

Visualization Analysis of Sung Jin-Woo's Character in Solo Leveling Comics

N.A. Dzakhir¹, S.I.P. Persada²

Departemen Desain Komunikasi Visual, Universitas Komputer Indonesia, Indonesia

¹e-mail: 151920119.naufal@mahasiswa.unikom.ac.id, ²satria.indrapraja@email.unikom.ac.id

Abstract. Sung Jin-Woo's character, Solo Leveling Comics, is a web adaptation of a digital comic novel with an action fantasy genre created by comic artists named Chugong, H-goong and KI Soryeong. Solo Leveling was published in the form of a digital web novel, but as its popularity increased, Solo Leveling was adapted into a manhwa. Solo Leveling features a past storyline starting 10 years before the plot and the main character begins. At that time, there were random appearances of gates or portals all over the world. This gate represents a portal that connects the human world and the monster world. Explicitly the character Sung Jin-Woo displays illustrations of various scenes of violence such as beating various characters or stabbing other characters. This character visualization also seems to represent the characters of Sasuke and Naruto as one. The purpose of this study is to find out how to visualize the character Sung Jin-Woo in comics. The research method used in this study uses a descriptive-qualitative method of vehicle transfer analysis. Data sourced from literature studies. The results of this study show that there is a clear and varied development of the main character, namely Sung Jin-Woo, the comic artist provides narrative development to the main character in a clear and varied manner, by making variations, additions, simplifications, and subtractions that are influenced by the background of the storyline. without changing the main ideas and references..

1. Introduction

Sung Jinwoo (성진우) is the main protagonist or main character in the comic novel of Solo Leveling. In the beginning, it was said that there was an E-Rank Hunter who was quite famous for being weak among lower-class Hunters. This Hunter got a lifetime opportunity or blessing when he was selected by the System Player, this also gave him unique abilities and unlimited strength. Because of that, by taking advantage of the opportunities offered by the System, Sung Jinwoo gained unlimited power and became the greatest Hunter of all time and even became the King of Shadow.

Sung Jinwoo lived as a young man of fairly ordinary appearance who was thinner in height, looked weaker, and had strength that was quite weak from Hunters though still stronger than most normal people in general. After he Reawakened to a Player, Sun Jinwoo turned into a man with a body weaker than ordinary people in general and then he became a thin man with a physique that could continue to develop properly with time, because the System gave assistance to each of its players to grow and develop. stronger than before. After everything passed, he turned into a tall and handsome young man who was able to attract the

people in his environment, especially most women. In the beginning, before the change, he was quite short of funds after returning to his Reawakening, but because of the help of the System, he is entitled to a System Shop facility that gives Special access to Sung Jinwoo alone and part of the money he collects is given to his family and buys personal needs such as clothes he wears a black color that matches the characteristics and abilities he has after Reawakening.

Sung Jinwoo had a humble personality who cared deeply for his family and had a thirst for power. As a result, he is very close to his family and continually strives to grow stronger than before. Sung Jinwoo is also a Hunter who has a cold personality and is not arrogant compared to other Hunter Players who only thirst for power, money, and are concerned with themselves.



Figure 1. Solo Leveling : Sung Jin Woo

Source: <https://gamerant.com/solo-leveling-sung-jin-woo-best-abilities/>

Comic books are an art form, in which images and text are united around a work of fiction, and are sequential (Eisner, 1985)

But behind his strength and skills as a Hunter, Sung Jinwoo is the eldest son of Sung Il-Hwan and Park Kyung-Hye and is the older brother of Sung Jin-Ah. His own father worked as a firefighter and got Reawakening then he started his journey into the Dungeon as a livelihood but after that he disappeared without a trace. On top of that Sung Jinwoo's mother suffered from Eternal Sleep and Sung Jinwoo was forced to work in the Dungeon to pay hospital bills and take care of his younger sister. However, because he was the weakest E-Rank Hunter in the world, he always experienced death more than anyone else as a Hunter Player in various situations and most of them were unarmed or injured in Dungeons.

Therefore this study aims to find out more about the visualization of Sung Jinwoo's character and provide life values for people who are still alive even though they have many shortcomings in themselves and their lives. Sung Jinwoo's character also gives a lot of meaning and motivation to every character that is visualized, not least he always tries to touch the hearts of every reader with his personality and hard work. The importance of conducting this research is to make people feel that apart from fictional stories they also have to survive and work hard in their lives for whatever reason.

According to Su and Zhao (2012), character design in general means designing human characters or those that resemble humans with the special uniqueness of these characters. The character process is

assessed from various aspects, namely development, physiology, sociology, psychology of the character. In general, the characters included in the study show weak aspects or concepts that are not yet strong. So that researchers can decide to make character designs that can bring out several aspects in terms of development, physiology, sociology, and psychology. The result of examining this visual character is to present a visualization of the style of the manhwa character Sung Jin-Woo.

According to Rishna Maulina Pratama (2021) Comics are stories that are depicted with pictures and serve to entertain readers, from children to adults. Because of this, comic companies in various parts of the world are tempted to create comic works that are in demand by consumers, one of which is creating characters that consumers can accept and be accepted by readers. The Kakao Company created the character Sung Jin-Woo in a digital comic series on Webtoon with the title Solo Leveling. How the visualization of Sung Jinwoo's character on this platform becomes a focus of research studies. Hiroyosi Tsukamoto's Manga Matrix Theory was applied to this research method to visualize character designs through the stages of the Manga Matrix, namely Form, Costume and Personality (Zakaria, 2021). The results of this study will also show the complete human body shape, with a full body but athletic and handsome face. This character was created using the manhwa style, which is a typical South Korean comic. Sung Jin-Woo's costume also shows a glamorous or stylish side, emphasizing a strong, athletic, handsome and fashionable young man. Meanwhile, in terms of personality, this character is emotionally portrayed as a young man who never gives up, is patient, compassionate, sadistic and always faces existing fears.

Comics according to M.S. Gumelar (2011: 7) Comics are a sequence of images that are well laid out according to the author's goals and philosophy, because this makes the story messages in comics easy to convey. Comics have a function as a medium for communicating images and understanding through images. In the design review itself there are four stages in reviewing, namely: the Descriptive Stage which only describes the elements, the Formal Analysis stage which discusses how the basic elements in a work are arranged into a visual display, the interpretation stage is interpreting the meaning of a work, and the fourth is the evaluation stage, namely integrating the work with the environment or the design made by the designer.

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2. Method

The approach used in this research is qualitative. The analysis used is content or content analysis, aimed at describing the characteristics of the message through character visualization which is reflected in various information, visual style, character emotional style, style for example, aural and visual [2]. In this study, content analysis is principally used to open and explain carefully how the elements contained in visual characters are revealed in a digital comic and become visual characteristics and become a unique character. According to Ida [3] in the qualitative content analysis stage, researchers interact with documented research objects, so that they can be placed in the right context for analysis.

2.1. Object of research

This research discusses the style of visual characteristics told in a digital comic and seeks a meaning in these characters in detail to encourage reading and influence readers to understand themselves and strive for

themselves and those they love.

2.2. Character Analysis

In this study, we will analyze the visualization of Sung Jin-Woo's character by means of literacy studies. Finding the point of view of the character Sung Jin-Woo is the main discussion in this research object and also looking for any visualizations used on character objects.

2.3. Research Stages

The stages of the research include implementation steps from start to finish, while the steps are as follows:

2.3.1. Preliminary studies

At this stage a literacy study was carried out. Literacy studies were carried out to find information about the visual character of Sung Jin-Woo and study the objects being analyzed in detail.

2.3.2. Formulation of the problem

In the next stage, the formulation of the problems that occur in the object of research is carried out as well as formulating research objectives. The formulation of the problem was obtained during a literature study and the results of the data were filled out by the general public or manhwa connoisseurs' questionnaires. This result is also a formulation of the problem as well as a goal as an object of research.

2.3.3. Data source

At the data source stage is by collecting the data needed to solve the problem in the previous stage. Data collected through internet media such as Youtube, Pinterest, Wikipedia, Blog Wiki Fandom Solo Leveling and other information media.

2.3.4. Analysis and Conclusion

At this stage an analysis is carried out regarding the data that we have collected in various internet media and processing the data from the previous stage followed by conclusions on the results of the research that has been carried out based on the results of data processing. The data obtained from the previous stage is expected to produce an accurate visualization analysis and support the hypothesis of the problem under study. The method used is descriptive qualitative by examining the design of Sung Jin-Woo's character on the visual design elements of his character.

3. Results and Discussion

Sung Jin-Woo is the main protagonist in the comic series Solo Leveling with the nickname "Jin" Sung Jin-Woo is known for his handsome and charismatic face. Sung Jin-Woo is a young man who is described as the strongest man in Solo Leveling. Sung Jin-Woo is depicted with a charismatic face who has hair like a South Korean Boyband with black and short hair. The following are the stages of analysis according to the Design Review.

A. Descriptive Stage

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Figure 2. Solo Leveling : Sung Jin Woo

Source: <https://id.pinterest.com/pin/595038169522979611/>

on the Solo Leveling comic by Chugong, H-goon KI, Soryeong which was also illustrated by JANG Seong-rak (REDICE STUDIO), Redice Studio. At the descriptive stage in this study, the character analysis of Sung Jin-Woo was described at first as a young man who was weak and did not know how to fight, he also could only put his life on his co-workers, after the tragedy that befell Sung Jin-Woo while in the Dungeon, he turn into a stronger person to be able to face monsters. Sung Jin-Woo is described as a brave and unyielding young man apart from his nature. Sung Jin-Woo is depicted as a young man with clean white skin, sharp eyes and an athletic body. slim cheekbones, on the face there are narrow eyes, a slender nose, thin lips, and hair that is visualized like a Korean Boyband.

The clothing section that Sung Jin-Woo uses is a jet black jacket along with his t-shirt, trousers and casual shoes.

B. Analysis Stage

In research conducted by Devi Kurniawati Homan (2014) explained that the resulting visual characters themselves can interact with viewers through visual meaning. At this stage of the research, Sung Jin-Woo is described as a young man who attracts the attention of many people, this can be seen from his posture and handsomeness when people look at him, besides that the clothes he wears also show how he is firm and cold. Sung Jiin-Woo always wears dark clothes which depicts someone who is truly mysterious and strong. Thus, the characteristics and costumes of the characters are very closely related to the characters in the general viewpoint. According to V. Naniek Risnawati (2014) How to dress and make up, the type and color of clothes worn, the way of speaking and visible behavior that reflects a person's personality.

According to Rionaldi Ali (2016) Facial expressions can convey what is on other people's minds about what we see, that we know emotions through their facial expressions.

The portrayal of the character Sung Jin-Woo introduces cold and indifferent facial expressions so that readers can accept that he portrays a man who is truly mysterious and has many surprises. Facial expressions also differ for each gender, male or female. In male characters, they tend to be described as someone who is strong, authoritative, and unyielding. Making a comic character requires strengthening the storyline and adding to the excitement of readers and connoisseurs, so it is necessary to make facial expressions or body shapes that can describe the character's role.

Sung Jin-Woo in the Solo Leveling comic is shown visually with characteristics that are full of responsibility, compassion, very strong, and sadistic in killing monsters. Some of the properties mentioned are shown as follows:



Figure 3. Solo Leveling : Sung Jin Woo

Source: <https://komikzoid.xyz/manga/666666-solo-leveling>

Figure 3 shows a form of affection and responsibility to his family. This time, Sung Jin-Woo is visualized as an older brother in general who is responsible for giving affection and a sense of responsibility to his

younger siblings and mother, this trait describes a gentleman and masculinity, according to Bagusster, a gentleman. Some of the properties mentioned are shown as follows:

Syariffudin Aliansyah (2019) is to be a leader, to be a woman's dream, to look modern, elegant, and able to take care of the body, and to be enterprising according to Bagus Syariffudin Aliansyah (2019) who quotes from Nilan, Donaldson, and Howson (2007) which states that masculinity puts responsible nature, being a role model in the family, and being a wise leader. Figure 3 also shows how Sung Jin-Woo is someone who is strong in terms of strength and physique. Besides that, his skill that can summon shadow monsters also indicates that he is a feared figure in Solo Leveling comics.



Figure 4. Solo Leveling : Sung Jin Woo

Source: <https://komikzoid.xyz/manga/666666-solo-leveling>

In figure 4 tells that before he was crowned as a rank S player in South Korea he was first tested for his strength by the Guild Masters in that country, and everyone was surprised at the results they received that Sung Jin-Woo could summon or summon shadow creatures because there had never been a player who could summon shadow creatures before. According to Jeko I.R (2015) Summon comes from a word which means 'to call'. The summon function is to summon these creatures to be able to compete to help the characters win the battle against tough enemies on the battlefield.



Figure 5. Solo Leveling : Sung Jin Woo

Source: <https://komikzoid.xyz/manga/666666-solo-leveling>

It is clear in Figure 5 that there is a strong character trying to challenge Sung Jin-Woo's strength. In the scene, a character attacks first and can be easily avoided by Sung Jin-Woo. Besides Sung Jin-Woo having great strength, he also has the agility in fighting 1 vs 1 with other players.

Based on the explanation of the three images above, namely compassionate, mysterious power, and above average agility, Sung Jin-Woo is a protagonist who is ideal to tell and provide a differentiator for the connoisseurs or readers.

C. Interpretation Stage

The comic entitled Solo Leveling takes a second person point of view where this story tells of a hunter who is the weakest among other hunters in that country. The storyline in this comic goes back and forth, where at the beginning of the introduction of Sung Jin-Woo it is told that a weak young man is struggling to pay for his younger brother's schooling and his mother's care in the hospital alone. At first he entered the dungeon with the other hunters, as usual he was just a burden for the hunters because he didn't have special skills or strong strength like other hunters. At the end of the story he and other hunters find a large room in which there are statues like during the kingdom, when the other hunters were about to complete the dungeon suddenly the door to the room was closed for no reason. According to Ach. Mu'afi (2017) Dungeon is a cave / underground / monster headquarters, where monsters are killed to level up, complete quests or get items for in-game purposes.



Figure 6. Solo Leveling : Sung Jin Woo

Source: <https://komikzoid.xyz/manga/666666-solo-leveling>

In figure 6 you can see a dungeon that is quite difficult to pass and also Sung Jin-Woo is very weak to face the top level dungeons. It was visualized that several hunters including Sung Jin-Woo were very afraid of the death that happened.



Figure 7. Solo Leveling : Sung Jin Woo

Source: <https://komikzoid.xyz/manga/666666-solo-leveling>

In figure 7 it is visualized that SungJin-Woo sacrificed for his friends because he was the weakest character at that time. Sung Jin-Woo after sacrificing and getting his awakening he has a fairly high warrior character, patient, unyielding, and compassionate. Sung Jin-Woo is described as a very strong figure after his second awakening and was able to attract many hunters to recruit him. With his handsome appearance he is also able to attract a lot of interest from women and the media to glance at him. Her mysterious nature also invites many people to glance at her further than when she still had a short and thin body.

D. Evaluation Stage

At this evaluation stage, the character from Solo Leveling, namely Sung Jin-Woo, will be compared with similar characters from the "Solo Max Level Newbie" series. In this series there is a character named Jinhyuk who has several similarities with the character Sung Jin-Woo. There is a similarity in the visualization that is applied to Jinhyuk's character from the Solo Max Level Newbie series, namely from the visualization of the shape of the face, hair, character traits and also the weapons used.



Figure 8. Solo Max Level Newbie : Kang Jinhyuk

Source: https://koreanwebtoons.fandom.com/wiki/I%27m_the_Max-Level_Newbie

Kang Jinhyuk has several character similarities with Sung Jin-Woo, for example in terms of black hair and the same hairstyle. Jinhyuk also has the same role, namely as a hunter / survivor to protect his country with his strength, Jinhyuk's blade / sword is also in the form of 2 small blades that are very sharp like Sun Jin-Woo's. Some of the habits seems so the same, namely by being stronger than anyone and never giving up in the face of existing battles. The style of clothing used is the same, namely wearing a long blazer coat that is different in terms of color. The comparison that looks clearly different is in terms of some of his habits such as a lack of affection for other people and more concerned with his strength than other people around him. In terms of dress, the difference is only in the visualization concept of character coloring. When compared to Jin-Woo's character, Jin-Woo looks more elegant with the color of his dress and has more human nature. Apart from the differences, the two characters have handsome faces and clean white skin, black hair and an unyielding nature.

4. Conclusion

The results of the visual analysis carried out on the character of Sung Jin-Woo have several conclusions that his compassionate, unyielding and patient nature has not changed after he did an awakening or change from his previous character and it can be concluded that Sung Jin-Woo has the concept of Genteman and Masculinity is being responsible, wise, loving family, a leader, the dream of a woman who looks modern and elegant. Apart from the existing conclusions, the research suggestions "Sung Jin-Woo Character Visualization Analysis in Solo Leveling Comics" in Chugong's Sin Jin-Woo Manhwa, H-goon KI ", are: body, character strength and emotional visualization found that the concept of interpretation is carried out in accordance with the relevant science.

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