

CHAPTER 4

DATA ANALYSIS

In this chapter, the writer would like to answer the questions mentioned in the problem formulations. To answer the questions, the writer analyzed the characters and their characterizations of Mark Twain's *The Prince and the Pauper*. As mentioned in Chapter 3, the writer used a formalist approach to analyze the characters and their characterizations of Mark Twain's *The Prince and the Pauper*. There are many characters in the novel which are interesting to be analyzed.

4.1. Characters in *The Prince and the Pauper*

People who appear in a literary work are known as characters, which is one of the essential elements of a fiction text. Through characters, the readers can identify the conflicts happening in the story. Characters, as stated by Kennedy & Gioia (1995), can be divided into major and minor characters.

4.1.1. Major Characters

Major or main character is the star of the story. In the novel *The Prince and the Pauper*, there are two main characters, Tom Canty and Edward Tudor or the Prince.

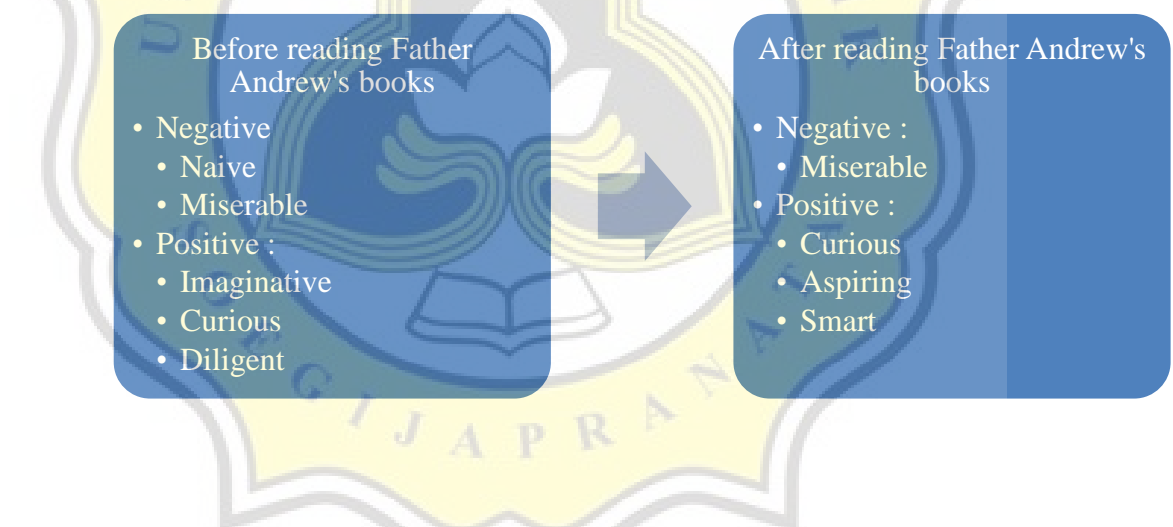
a. Tom Canty

Tom Canty is a boy who lives in poverty at the Offal Court, London. He lives in a poor house with his family.

‘It was small, decayed, and rickety, but it was packed full of wretchedly poor families. Canty’s tribe occupied a room on the third floor.’ (Twain, 1882, p. 27).

Tom lives with his father, mother, grandmother, and sisters. His father and grandmother are abusive to him. Twain makes Tom, one of the major characters, as a round character. Since the beginning of the story, Tom has already underwent some changes. The diagram below describes Tom’s traits before he meets the Prince.

Figure 4.1. Tom’s characterizations before he meets the Prince



Tom is a boy who is naive, imaginative, curious, diligent, aspiring, and smart, but is miserable. Naive, imaginative, curious, diligent, aspiring, and smart are considered as positive traits, while miserable is a negative trait. The characterization of Tom as a naive boy is told by Twain in direct presentation.

‘He had a hard time of it, but did not know it. It was the sort of time that all the Offal Court boys has, therefore he supposed it was the correct and comfortable thing.’ (p. 29)

The quotation directly shows that Tom does not know anything about life. He thinks that everybody lives the way he lives. Therefore, even when he has a hard time, he is just happy.

Secondly, Tom’s characterization as an imaginative boy is told by Twain in direct characterization, which shows that Tom loves to imagine himself as a prince living in a grand palace.

‘.... he unleashed his imagination and soon forgot his aches and pains in delicious picturings to himself of the charmed life of a petted prince in a regal palace.’ (p. 30)

The next characterizations are curious and diligent. The quotation below shows both of these characterizations directly told by Twain. ‘He often read the priest’s old books and got him to explain and enlarge upon them.’ (p. 30)

Tom as a diligent boy is shown by the phrase “often read.” The adverb “often” used by Twain shows that he wants to emphasize Tom as a boy who likes reading. The phrase “old books” also highlights Tom as a diligent boy. Although he seems to have no access to new books, he does not give up. He continues to read books, even though they are old books. Whereas Tom as a curious boy is shown by the clause “got him to explain and enlarge,”. The clause shows that Tom does not only read the books, but he also asks the priest

to “explain” and “enlarge” the content of the books when he does not understand.

Although he comes from a poor family, it does not stop Tom from being a diligent boy. He reads the priest’s old books to fulfill his curiosity about the princely life. He also asks the priest to explain furthermore about it. This makes Tom become an aspiring boy, where he becomes aware that wearing clean clothes would make him appear better, and wishes he could do so. He does not like the shabby clothing and the dirt anymore.

‘His dream-people were so fine that he grew to lament his shabby clothing and his dirt, and to wish to be clean and better clad.’

(Twain, 1882, p. 30)

He also dreams of meeting a real prince. In Tom’s mind, the dream becomes an obsession; meeting the prince is the passion of his life.

‘And still his desire to look just once upon a real prince, in the flesh, grew upon him, day by day, and week by week, until at last it absorbed all other desires, and became the one passion of his life.’

(p. 35)

Because he gets more knowledge after reading the old books and studying from the priest, Tom becomes a smart boy. Below is the quotation that shows Twain directly characterizes Tom that way.

‘He went on playing in the mud just the same, and enjoying it, too; but instead of splashing around in the Thames solely for the fun of

it, he began to find an added value in it because of the washings and cleansings it afforded.’ (pp. 30–31)

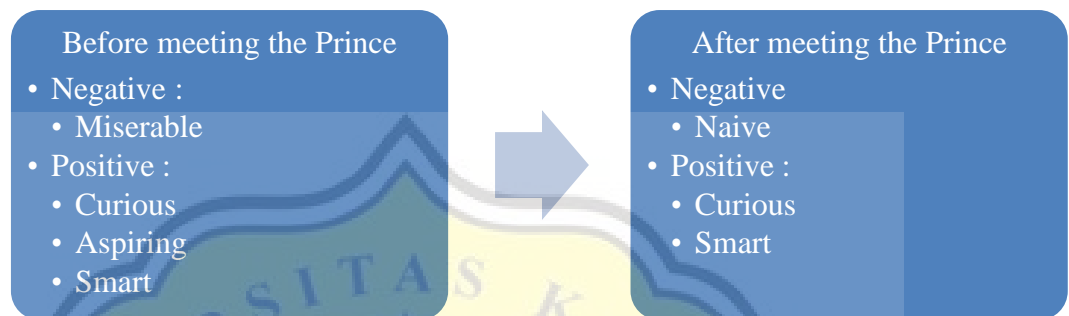
Tom knows that playing in the mud makes the clothes dirty, and if they become dirty, then they should be cleaned. And by that, Tom is aware that cleaning others’s clothes can give him money, which is what his father wants from him. He now has the knowledge that is needed in order to survive. But although he becomes smarter, it does not change the fact that Tom is still living a miserable life. He keeps dreaming about being a prince, but he knows he cannot be one. Once, he tries to act and speak formally, people are in wonderment when they watch Tom, but then when it all ends, he has to come back to reality that he is not a prince.

‘ After which, he would go forth in his rags and beg a few farthings, eat his poor crust, take his customary cuffs and abuse, and then stretch himself upon his handful of foul straw, and resume his empty grandeurs in his dreams.’ (pp. 32–33)

After Tom meets Edward or the Prince, Tom’s character undergoes a certain change, but not a major one. Before meeting the Prince, Tom is a curious, aspiring, smart, and miserable boy. After meeting the Prince, he is curious, naive, and smart, which all are considered as positive traits. He is not aspiring and miserable anymore. He is not aspiring because he is now living in the world that he dreamt of. He now lives in the palace that makes him not

miserable anymore. The palace provides everything that he needs. Below is the diagram of Tom's traits after he meets the prince.

Figure 4.2. Tom's characterizations after he meets the Prince



However, Tom is still a curious boy. Twain (1882) told this directly in the narration, which says,

‘He inspected his napkin curiously, and with deep interest,’

‘Tom examined the turnips and the lettuce with interest, and asked what they were, and if they were to be eaten.’ (Twain, 1882, p. 90)

Tom is a naive boy even after he meets the Prince. He assumes that the people in the castle know that he is not the real prince, but a commoner who disguises as Edward the Prince. He even says to King Henry VIII that he was born as a pauper. ‘I pray thee of thy grace believe me, I did but speak the truth, most dread lord ; for I am the meanest among thy subjects, being a pauper born...’ (p. 63). Tom seems not to understand that people actually see him as Edward because of their similar appearances.

In his previous years, Tom read Father Andrew's books where he learned a lot of things. From manners to the way he acts and speaks. This applies in

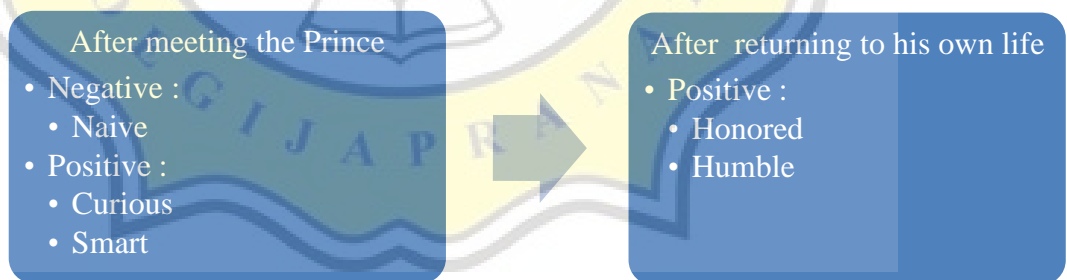
Tom's next characterization, which is smart. As mentioned before, learning from Father Andrew's books, the way Tom speaks become ceremonious and courtly. When he meets the prince, the way he speaks and acts becomes even more ceremonious and courtly. Here is the example of the way Tom speaks to Edward.

'In truth, yes, so please you, sir, save when one is hungry,' (Twain, 1882, p. 43)

'Ah, good your worship, require me not to answer,' (p. 45)

The narration describes Tom's ceremonious and courtly way of speaking and acting. When Tom is having his meal, he realizes that what he does is not what a prince will do. '... and he did not doubt that he had done the most improper and unprincely thing.' (p. 91).

Figure 4.3. Tom's characterizations after he returns to his own life



Tom has grown a lot, he now becomes a very old man. Twain describes him as a handsome, white-haired old fellow, of grave and benignant aspect (Twain, 1882, p. 401). During his life, Tom is always remembered as the

King's ward. People will make way for him in the street, then they will salute him. Tom is an honored man, which can be seen by the quotation below,

‘so, whenever he appeared the crowd fell apart, making way for him, and whispering, one to another, “Doff thy hat, it is the King’s Ward!” – and so they saluted, and got his kindly smile in return – and they valued it, too, for his was an honorable history.’ (p. 401)

People honoring him does not make him arrogant, instead, he keeps his heart low and stays humble.

b. Edward Tudor

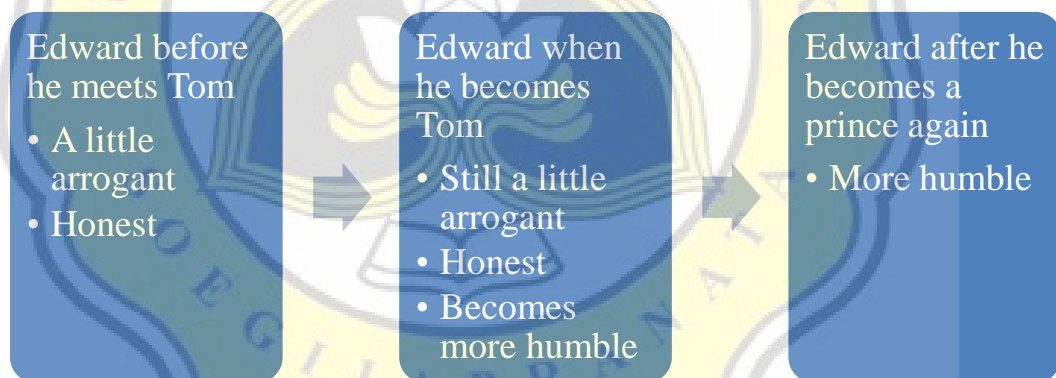
Edward Tudor or the Prince of Wales, is the son of King Henry VIII, which makes him born and raised in wealth. When Edward was born, he was wrapped in silks and satins (Twain, 1882, p. 24). Edward lives in the castle with his father, full of luxurious things (e.g. his clothes which are made from silks and satins with jewels attached). Twain does not write a lot about Edward's life before Edward met Tom Canty.

During his journey as Tom Canty, Edward realizes that living outside the palace is really different from what he is used to. After Edward moves out from the castle as Tom Canty, he meets Tom's abusive father. Fortunately, Edward manages to escape from him. On his adventure, he meets Miles Hendon – a soldier who has just returned from the war. Edward tells Miles that he is the prince, but of course Miles does not believe him easily, because Edward's

clothes are far from proper royal clothing. Even though Miles does not believe that Edward is a real prince, he still manages to protect Edward. Like when they are both imprisoned, Edward is supposed to get whipped, but Miles takes the whipping instead. This event makes Edward feel thankful and promises him that he will make Miles an Earl when he gets his throne back.

In the writer's opinion, Edward is a round character. As a round character, Edward undergoes some changes throughout the story. He goes from a little arrogant which is considered as a negative trait, to a humble person. It is described in the diagram below.

Figure 4.4. Edward's character development



Twain uses indirect characterization to characterize Edward. In the beginning of the story, Twain inserts a hidden message about Edward. That hidden message is about Edward's traits which is not written clearly in the story. If the readers do not observe carefully, the readers may not catch the actual meaning. Edward said this to his guards,

“How dar’st thou use a poor lad like that! How dar’st thou use the King my father’s meanest subject so! Open the gates, and let him in!”
(Twain, 1882, p. 40)

The quotation is translated into ”How dare you use a poor boy like that! How dare you use the King my father’s meanest subject so! Open the gates, and let him in!” in modern English. Literally, it can be interpreted as an act of kindness; he wants to save Tom. But the hidden meaning behind Edward’s words ‘my father’s meanest subject’ is somehow like he wants to say that Tom is his father’s property and he thinks that his guards are being impudent towards him. The dialogue above shows Edward’s conceitedness.

When Edward disguises as Tom, he is still a little arrogant in the beginning, but he changes to a humbler personality. He understands his people’s suffering and wants to fix this by providing food, proper house to live; and also wants to give his people the knowledge they need.

The day Edward meets Tom is when both boys decide to swipe their roles for a moment, Edward becomes Tom and the other way around. But their idea does not go as planned. When Edward steps out of the castle, he is not able to come back because the guards thought he was Tom. Edward then wanders around the London streets until he reaches the church he is familiar with – the Christ’s Church.

Near that church, Edward meets some boys who are playing. They stop their activity once they see Edward. Edward decides to greet them, introducing himself as the prince. He is still being his arrogant self. But poor Edward, the boys laugh at him. After meeting those boys, Edward says to himself that when he returns as the prince, not only will he provide food and a proper house, but also teach them some knowledge. So, not only do they have a full stomach, but also a full heart. Edward keeps wandering through the streets, he has to find the Offal Court where Tom lives. He keeps walking until he bumps into a drunkard which turns out to be John Canty – Tom’s father. As John thinks that Edward is Tom, he abuses the prince like he always treats Tom.

When Edward succeeds in escaping from John and meets Miles Hendon, he continues his journey. He even gets imprisoned. But during this hard time, Miles is always by Edward’s side to help and protect him. Miles’s kindness makes Edward want to make Miles an earl when he returns to the castle. Edward and Miles’s journey continues until the coronation day. Miles helps Edward to go back to the castle and stops the ceremony before Tom is officially crowned as the king.

After he returns to the castle and regains his title as the Prince, Edward proves himself that he is truly the prince by showing the location of The Great Seal of England. All of the people present believe that Edward is indeed the real prince. Tom and Edward then switch back their roles and Edward is crowned as King Edward VI of England. The way he reigns in England is

affected by the series of journeys he has been through. According to history, he became a humble and merciful king until the day he died not long after he became a king.

‘Yes, King Edward VI lived only a few years, poor boy, but he lived them worthily.’ (Twain, 1882, p. 401).

4.1.2. Minor Characters

Minor characters are the opposite of major characters, they are created by the authors to support the course of the story. Since there is no further development for these minor characters, they are considered as flat characters.

In *The Prince and the Pauper*, there are a few characters that can be categorized as minor characters. Twain uses direct characterizations to describe his minor characters.

a. John Canty

John Canty is Tom’s father. He is a thief. Living in poverty makes him abusive to his children. He forces them to beg, even steal to give him money. He also beats his wife and children (Twain, 1882, p. 28). Throughout the story, John is constantly portrayed as a bad guy. He is abusive towards Edward, because he thought Edward was his son. Therefore, John Canty is a flat character. The portrayal of John Canty as a bad guy can be seen from the quotations below,

‘Suddenly a great drunken ruffian collared him and said ... ‘ ;

‘With this he dragged the frantic and struggling prince away, and disappeared up a front court followed by a delighted and noisy swarm of human vermin.’ (p. 53)

‘... until John Canty lost what little patience was left in him, and raised his oaken cudgel in a sudden fury over the prince’s head. ...’
(p. 109)

b. Gammer Canty

Gammer Canty is John Canty’s mother and Tom Canty’s grandmother. Like his son, she is also abusive towards Tom. Gammer Canty is described as an alcoholic, as stated in the book “They got drunk whenever they could;” and is a beggar (Twain, 1882, p. 28). She only appears in the beginning of the story, so she had no other development throughout the story and is considered as a flat character.

c. Mrs. Canty

Mrs. Canty is John Canty’s wife. She is a caring and loving mother. She always calms her son whenever he is being abused by her husband and mother-in-law (Twain, 1882, p. 29). Twain writes that Mrs. Canty is good-hearted and profoundly ignorant. And in the novel, there is this certain line that defines Mrs. Canty’s traits.

‘..... They were good-hearted girls, unclean, clothed in rags, and profoundly ignorant. Their mother was like them.’ (Twain, 1882, p. 28)

Twain portrays her as a loving and caring mom. The nights when Tom does not get any food – when John and Gammer got mad with Tom because he came home empty handed – she would give her son some scraps or crusts that she was able to save by starving herself. Of course this was done secretly or else her husband would get mad at her. For her, her children are her priority. There is no further development of Mrs. Canty’s character. That makes Mrs. Canty considered as a flat character.

d. Bet and Nan

Bet and Nan are Tom Canty’s sisters. They were fifteen years old twins. In the story, they are described as good-hearted girls, but unclean, clothed in rags, and profoundly ignorant.

‘Bet and Nan were fifteen years old – twins. They were good-hearted girls, unclean, clothed in rags, and profoundly ignorant. Their mother was like them.’ (p. 28)

Bet and Nan also appear only in the beginning of the story and no other development were found. Bet and Nan are flat characters.

e. Miles Hendon

Miles Hendon, a soldier that just returned from the war. He is described as a tall, trim-built, and muscular, which can be seen from this quotation,

‘The speaker was a sort of Don Caesar de Bazan in dress, aspect, and bearing. He was tall, trim-built, muscular.’ (p. 126)

Miles meets Edward when he was in disguise as Tom. Edward actually tells Miles about his identity, but Miles did not believe him (p. 138). Although he does not believe the prince, he plays along with him.

Miles appears more frequently than other minor characters, but it is not enough to consider him as the major character of this novel. Moreover, Twain did not develop this character’s traits. Therefore, Miles is also a flat character.

