things happen to her or anyone. She even expressed her feelings that she had kept to his employer, spoke it out, and became braver.

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in which she did not want to always be silent and let bad things happen to her. She speaks it out and is a more brave person.

Several factors influence the development above. The factor is Physical changes, strong motivation, environment, significant people, role changes, and self-concept. These factors are responsible for forming a great personality for Adunni. She becomes curious, tough, enthusiastic, and courageous.

## **5.2 Suggestion**

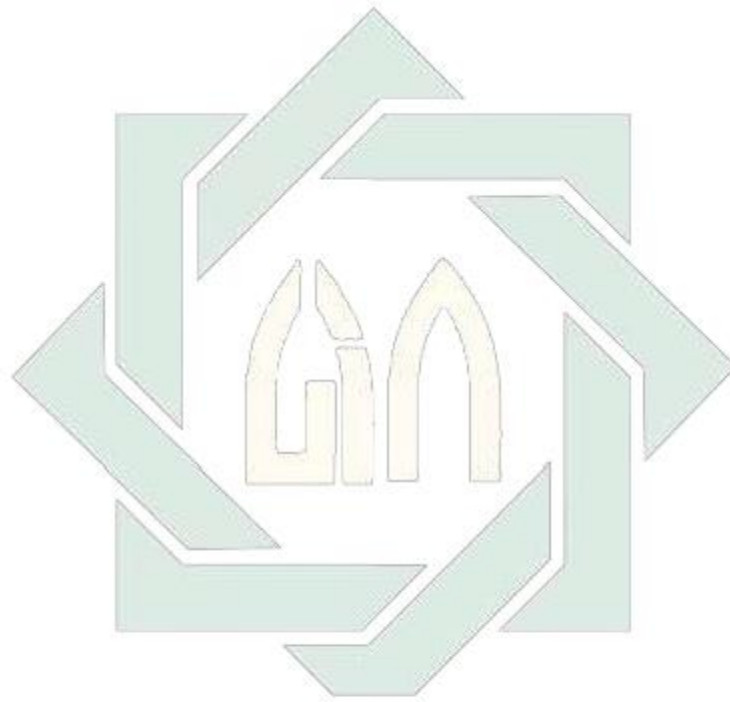
Redears, lecturers, and other researchers, including those suggested by researcher. Researcher finds information based on analysis and discussion with a data from the novel. The researcher would like to suggest other researchers to conduct further studies with the this novel. Future researchers may analyze the same novel but with different topic. For example: future researcher might investigate the unfair love that experienced by Adunni's employer, or maybe the social inequality between in the village where Adunni comes from and with the Lagos. Future researcher also can investigate the child abuse that experienced by Adunni.

In addition, it will be interesting to investigate with such an various cases. Various theories and approaches other than new criticism can also be used, such as sociological or psychological theory. Moreover, future researcher can investigate another topic such as the comparison life that experienced by Adunni when in the village and when she moved to a big city. The researcher hopes that this suggestion will help future researcher to find the new ideas.



Potter and Deathly Hollow by Jk. Rowling Thomas. *Journal Of English Educational Study*.

Wellek, Rene and Austin Warren. 1956. *Theory of Literature*. New York: Harcourt, Brace and World, Inc.



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