

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Literature is an art. A way of defining literature is to limit it to “great books,” books which, whatever their subject, are “notable for literary form or expression.” (Wellek & Warren, 1954, p. 10). The form of literature or what we call literary work can be varied, such as drama, poetry, and prose. Drama is presented in the form of conversation that tells a story. Drama is different from poetry and prose, it is usually written for the purpose of being performed on stage (Lethbridge & Mildorf, 2003a, p. 90). Poetry is considered fictional. It uses specialized language which in many cases lacks a pragmatic function, and is also ambiguous (Lethbridge & Mildorf, 2003c, p. 142). The last one is prose, which is different from poetry that uses specialized language. Prose uses “ordinary language”. Most literary works that are read until this day are written in prose (Lethbridge & Mildorf, 2003b, p. 42). Examples of prose are short stories, fairy tales, newspaper articles, essays and novels, which is one of the most well known literary works.

According to Hawthorn, novel is a prose narrative or tale of considerable length in which characters and actions representative of the real life of past or present times are portrayed in a plot of more or less complexity (1997, p.3). It contains few aspects that make the story more interesting and come to life, such as character, plot, theme, setting, style, which are categorized as the intrinsic

elements. The opposite of intrinsic elements is extrinsic elements or the outside elements that influence the novel itself for instance the author's biography, education, social background, religion, etc.

In this study, the writer will use the novel *The Prince and the Pauper* to further analyze one of the intrinsic elements that is the characters and also their characterizations. *The Prince and the Pauper* is a novel written by an American writer, Mark Twain.

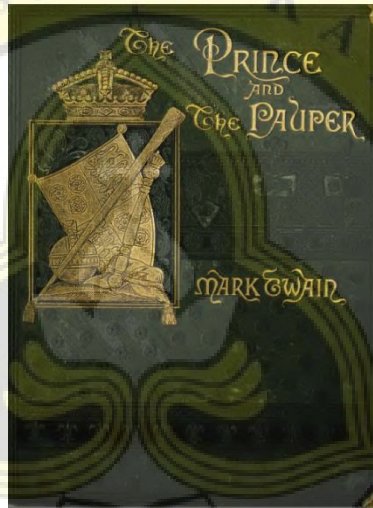


Figure 1 *The Prince and the Pauper* novel's cover

It was first released in 1881 in Canada, and was released publicly in the United States in 1882 (Twain, 1882). This novel is based on the story that is widely-known in 1547's England. This novel tells about two boys that have identical appearance (Twain, 1882). The two boys are Edward Tudor – the Prince of Wales, and Tom Canty, a boy from a very poor family. The Cantys live at the Offal Court, where other paupers live.

It is written in the novel that Tom Canty is tortured by his father and grandmother. Both of them abuse the little boy. Tom should bring something when he got back home. If he does not bring anything, his father and grandmother will beat him. One day, Tom goes near the castle. The guards throw him out from the castle area, but Edward, the prince stops the action. Edward invites Tom to come into the palace. They go to the Prince's chamber. The Prince is shocked because Tom has similar physical appearance to him. Then, the Prince got an idea of changing position with Tom. So Edward will be Tom and Tom will be Edward. Tom agrees on the idea and they switch their position. After the decision is made, they switch their clothes. Then, Edward goes to the Cantys's house. There, Edward is treated like how Tom was. He is scolded, shouted, and tortured. He is shocked by the fact that his folks are suffering and living this kind of life. Edward then promises to himself to fight for his folks' justice.

From the book *The Prince and the Pauper* by Mark Twain, it can be seen that Prince Edward's life is totally different from Tom Canty's. Prince Edward lives in a huge castle and wallows in wealth, with a lot of love from his father, while Tom lives with his abusive father and barely manages to eat each day. When Edward disguises as Tom, people do not see him as a prince, but a poor crazy boy that is imagining things about the royal family.

The characters of Prince Edward and Tom Canty, in the writer's opinion, are interesting to study using the theory of characterization. Those two characters are claimed to be similar in their physique and facial appearance. Therefore, when

they switch clothes, their real identity is mistaken. However, because of their different socio-economic and educational background, Prince Edward and Tom Canty supposedly have different personalities and attitudes. The different backgrounds may influence the way they think, speak, and solve the problems they face. In short, Prince Edward and Tom Canty, the main characters in the book, are intriguing to study in detail because they are similar yet different.

The writer has found a few studies that talk about the characters and their characterizations of a story. The first one is written by Annisa Patmarinata and Potjut Ernawati entitled “*A Study on Characterization of the Main Character in ‘The Fault in Our Stars’*” (Patmarinata & Ernawati, 2016). In this study, the authors analyze the characterizations or personalities of the main characters in the novel *The Fault in Our Stars* by Green released in 2012, Hazel and August. Djasi’s theory (2000) as cited by Patmarinata and Ernawati (2016) is used to analyze the characterization of the characters in the novel. They examine the characters’ dialog and quotes from the novel, and look for the related issues on the topic from both printed and online journals, books, and magazines. Patmarinata and Ernawati concluded that Hazel is depressed because of her condition and August is a kind and loyal person.

The second study is written by Nurilah Ariani entitled “*Characters and Theme Analysis in J.M. Coetzee Novel Disgrace*” (Ariani, 2010). Ariani’s focus is analyzing the characters and theme from the novel *Disgrace* written by J.M. Coetzee in 1999. The author used descriptive qualitative analysis for her study, in

which the author collects the data by reading the novel and marking it. Ariani concluded that there is one major character (David Lurie) and two supporting characters (Lucy Lurie and Petrus).

The third study is written by Kartika Peni Saraswati entitled “*Analysis of Characters and Characterization in the Compilation of Malay Poetry ‘Mirror’*” (Saraswati, 2019). Different from the two previous studies mentioned above which analyze a novel, this particular study is written to analyze the characters and characterizations of a Malay poetry compilation, *Mirror*. The author – Saraswati – asserts that she wants to describe the kind of characters and characterizations that are in the poems. The author used a qualitative approach for her study, because she stated clearly that the data was not numeric, so using a qualitative approach would be more suitable for her analysis.

The writer’s study is different from the previous studies mentioned above because the writer will study the characters and their characterizations of Mark Twain’s *The Prince and the Pauper* (1882). Thus, the title of my study is “*The Characters and Their Characterizations in Mark Twain’s The Prince and the Pauper*”.

1.2. Field of the Study

The field of study is literature, especially novels.

1.3. Scope of the Study

This study is more focused on Mark Twain's *The Prince and the Pauper*'s major characters and their characterizations rather than the minor characters as they do not really need to be analyzed in depth.

1.4. Problem Formulation

The problem formulations that the writer tries to answer are :

1. Who are the characters in Mark Twain's *The Prince and the Pauper*?
2. What are the characterizations of Mark Twain's *The Prince and the Pauper*'s characters?

1.5. Objectives of the Study

The purpose of this study is :

1. To find out the characters in Mark Twain's *The Prince and the Pauper*.
2. To find the characterizations of Mark Twain's *The Prince and the Pauper*'s characters.

1.6. Significance of the Study

This study is expected to show that although character as one of the intrinsic elements and is basic in the analysis of a literary work, it is worth analyzing. Studying the characters and their characterizations will help the readers understand the literary work better, so that the readers will enjoy the work more. In the case of *The Prince and the Pauper*, the study of the characters and their characterizations will help the readers to understand how the characters were

distinguished according to their socio-economic background. This study is also expected to be useful as a teaching material for the study of fiction.

1.7. Definition of Term

a. Character

Characters are the persons represented in a dramatic or narrative work, who are interpreted by the reader as persons who have particular moral, intellectual, and emotional qualities by what the characters are saying – the dialogue – and from what they do – the actions (Abrams, 1999, pp. 32–33). The word “character” derives from the Greek word *χαράσσειν* (romanized as *charássein*) which means to engrave, scratch or etc.

b. Characterization

There are two ways to do characterization or characterizing, which are showing and telling. In showing, the author presents the characters talking and acting and leaves the reader to infer the motives and dispositions lie behind. While in telling, the author intervenes authoritatively in order to describe, and often to evaluate the motives and dispositional qualities of the characters (Abrams, 1999, pp. 33–34).