

Characterization Of The Main Character In The Movie 12 Angry Man

**Jonathan Marbun¹, Martina Girsang², Justin Hubert Butar-Butar³, Reja Ananda Sembiring⁴,
Muhammad Nur Hadi⁵**

^{1,2,3,4,5}Faculty of Letters, University of Methodist Indonesia

Email : ¹jonathanmarbunaja@gmail.com, ²martinagirsang235@gmail.com,

³butarbutarjustin@gmail.com, ⁴rejasembiring41@gmail.com, ⁵nhadi5282@gmail.com

*Corresponding Author

Received : 23 February 2025, Revised : 23 March 2025, Accepted : 24 April 2025

ABSTRACT

The research described character of 12 angry man movie directed by Sidney Lumen adapted from teleplay by Reginald Rose,. The purpose of this research was to analyze the psychological theory benefits of the main character such as unconscious mind, character analysis, symbolism also to find the dominant data of the main character's personality. In the writing of this research, the researcher used qualitative research method. The researcher used the theory of Freud's theories to analyze the psychological theory. The researcher collected the data from 12 Angry Men movie as a primary data. Then for the secondary data sources from books, internet, journal, that is relevance to strengthen the argument. The data collection in this research was done by watching movie and took notes before did the analysis from dialogue, situation that delivered in the movie which becomes the main data of this research. In result of this research, the researcher found that the main character, Henry Fonda as a Mr. Davis, depicted has individual and social attitudes.

Keywords: Character, Movie, Henry Fonda, Psychological Theory, 12 Angry Men

1. Introduction

Literary work is representation of human life which is written with a perfect language. It is not a science but a language art. Literary work is representation of human life which is written with a perfect language. Literary as related to or characteristic of literature, involving artistic or intellectual writing that aims to evoke aesthetic and emotional responses (M.H. Abrams,1957). Literary works are those that stand the test of time, offering deep insight into human nature and society (T.S. Eliot,1920s). Literature as an organized structure of language that transcends mere communication to engage with cultural and archetypal meaning (Northrop Frye 1957). Literary works are distinguished by their use of language in a highly structured, imaginative, and sometimes self-conscious way, often engaging with deeper cultural and social meanings (Terry Eagleton ,1983). Literary is a term that signifies writing valued for its formal qualities and the interpretive engagement it demands, rather than merely its informational content (Jonathan Culler,1997). Drama is a literary genre characterized by its representation of fictional or non-fictional events through dialogue and performance. It is intended to be performed by actors in front of an audience, making it distinct from other literary forms such as prose or poetry. Drama is the imitation of an action ('mimesis') through direct performance, characterized by plot, character, thought, diction, melody, and spectacle, aiming to evoke catharsis in the audience (Aristotle). Drama is a form of storytelling that conveys meaning through action and dialogue, often reflecting human experiences in a structured way (Martin Esslin,1968). Drama is a literary and performance art that combines spoken language with action to engage the audience emotionally and intellectually (J.L. Styan, 1975). Drama is a mode of fictional representation that involves storytelling through dialogue and action, typically performed in a theater, on television, or in film. It encompasses a wide range of forms, including plays, operas, and television drama, the characteristics drama is

dialogue, performance, Conflict and types of drama is tragedy, comedy, farce, melodrama, musical drama. There are elements that make a story be completed in drama such as plot, character, thought, diction, speccatle, and song (Aristotelian). Character has an important role in building a fictional story, it refers to the person, the story's actor. Character is distinguished from characterization. Character is the product of characterization that is to they have been made in particular way. Character is that which reveals moral purpose, showing what kind of things a person chooses or avoids (Aristotle). A character is not an artificial construct but a being with strong motivation, contradictions, and a driving need that defines their actions in the story (Lajos Egri, 1946). A character is a paradigm of traits assigned to an actor in a narrative, constructed through description, action, and dialogue (Seymour Chatman ,1978) Characterization is the process of providing information about the character itself. It is the creation of a fictitious character.

A definition of movie stated by Hornby (1995: 434) defined film is a story, etc. recorded as a set of moving pictures to be shown on television or at the cinema. As stated in Microsoft Encarta 2008, movie or film is a series of images that are projected onto screen to create the illusion of motion. Motion pictures also called movies, films, or the cinema are one of the most popular forms of entertainment, enabling people to bring themselves in an imaginary world (Microsoft Encarta: 2008). While Coulson (1978: 622) states that film or movie is story, incident, etc. recorded on film on moving pictures. Furthermore, Lorimer (1995: 506) states that films can record culture, and they can treat social or political issues and other aspects of societies to capture relationship difficult to be communicated by other means.

The struggle in the movie entitled *12 Angry Men* The movie tells the professional Argument of Mr. Davis as one of the jurors in this movie. The juror's discussion about a murder case that involving a boy who was accused killed his dad. The jurors debate whether he was guilty or not and they will decide the child's life. All the jurors say the child is guilty and must be sentenced to death, but Mr. Davis wants to fight for justice, Sidney Lumet directed this movie in 1957

This research focused on the characterization and the struggle of Mr. Davis, the main character in the movie. The writer uses Freud's theory to analyze the struggles, such as analysis of the play, fight for justice, Determining a Defendant Innocent, while uses psychological theory by Freud's to analyze Mr. Davis character. The writer chose this topic because the storyline in this movie has the potential to inspire others. People who have seen this movie believe that Mr. Davis fights for justice. The main character in the movie illustrates it. The objectives of the study are: to find out the truth in *12 Angry Men* and to know how Mr. Davis as the main character portrayed in *12 Angry Men*

2. Research Method

In this study, the writer uses descriptive qualitative method as a method for researching. Qualitative describe method is a description data analysis in literary works through texts, sentences, words and paragraphs. In this study, the writer found some information to analyze data to interpret the data through available facts, also through theory from expert. Descriptive qualitative method is type of method in research that is described in words form or picture, if necessary, not the numeral. This method aims to describe the character of Mr. Davis as the main character in *12 Angry Men*. The source of data in this study is a movie's entitled *12 Angry Men*, an American crime-drama film directed by Sidney Lumet in 1957. The writer additionally looked for information and knowledge on the internet to study from a journal that might support the data, as well as books in the library and the thesis that the writer used to support the research topic.

3. Result and Discussion

The Analysis of The Play

this film is about *twelve* men in charge of deciding whether or not an 18year old Hispanic boy is guilty of he was murdering of his father. The film starts in the courtroom with the judge stating that it's the juror's duty to "*sit down and separate the facts from the fancy.*" The jury retires to discuss the seemingly unanimous verdict of **guilty**. After the first ballot, all vote guilty all but one: Juror #8, our *main character* one might say. Juror #8 votes not guilty strictly because he isn't sure what exactly happened with trus boy he not sure that's all it takes. After he expresses his desire for discussion, Juror #8 slowly convinces more and more of the jury to hear his side of the arguments, swaying them to believe the boy is **not guilty** as the film progresses due in large part to reasonable doubt.

In the story, there are 12 jurors as justice to determine a young man guilty or innocent in the murder case of his father and their name are called juror one until juror twelve. In the Mr. Davis's arguments, juror eight is the first person to accuse the defendant not guilty while the other jurors accused guilty. In order to reveal the character, this is the first thing that Mr. Davis does. Prior to making a conclusion, it is crucial to comprehend that thought is necessary. In order to make any decisions, one must first thoroughly evaluate the problem, collect information, weigh the facts, and then continue with the appropriate course of action. Even if the play's protagonist is unaware of the actual crime, his actions and efforts serve as a means of making decisions. He won't modify his mind just because other jurors have different opinions.

It takes consideration and emotion for Mr. Davis to vote for someone who is guilty or innocent. He thinks this can demonstrate that the youngster did not kill his father. Mr. Davis shared his thoughts on the event's history, it can be interpreted as the discourse that follows and the other jurors paid close attention to what he had to say. This demonstrates how the actual events differed from the accounts of the witnesses. The youngster was given a fair trial because of Mr. Davis's beliefs and principles.

Mr. Davis demanded that other jurors look into the evidence in this particular instance. in this instance. Mr. Davis repeatedly requests a new vote to gauge the jurors' level of confidence in his justifications. He was able to demonstrate his efforts in evaluating the case that was assigned to them in this way. The author of this study discloses Mr. Davis's purpose in the movie. He uses the accomplishment of his objective to spare the defendant from the death penalty as one way to support his claims. Concern for the defendant led to this action. Mr. Davis empathizes with the defendant since he lives in an uninhabitable residential area. He voted against the defendant because of this.

Mr. Davis makes numerous attempts to prove the defendant's innocence. Releasing the defendant from the death penalty is his first priority. As was previously mentioned in relation to the evidence gathered in this murder case, it is crucial to thoroughly examine and evaluate the evidence in accordance with the law before finding someone guilty or innocent. In most homicide instances, it is indisputable and becomes a significant issue. It will be a major issue and hurt multiple parties if the action is incorrect, like choosing a suspect. As a result, He was able to defend himself in this instance. Furthermore, he had no second thoughts about his choice.

The authors provide comprehensive coverage on the use of psychologists' testimony and evidence in a range of legal circumstances. They are a renowned group of psychologists and legal specialists. From concerns about its acceptance to its impact on the jury's verdict, they examine the problems surrounding it. Witnesses' reactions can undoubtedly be influenced by the police's method of gathering evidence in eyewitness instances. Mr. Davis also demonstrated this case and provided an explanation for how the defendant would have stabbed his father in the chest. Mr. Davis believes that because the defendant's father was taller than him, he could not have murdered him by stabbing him from head to toe. The

discourse that follows serves as evidence for this. The good news is that Mr. Davis never forced the other jurors to vote not guilty; instead, they all did so voluntarily once all pertinent questions had been answered.

When considering the issue from his point of view, it is evident that the Mr. Davis is a very bright and considerate guy. He stands for justice because he thought everyone should be given an equal opportunity to be tried. It demonstrates the he wisdom. Many people lack the courage to confront issues and situations in which they hold a solitary opinion. To those who share their viewpoint, it most likely alters their choice. With the exception of the Mr. Davis play's, who is able to take a chance because of his gentlemen, it is crucial that the case be presented clearly. The anecdote demonstrates the thoughtful person's manner of thinking and acting. A person's thoughtfulness is demonstrated by the way their character is displayed, including by slowing down or being cautious, probing further, demonstrating empathy, acting appropriately, finding the truth.

Fight for justice

Fight is not talk about violence and not talk about who is true and wrong, this is one of the facts of related life people can change the wrong argument to the truth agrument, in the other case fight in argument is crusial. Being from we born people always make mistakes but it is the ways how we explain that what we make. Sometimes some people are not fight for the truth but fot the personal benefits .Mr Davis uses all his abilities to uncover all these crimes. In this case, Davis is trying to find evidence of what he already knows, justice must exist even though he is only facing 12 other jurors alone. The other 11 jurors found the boy guilty of capital murder with strong evidence, but Davis differed in his argument, saying otherwise. He related the child's life and the treatment he received from the father. Davis doesn't think this child should be sentenced to death. If 12 jurors find him guilty of murder he will be sentenced to death and if he is not guilty then he will be free, but it is not that easy because from the evidence and 11 jurors he will definitely be sentenced to death here davis is trying to get the child released

Mr, Davis is an inspiring juror applies the job that is is reffered " I'm not sure but maybe" said to all the jurors. Every jurors in the room trying to blame the boy. Mr. Davis has a diffrent arguments to look the case how to said the truth arguments, who is not change his arguments eventhough he still confused. The case is the beginning of the problem in this movie, where every jurors have different arguments. His arguments still ambiguous but he's not direct to prove his argument it's right but he listen to all juror's arguments. From his arguments, Mr. Davis as the differentiator in the discussion to want to say Mr. Davis was not force directly with his arguments to make all juror's change their arguments but he just want all the jurors look this case from the point of his view.

Determining a Defendant Innocent

Determine a defendant to electric chair, All jurors must vote by presenting and gathering the evidence in order to decide who should be put in an electric chair. In addition, eleven jurors disagreed with the viewpoint expressed by jury eight. This indicates that juror eight upholds his position in that instance. A difficult challenge for Mr. Davis to convince another juror to listen to his argument. He needs to be strong to bring them into one opinion through reasonable doubt. This reasonable doubt is found in their argument and comes from their mind. This asserts that there is a possibility of determining a fact. Mr. Davis believes that the evidence given by witnesses is provable. He assumed that reasonable doubts were true and logical. He constantly makes an effort to maintain his argument by clarifying any ideas that are expressed by them and prove reasonable doubt. Mr. Davis believes that he is continuously elaborating on the available information in order to accomplish the goal. The successful persuasion of the other jurors to find the defendant not guilty can be attributed to Mr. Davis. The results of the re-voting make it clear that the other judges themselves altered

their ballots, Mr. Davis's element of compulsion. Only juror three persisted in defending his decision that the defendant was guilty after juror eight repeatedly asked for a new vote. The main basis for the argument is that juror three consistently rejects reasonable doubts and rejects Mr. Davis's justification for the evidence's clarity.

Mr. Davis efforts must be meticulously carried out, though, because of the objectives that must be met. He attempted to persuade juror three by presenting the facts in a way that stabbed the victim in the chest, despite the fact that the vote was already eleven to one. In essence, this defendant was a motherless individual from a low-income household who lived in a slum. The protagonist and other characters are tasked with deciding whether the defendant is guilty or innocent in the situations they encounter. The protagonist, often referred to as juror eight, is the first character to select not guilty. He didn't choose not guilty because he thought the defendant wasn't guilty. He did, however, want the gathered material to be unambiguous and verifiable.

Effective Communication

Mr. Davis is an effective communicator, he is a consistent problem solver. Mr. Davis Active Listening shows the importance of actively listening to each judge's perspective, How Mr. Davis as the main character presented in 12 Angry Man which creates an environment of mutual respect and understanding without cornering each other, Mr. Davis Maintaining mutual respectful communication is essential for judges to express their thoughts and emotions effectively without fuss, and he can also be a Team Dialogue, developing team dialogue through listening and asking questions can lead to miscommunication and arguments if not used effectively and fairly.

Empathy

Empathy One strategy to improve communication in diverse groups or organizations that can produce the best decisions is empathy. Mr. Davis asked the panel to discuss the problem first in order to understand and clarify the conclusions that need to be made, in this way the facts that actually happened in the film will be revealed one by one and find out who the real perpetrator.

Solid Hero

A man who cares about justice and is prepared to defy the majority in order to uphold his moral convictions is Mr. Davis. He begins somewhat quietly, so at first we're not really clear what his deal is. Raising my hand and sending a boy to die without first discussing it is not something I do easily. At this early stage, it appears like he only wants to speak before a guilty verdict is rendered, as a matter of fact, the other jurors quickly begin pressing Mr. Davis to return a guilty decision. Mr. Davis as The Character Analysis of the Eighth Juror Prior to Next The protagonist of the play, the eighth juror, is the first and most dependable voice of compassion and reason in the jury room. When all of the other jurors vote to convict the youngster of murder at the beginning of the play, the eighth juror is the only one who disagrees. The eighth juror battles with serious uncertainty and is extremely critical of the prosecution's case because he feels that they have produced an overly certain account of events, even though he does not necessarily believe that the youngster is innocent.

This contradicts his worldview, which holds that uncertainty and doubt are a common part of existence. While many of the other jurors were convinced by the prosecution's version of events and express sure that the boy is guilty, the 8th Juror alone believes the case merits some cautious, methodical reexamination characteristic of the job which the jury was given. The eighth juror successfully persuades the other jurors that the youngster should be acquitted due to reasonable doubt during the play's two acts. In order to accomplish this, the eighth juror must also make the other jurors aware of their own prejudices and private

problems that can obstruct rational thought and evaluation. He battles fiercely with the third juror, who shares his views on race and masculinity as well as his past with his son.

Smart

To be honest, Mr. Davis is most likely the most intelligent person in the jury room. He quickly responds in response to Juror 2's statement that no one could demonstrate the defendant didn't commit murder. The prosecution bears the burden of proof. It is not necessary for the defendant to speak. The Constitution states as much. The Fifth Amendment. You're familiar with it. Mr. Davis never truly succeeds in securing a Not Guilty finding despite all of his cunning arguments until he presents the other men with some convincing proof. Mr. Davis takes a knife that looks precisely like the murder weapon out of his pocket and wedges it into the table, setting up one of the most dramatic scenes in the film. The price was two bucks. We already know that Mr. Davis has a slight penchant for the dramatic, on top of everything else we know about him. However, if he wasn't prepared to take chances and put himself out there, none of these things would help him gain favor with the other jurors.

When he declares early in the film, he takes the greatest risk of all, And Mr. Davis also took a house plan which included his deductions, Davis explained it in detail and also demonstrated the movements, immediately the 11 other judges were confused and it was a waste of time because if they chose correctly then the meeting would have ended long ago. It was really hot in the room. Moreover, Juror 3 felt that Juror 8 was explaining things he didn't understand or didn't care. Juror 3 almost got into a fight with Davis. Davis's words really made him angry. Davis says juror 3 doesn't want to know the facts and it all ended with a long drama along with deductions. 1 room was full of emotions. With his intelligence, Mr. Davis made all the jurors vote not guilty for the child. They all voted not guilty and only 1 remained, namely Juror 3. He felt angry because as Juror 8 presented his arguments, there was definitely 1 juror who voted not guilty. Until the end, he also voted not guilty.

Critical Thinking of The Character

It's time for Mr. Davis to launch an offensive and target the jurors whose biases keep them from altering their minds after he has succeeded in persuading a few of them. In one instance, by rendering a guilty decision, he essentially accuses Juror 3 of intending to kill the defendant in cold blood. His strategy is successful because Mr. Davis finally agitates Juror 3 to the point where Juror 3 tries to attack him and even threatens to murder him. Mr. Davis responds coolly to all of this in which demonstrates that, while it is true that we shouldn't always believe individuals when they exaggerate, it also demonstrates that Mr. Davis is capable of standing up to almost anything if he believes his morals are being compromised.

Acknowledgments

The researcher expressed gratitude to Adam, Surya, Samsoe, God, the heavenly parent, and Jesus Christ. And many thanks to our lecturer and friends who generously shared their thoughts, offered guidance and assisted in completing this study.

4. Conclusion

Based on the data theory such as the prove to accept fact of cases, to achieve a truth, and to fight for justice. The most prominent prove is the prove to achieve a justice for so many hurdles and obstacles. He finally indicate the justice off the case with amazing Deduction. Mr. Davis as juror 8 faced many things to prove the child innocent or to get justice. applied for a Deduction with so many explain till the others jurors choose that child unguilty. Working with his Deduction with the fact what he got, his proving was good he indicate steps how he make fabulous Deduction he used all of stuff begin with knife Map, sound of train he is really incredible, one by one all the Couriers began to vote unguilty.

The second question analyzes the characteristic of Mr. Davis as jurors 8 in the movie's 12 angry men. The writer explain about characterization and finds that confidence, smart, never give up, hard worker, workaholic are the characteristics of Davis. The most prominent

characteristic is hard-worker. That things make Davis succeed in doing difficult assignments from all jurors to made The child unguilty. The characteristic lead him to faced his proving and achieve his argument.

References

- Anggraeni, P., Mujiyanto, J., & Sofwan, A. (2018). The implementation of transposition translation procedures in english-indonesian translation of epic movie subtitle. In *ELT Forum: Journal of English Language Teaching* (Vol. 7, No. 2, pp. 1-7).
- Apriesa, I. D. G. F. A. (2022). *An Analysis Of Illocutionary Acts Found In After Movie* (Doctoral dissertation, Universitas Mahasaraswati Denpasar).
- Brown, A. (2012). Rawls, Buchanan, and the legal doctrine of legitimate expectations. *Social Theory and Practice*, 38(4), 617-644.
- Dwiwana, M., & Amaniarsih, D. S. (2020). Improving Students'writing Achievement In Narrative Text Through Animation Movie At The First Grade Of Smks Bm Sinar Husni. *Melt Journal*, 5(2), 161-174.
- Lumet, S. (2013). Sidney Lumet. *The Fugitive Kind*.
- Steve Esomba, D. (2013). *Moving Cameras and Living Movies*. Lulu. com