

CHAPTER 4

DATA ANALYSIS

In chapter four, the writer analyzes the data collected. The material of this research is the Japanese comic or *manga* named *Mahou Shoujo Site*. The writer analyzes an interesting character development of the main character in *Mahou Shoujo Site* manga with two objectives: to find out the development that happens to the character and to find out the causes of the character's development.

The character development of the main character in *Mahou Shoujo Site* is taken as the main important materials of this study. The writer decided to read and take several chapters from the comic which showed important factors related to the development of the main character from the beginning of the story to the end to analyze. Direct characterization is usually used in novels or comics. It consists of the narrator telling the reader about the characters.

4.1. The character development and the factors that change the character in *Mahou Shoujo Site: Chapter 1*

In the first chapter of the Japanese comic series (manga) *Mahou Shoujo Site*, readers are introduced to the main character, Aya Asagiri. On the left side panel, Aya Asagiri herself opens the story and becomes the narrator at the same time. This is in accordance with the character's theory stated by Gioia & Kennedy (1995), that in a story, the main character can be the narrator in the story written in the first person. In the opening, Aya tells the readers about her pessimistic character. Her statement can be seen in the panel where Aya says that she is only thinking about ending her life.



Figure 4.1

Introduction

Source: <https://mangahub.io/chapter/mahou-shoujo-site/chapter-1>

Apart from her pessimistic character, Aya also has an innocent, kind and gentle character. Aya's innocence is shown in the early chapters of the manga in her lines that say "Why bad things like this happen to me, I have not done anything wrong and evil", and Aya's kind and gentle side is shown when she sympathizes and greets the little cat on the street with a sincere smile and tries to find him a place to live. Aya's pessimistic, innocent, kind, and gentle characters that are misinterpreted as inferior characters will undergo changes in the story. She becomes confident and brave for a while because she has the strength to free herself from the bullies.

In short, the end of chapter 1 shows Aya's character who undergoes a change when she accepts and uses the power given by a mysterious figure. Aya, who was once a pessimistic, innocent, kind, and gentle character, becomes a person who is optimistic and brave when she uses her new power. The reason for using the power

is because she thinks as long as she has power she can be free from the bullies and everything will be alright. However, in this chapter Aya is still not comfortable with her changes of character. Her discomfort can be seen in the picture on the right where Aya looks scared and is shown to have a guilty expression.



Figure 4.2

Aya using her power for the first time

Source: <https://mangahub.io/chapter/mahou-shoujo-site/chapter-1>

The factors that develop the character are two factors, the external and the internal factors. The external factor is the mysterious figure who offers a deadly power and the internal factor is Aya's desire to get away from her misery. In the middle panel, the readers are introduced to three characters, the villains, Sarina and her classmates. These three characters are the bullies who torture Aya every day. One of them causes a very drastic change in Aya's character. Being bullied everyday makes Aya's life miserable. Her misery attracts a strange human figure who has a creepy smile. This figure pities Aya, so that he offers Aya the power to escape and free herself from her misfortune. Aya accepts his offer after she hears the figure's

quite convincing statement and offer. Her accepting the offer is also caused by her desire to stand up and uphold the justice and peace that Aya has been dreaming of. It turns out that the power is very deadly as can be seen in the middle and the right panel that depicts the scene when Aya is using the power that the mysterious figure gave and the after effect of that power. It can be seen from the panel that Aya basically kills the bullies by shooting them with a pistol-shaped "stick" and moves the bullies to the railroad tracks which at that time there is also a fast moving train.

4.2. The character development and the factors that change the character in *Mahou Shoujo Site: Chapter 2*

In the second chapter, it was shown that Aya's character changes into a character who has a great fear and a character who distrust herself after realizing what her power can do. Here, Aya does not feel happy with the characters she possesses when she exercises the power



Figure 4.3

Aya getting a trauma

Source: <https://mangahub.io/chapter/mahou-shoujo-site/chapter-2>

As can be seen in the left and center panel, Aya is in a state of great fear, exhaustion and distrust of her actions.



Figure 4.4

First meeting with Yatsumura

Source: <https://mangahub.io/chapter/mahou-shoujo-site/chapter-2>

The factors that change Aya's character into a person with fear and distrust is when the news of the death of two students who were accidentally killed by Aya arrives at the school. Aya, who hears the news at school, becomes scared and paranoid. It is worsened by Sarina who seems to realize that something is wrong with Aya. Sarina's suspicion is reflected in her expressions and gestures. During the recess, Sarina scolds Aya and wants to take revenge by killing her. All of those actions put Aya into fear. Aya strongly insists to herself that she did not commit the murder. She tries very hard not to believe her actions and tries to avoid the fact. She wants to convince herself that the cause of the murder is the *Mahou Shoujo* power given by a mysterious figure.

This chapter is more focused on the introduction of a new character, Yatsumura, who will influence the development of Aya's character. Yatsumura is a character who views people as evil, depraved and immoral. People are creatures who do not deserve to live and must be eliminated.

If this chapter 3 is regarded as a standalone chapter, Aya's character is categorized into what Foster (1956) calls a flat character. Flat characters are those whose personalities and behaviors do not change from the beginning of the story to the end. A pure flat character is constructed as having a single idea or quality, but other flat characters change a bit and tend toward round character. However, the changes of personality and behaviors are only minor that they do not affect the story nor surprise the reader. Because they do not change a lot, the flat characters are easy to understand. They are also easily stereotyped.

In the fourth chapter, readers will be presented with Aya's slight development of character. Because Aya meets Yatsumura and has a talk with a boy named Hinomoto, Aya's character has become calmer. However, in the end of the fourth chapter, Aya will meet a new antagonist who wants to kill her, Aya's character is actually categorized as a flat character with a minor character change.



Figure 4.6

Aya is still afraid of her power

Source: <https://mangahub.io/chapter/mahou-shoujo-site/chapter-5>

At the end of the fifth chapter, Aya's character is shown to be quite developed because Aya can finally take the initiative to use her strength again and dare to fight back the villain named Shioi Rina.

The factors that cause the development are external factors. The first one is from the new villain and the second one is from Yatsumura. The villain is a real killer. This villain's brutal and cruel character pushes Aya to use her new power bravely. Unfortunately, Aya's gentle and naive characters make her in trouble. Even though she fights back, her characters hinder her action until she almost gets killed.



Figure 4.7

Aya using her power for the second time

Source: <https://mangahub.io/chapter/mahou-shoujo-site/chapter-5>

The second influence comes from Yatsumura who is almost killed too. Yatsumura reminds Aya to get rid of her gentleness if she wants to survive. Aya who is still very scared after the murder she did against the bullies, tries to fight back aided by Yatsumura who tells Aya not to be afraid of using her power. Yatsumura says that as long as Aya can control her power, she will not kill people randomly. Yatsumura's role as a supporter greatly influences the development of Aya's character. The story continues in chapters 6 to 14. After the fight against a *Mahou shoujo*, Aya finds out the name of the *Mahou shoujo*, the name of the *Mahou Shoujo* is Shioi Rina and as Yatsumura said, Shioi Rina did not die after being teleported by Aya. They looked for where Shioi Rina had teleported and found her on a park bench, seeing that Aya felt relieved. Yatsumura started asking Shioi Rina about *Mahou Shoujo* and the reason he was hunting for another *Mahou Shoujo* by threatening to kill her if she didn't tell them anything. Aya's naivety stopped Yatsumura from killing her but at

that time Shioi Rina suddenly vomited blood and felt pain, Aya was shocked and they found a heart-like image on her arm that was almost gone, after that they took Shioi Rina to the hospital. Aya as the main character is looking for clues about *Mahou Shoujo* through a book brought by Shioi Rina and also looking for fellow *Mahou Shoujo* to work with. Besides those two things Aya also finds out some scary facts from *Mahou Shoujo*. The girl chosen by a mysterious figure as *Mahou Shoujo* are those who have bad luck and *Mahou Shoujo* cannot use her power too often because it will absorb *Mahou Shoujo's* life energy which is shaped like a heart on the arm of that *Mahou Shoujo* and will result in death. The last fact discovered by Aya is that the mysterious figure gives *Mahou Shoujo's* power in the form of "sticks" so that the girls who become *Mahou Shoujo* can take revenge for their bad lives and try to kill each other.

4.4. The character development and the factors that change the character in *Mahou Shoujo Site: Chapter 15 and Chapter 16*

In chapter fifteen Opened by the presence of Sarina who becomes *Mahou Shoujo* as well, Aya is very surprised to see Sarina has a "stick" with extraordinary destructive power, and Aya and her friends fight against Sarina is unavoidable. Aya's character does not develop in these chapters. She still often falls into her insecurity of using her power, therefore she is still in fear and distrust of herself. In short, she is still weak as a hero.

The factor that makes Aya change is Sarina's return as a magical girl with terrible power. Sarina scolds Aya and Yatsumura with the aim of slaughtering them

and the other factor is Aya sees her friend, Yatsumura almost died from Sarina's attack when she was protecting Aya. As a result, Aya, who feels guilty of causing Yatsumura's injury, confronts Sarina.



Figure 4.8

The battle against Sarina

Source: <https://mangahub.io/chapter/mahou-shoujo-site/chapter-15>

The panel on the right shows Sarina saying that Aya's efforts are in vain. Disregarding what Sarina said, Aya puts on a look of fearlessness and prepares to stop her. Sarina gets annoyed and angry. At the end of the fifteenth chapter, Aya, who has made up her mind to fight, takes her "stick" and is ready to fight Sarina. In short, this significant development of Aya's character is caused by her desire to protect her friends who are on the verge of death and also her responsibility as the only person who is still able to fight.

The sixteenth chapter shows Aya's character development significantly. Aya fights against Sarina. Aya is cornered because during the battle Aya is also careful not to launch a deadly attack that can kill Sarina. Eventually, Sarina wins the battle by a landslide. Interestingly, Aya, who is beaten up, is not afraid and keeps on protecting Yatsumura even though she is bleeding a lot.



Figure 4.9

Aya's true feeling

Source: <https://mangahub.io/chapter/mahou-shoujo-site/chapter-16>

Yatsumura, on the other hand, is still forcing himself to quietly use her strength to create a protective space to protect Aya and himself from Sarina. Sarina, who is getting annoyed, starts insulting and accusing Aya of the murder that happened earlier. The old Aya would only be quiet, cried and accepted everything Sarina said, but because Aya's character has improved, she is able to express opinions and denies

her words. At the end of the sixteenth chapter, Aya's character development is obviously shown, thanks to the supporting factors and other characters. At the end of the chapter Aya still shows kindness and tells some facts about Mahou Shoujo to Sarina and saves her from the ruins, which makes Sarina start to slightly change her mindset and view of Aya.

4.5. The character development and the factors that change the character in *Mahou Shoujo Site: Chapter 17-55*

In chapters 17 - 55 Aya was saved by another *Mahou Shoujo* who had healing powers and brought them to a place where other *Mahou Shoujo* gathered.



Figure 4.10

Aya meets Another Mahou Shoujo

Source: <https://mangahub.io/chapter/mahou-shoujo-site/chapter-26>

There Aya and Yatsumura were warmly welcomed and they started to introduce themselves to Aya and Yatsumura respectively. There they discussed their plans to fight the mysterious figure, this mysterious figure they named admin. Before carrying out their plan, they intend to take a vacation at the beach and get closer to each other. A fun beach vacation suddenly turns into a disaster, Aya accidentally sees her brother using the power of *Mahou Shoujo* to kill people.

At night, Aya wanted to say what happened but because of Aya's character who couldn't bear it because it was her own brother, Aya chose to remain silent and at that time her brother came and tried to kill and play with them, because her brother's *Mahou Shoujo* strength is brainwashing, they all do nothing and cause one of Aya's friends to be killed and several seriously injured. Luckily, they were saved by an unseen figure. After this incident Aya regretted her actions, because her naivety made everything go awry.



Figure 4.11

Sarina's return, strengthening Aya's feeling

Source: <https://mangahub.io/chapter/mahou-shoujo-site/chapter-43>

After the incident on the beach, Aya continued to regret her actions and cried by the riverside which still shows that Aya's character is still too weak, there Aya is visited by Sarina which makes Aya very surprised, but Sarina has no intention of fighting but instead advises Aya to become stronger and then go.

After hearing that Aya started to decide to become stronger. They decided not to bring up the matter at that time and didn't blame Aya for the incident and started going back to their original plan to kill the admin. Because basically Aya is not a fighter and still has a weak character so Aya is used as a backup if their plan fails because of the Aya's *Mahou Shoujo* power is teleportation. In short, chapters 17 - 55 show good progress for the development of Aya's character starting from Sarina who joined the Mahou Shoujo union and became a supporting character who played an important role in Aya's character development replacing Yatsumura later, their plans failed many times and caused Yatsumura's death, and Aya who started slowly turning into a quiet and tough person, more confident, more brave, more selfish and start to be the main brain in the plan to defeat the admins and save the world. In chapters 56 to 79 only tells flashbacks and recaps of events from chapters 1-55 which do not affect Aya's character development, therefore the writer decided to jump straight to chapter 80 to the end.



Figure 4.12

Yatsumura's death, Aya's character development

Source: <https://mangahub.io/chapter/mahou-shoujo-site/chapter-55>

4.6. The character development and the factors that change the character in *Mahou Shoujo Site: Chapter 80-139 (End)*

From the sixteenth chapter and on, Aya's character is well developed into a strong, powerful, and brave girl. In chapters seventeen until fifty-five Aya experienced various kinds of unfortunate events that made Aya a better character than the previous chapter. She became strong, powerful, brave, tough, confident, optimistic, and a little selfish.



Figure 4.13

Aya's new appearance

Source: https://mahoushoujo-site.fandom.com/wiki/Aya_Asagiri

Chapter 80 until the last chapter tells about Aya's fight with a mysterious figure who made them *Mahou Shoujo* and the many deaths and sacrifices from her friends for the safety of the world.

The chapter shows that Aya is no longer what she used to be. Starting from the fifteenth and sixteenth chapters when Aya has indeed experienced good character development, then in seventeen till fifty-five experienced more good character development and finally, in the eightieth chapter until the last chapter, Aya is no longer afraid to use her power.



Figure 4.14

Sarina's sacrifice, Aya defeats two admins

Source: <https://mangahub.io/chapter/mahou-shoujo-site/chapter-125>

In fact, her power is getting an upgrade and becoming more powerful than usual. Aya who can defeat several admins alone is proof of Aya's character development which was initially weak and not a fighter then became someone strong and tough.

If in the past she was only concerned with her safety and the safety of others without having any ability to save them, now Aya is only thinking of ways to save others by sacrificing herself. Aya transfers several life gauges from her friends to herself so that only Aya can fight without involving her friends. As a savior, Aya's character is increasingly becoming stronger as shown by how brave Aya is when she talkbacks to her brother and point her gun to show her brother how she really felt all this time and forgive him, then fights against her destiny, taking revenge and defeats many enemies that killed all her friends. Aya did all that to save the world, get the happiness she and her friends dreamed of and for the safety of those she loves.



Figure 4.15

Aya's final appearance

Source: <https://mangahub.io/chapter/mahou-shoujo-site/chapter-137>

In chapter 137, Aya travels through time and goes to her past and the past of her comrades in arms, Aya saves their past one by one from the unfortunate events that made them chosen to be *Mahou Shoujo*, and also the unfortunate events that happened to her, and at that time, rumors about shadow heroes appeared. After Aya saved her past and the past of her friends from an unfortunate incident, Aya met one of the admins who was the mastermind behind *Mahou Shoujo* and threatened him if he didn't do what Aya said then Aya would destroy him which made the admin surprised Aya's figure who was not what he expected. In chapter 138, Aya decided to talk and taught him about human feelings which made the admin slowly open his mind about human feelings and help Aya realize happiness. In the final chapter, Aya becomes the only *Mahou Shoujo* in the world but she decides to become an ordinary

human and save the memories of her struggles and her friends as *Mahou Shoujo* alone. Aya enjoyed the world she had fought for. Her friends come back to life and are not *Mahou Shoujo* anymore and Aya lives a happy life with her friends and parents.

Aya's character is indeed a dynamic character because she changes from a pessimistic, innocent, kind, and gentle character in the first and second chapter to a girl who has fear and distrust of herself, and finally to a strong, powerful, tough, optimist, brave, and confident girl. She changes because she wants to fight back the people who try to hurt her and her friends. She fights to save them so that they can stay alive and live happily.

