



# INTERWEAVING CONFLICTS AND CHANGES OF AINZ CHARACTERIZATION IN ANIME

# **OVERLORD**

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#### **ABSTRACT**

The elements in a work of fiction are intertwined so as to produce a work that is acceptable to the audience or in other words has a good level of plausibility. This study aims to describe the intertwining of conflict and changes in characterization of Ainz characters as well as the plot in the Overlord anime. This research uses descriptive analysis method with objective approach. The data sources are anime titled Overlord. The results of the study show that changes in the characterization of the character Ainz as well as the plot adjust to conflicts in the story such as external conflicts that occur in the story, namely the existence of an effect that adjusts the characterization of Ainz's nature with his body, brainwashing Ainz's female subordinates which makes him a vigilant character, looting Ainz's guild which makes him a cruel character, and finally the misunderstanding of the Demiurge

Keywords: Descriptive Analysis, characterization, Conflict, Plot

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Literary works are separated into two groups, which is fiction and non-fiction. Fiction can be interpreted as a work that tells something that is fictional, imaginary, something that does not exist and really happens so there is no need to look for the truth in the real world (Nurgiantoro 2015), therefore it can be concluded that fictional literary works are works that contain fictional stories or stories based on fantasies that are not based on reality. Non-fiction literary works are literary works based on experience or scientific studies. Nowadays, there are literary works that attract the attention of teenagers and even adults who enjoy these literary works. That literary work is Anime. Anime is a combination of manga made into a movie or in English, namely Animation. According to KBBI (Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia) animation is defined as a television show that is formed from a series of paintings or images that move

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and are moved mechanically electronically so that they appear on the screen to be moving. According to Maulana and Riyanto (2014) animation is an image or text that is arranged in a regular manner so that it looks like it is moving. It can be concluded that animation is a literary work made by painting or drawing and then making it move so that it appears to move and then can be seen on the screen. Anime itself is an absorption of the word animation which if changed in Japanese or Japanese writing becomes  $\mathcal{T} = \mathcal{I} =$ 

Anime itself is included in the class of fictional literary works that have characteristics, namely instrinsic elements. Instrinsic elements are elements that compose a literary work using elements from within that embody the structure of the literary work, these elements include themes, characters or characterizations, plot, setting, point of view and purpose. All of these elements are connected and cannot be separated because one of them is missing while developing the story. This can cause destruction in the story and make the story unstructured, this can be proven by using the theory of structuralism, which is a theory used to understand literary texts by emphasizing the relationship between various elements in the text as a whole, this opinion can be strengthened by the opinion of Nurgiyantoro (2018) who says that Structuralism can be seen as one of the literary approaches that emphasizes the study of the relationship between the elements that build the work in question. Within these elements, plot or flow and characterization play an important role in creating a literary work. With the plot in the story in a literary work, the characterization of the character in the story can develop because he gets it from the solution he gets from the conflict that occurs, and conversely with the development of characterization of the character can make the plot in the story become developed and directed.

In this study, the author wishes to analyze what happened to the conflict told in the overlord anime and what happened in the story that made the characterization in the story change because after various conflicts the characterization of the main character Ainz in the story changed and whether this change can be explained in the aspect of plausibility. For this reason, the author intends to conduct a research entitled "The Interweaving Of Conflicts And Changes In Ainz Characterization In The Anime Overlord".

#### LITERATURE REVIEW

Riswandi and Titin Kusmini (Lina, 2018) argue that structural means analyzing the meaning of fictional works by examining the structural elements and their relationship to one another. According to Lina (2021) by concluding the opinions of experts, structural is an element that has certain parts that are equally related between one element and another to build a perfect literary work. There are 2 elements that build a work of fiction, namely instrinsic and extrinsic elements. Structuralism theory is one of the theoretical approaches always used by literary researchers to

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examine literary works and is included in the objective approach. According to Parmin (2019) Structuralism's view of literary works is assumed to be a phenomena that has a structure that is interrelated with each other. The structure has very complex parts, so the meaning must be directed into the relationship between the elements throughout. Instrinsic elements are one of the characteristics found in a literary work in the form of prose. According to Hermawan and Shandi (2018) Instrinsic elements are elements that build the literary work itself, elements that will factually be found if someone sees a literary work. There are elements that exist in the instrinsic elements including theme, character or characterization, plot or plot, setting, point of view and mandate.

Character and Characterization are very important components in building a literary work. Characters are the actors contained in literary works that determine the success of these literary works according to Surastina (2018), and characterization is the author's way of describing and displaying the characterization of the characters he creates and each character has a different characterization (Kosasih, 2017). So it can be concluded that characters are actors or people who appear in literary works and characterization is a characterization of the actors in literary works. Plot is a way to tell a story in which there are events that have a cause and effect relationship. This can be confirmed by the opinion of Riswandi and Kusmini (2017) who argue that the plot is a series of events that are often related because of the causal relationship.

The plot plays an important role in shaping a literary work because it is not only a string of events in the story but can be several factors that cause an event. An event can connect and become a conflict that occurs to the characters in the story. Conflict is divided into 2 parts, namely internal and external conflict (Nurgiyantoro, 2015). Internal conflict is a conflict that occurs in the heart and mind in the soul of a character, there is also another opinion from Sehendi (2018) which reveals that internal conflict is a problem that occurs in a character who experiences a struggle within himself without being caused or influenced by other people and his surroundings. Then external conflict is a conflict that occurs between the character and the environment around him as mentioned by Wicaksono (2017) that external conflict is a conflict that occurs between a character and something outside himself. With the above statement, it can be concluded that the role of conflict is needed with the development of a character and the development of a characterization that he plays because this occurs from internal and external conflicts that occur in characters that make a conflict conflict will occur in the future and become an incident in the story, as well as otherwise characterization is also needed in the course of conflict because this can occur with the development of a characterization of a character who makes a new path for the emergence of a new conflict. This opinion can be strengthened by the opinion of Wahyu (2015), which states that in using conflict, reciprocity is needed from the main character and other supporting characters so that later an interesting story can be read. Even so, this must be included in the plotting rules, namely in the Plausibility aspect.





Plausibility is something that can be trusted according to the logic of the story. The plot of a story must be plausible or believable to the audience. Unplausible story development can confuse and doubt the audience. A story is said to have plausibility if the characters and their world can be imagined and if the characters and their world and the events told are possible, this is expressed by Nurgiyantoro in (Antina, 2019).

#### **METHODOLOGY**

The research method that will be used by the author is Descriptive Analysis. This is because the method is a combination of descriptive methods which describe the facts that appear with the method of analyzing the content of a work. This opinion can be supported by Ratna's (2015) opinion which argues that the descriptive analysis method is carried out by describing the facts of the facts which are then followed by analysis. According to Herva (2015), the descriptive method of analysis can be combined with the formal method. The formal method is an analysis of the elements of literary works linking the relationship between these elements and their totality according to Handayani (2016). The method has similarities with the structural method that has developed into the theory of structuralism. Because of this, the author will describe the facts about the characteristic changes that occur in the character Ainz in the Overlord anime and analyze the plot. In discussing this anime, researchers will collect data related to changes in the character of Ainz as well as the plot and then this is collected using the listening technique which is carried out from watching the anime repeatedly until it gets the problem under study and then proceeds with recording dialog, scenes and several examples of conflicts in it that have the problem under study.

### **DISCUSSION**

From the analysis that the researcher conducted, the author found the factors and effects between the changes in the characterization of ainz and the changes in the plot due to the conflict that occurred.

#### 1. Finding 1



Figure 1 scene that illustrates the effect

Source: Season 2 Episode 1 Minute 08.27



Figure 2 scene that illustrates the effect

Source: Season 1 Episode 10 Minute 08.29

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The first finding that the author gets from the cause of the change in characterization of Ainz who turns into a heartless character and loses his humanity is the occurrence of external conflicts that have an impact on Ainz's characterization. There is an effect in the world that matches Ainz's character with his current body, which is an undead. This effect occurs when Ainz accidentally releases his human traits such as lust, anger, laughter, etc. This was realized by the character Ainz himself and he said it in Season 1 episode 2 at minute 13.30.

Ainz: Since three days I have come to this world, and I don't feel any fear or discomfort towards my form at all. Did my mentality change too? First I knew that if my emotions were unstable, there was something that calmed me down, and also that I didn't feel hungry or sleepy.

This effect is illustrated as a green light that envelops Ainz's body for a moment as it shows like in pictures 1 and 2. Ainz himself was originally a human being who used the body of an undead, so he still had humanity in him until these effects slowly took away his humanity.

# 2. Finding 2



Figure 3 Scene of ainz fought shaltear

Figure 4 Scene of Shaltear being brainwashed

Source: Season 1 Episode 13 Minute 07.24

Source: Season 1 Episode 10 Minute 19.09

The second finding that the author gets from the cause of the change in characterization of Ainz's character to a person who is very concerned about small things and is aware of the things around him is due to an event that makes Ainz's subordinate named Shaltear get brainwashed by a group of royal troops which makes him betray Ainz. This happened because at first Ainz underestimated the existence of indigenous creatures in the world as weak creatures until finally one of his subordinates was brainwashed and turned into Ainz's enemy. Ainz himself considers his subordinates as his own children because they were created by Ainz and his friends when he played the game that made him transferred to the other world. For that reason, he is now become a character who is wary of the little things around him. It starts in Season 1 episode 13 at minute 17.40 and Ainz also said.







Figure 5 Scene where Ainz has another perspective

Source: Season 1 Episode 13 Minute 17.40

Ainz: I may have also underestimated a small thing. There must be unknown enemies close to Nazarick that could be dangerous.

# 3. Finding 3



Figure 6 Scene of Nazarik being plundered
Source : Season 3 Episode 7 Minute 03.56



Figure 7 Scene of Ainz fought the plunderers

Source: Season 3 Episode 8 Minute 03.49

The third finding that the author gets from the cause of the change in characterization of Ainz's character to a cruel and unforgiving figure towards his enemies is due to an external conflict in which there was a plunder by a group of adventurers into Ainz's guild which made him upset with the natives there and spread fear to people who dared to attack his guild by slaughtering adventurers who looted his guild. This made the adventurers tortured and according to Ainz himself a very low punishment was death. He stated this statement in Season 3 Episode 8 at minute 14.10.

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Figure 8 Scene of Ainz saying the lightest forgiveness

Source: Season 3 Episode 8 minute 14.10

Rober: What is the forgiveness of your actions?

Ainz : Let me tell you, here in Nazarick, death is a form of forgiveness that frees you from suffering.

Which means Ainz will not hesitate to torture all his enemies and those who dare to fight him, making him a cruel and merciless character.

# 4. Finding 4



Figure 9 Scene Ainz says to dominate the world



Figure 10 Scene Demiurge takes it seriously

Source : Season 1 Episode 2 minute 17.55 Source : Season 1 Episode 2 Minute 18.00

In this fourth finding, this is the biggest cause of plot changes in this anime Overlord and one of the factors that led to the conflicts experienced by Ainz. This is caused by a misunderstanding of the Demiurge character who is one of Ainz's subordinates talking to Ainz. Until in the end Ainz said

Ainz: But yes, world domination might be a lot of fun

Ainz : (But we can't possibly do something like that) in heart\*

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This happened as in picture 9 and Demiurge took Ainz's words seriously which made Demiurge immediately design his plan to domination the world. But Ainz's goal in that world is to raise his name so that his friends who might be transferred to that place can find out about it. This is what makes the plot of the story in this anime change which initially runs with Ainz who should be the protagonist in the world making Ainz the Antagonist in the world. The beginning of the plan that made Ainz's character widespread was with an invasion attack from the Demiurge character to the kingdom of Re Eztize and Ainz, who was fond of being an adventurer named Momon, came to save the kingdom and won the battle. This incident occurred in Season 2 in episode 11 to episode 13.



Figure 11 Scene of Ainz fought the Demiurge

Figure 12 Scene of Ainz victorious against Demiurge

Source: Season 2 Episode 13 Minute 16.40

Source: Season 2 Episode 13 Minute 19.15

The plan was at first Ainz thought to spread his name widely so that his friends who might be transferred could also recognize him and come to him because the plan had interference with Demiurge's character. But this is different from the thoughts of the Demiurge character, where this is the first step in conquering a city under the auspices of the Re Eztize kingdom, namely the city of E Rantel by making Momon's name more widespread because his name is big in the city of E Rantel. That way the city of E Rantel can be controlled by the Nazarik guild without fear of its inhabitants and become a new kingdom. This plan he said in Season 3 episode 9 minute 20.25.



Figure 13 Scene about the Demiurge's plan

Source: Season 3 Episode 9 Minute 20.20





Demiurge: Without the hero momon. We may have to conquer E-Rantel with terror and violence.

Which in the end the kingdom of E-Rantel was taken over by Nazarick by waging war on the kingdom of Re Eztize with the offer that Nazarick won the city of E-Rantel would belong to Nazarick and that happened, the people in the city of E-Rantel were not too worried because there was a momon figure there.

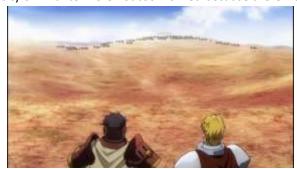


Figure 14 War Scene



Figure 15 Scene of Ainz building a new kingdom

Source: Season 3 Episode 12 Minutes 03.22

Source : Season 3 Episode 13 Minutes 21.00

This makes the storyline in Overlord change by making a main character an Antagonist in it, which should be Ainz's goal in the world to find his friends.

#### **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

From the results examined in the research on conflicts that occur with changes in the characteristics of the character Ainz as well as the plot in the Overlord Anime. It can be concluded that every thing that happens in conflict has a big influence on changes in Ainz's character and the plot in the Overlord anime and these elements are connected to each other because these two things play an important role in the development of a storyline so that it becomes interesting to be enjoyed by connoisseurs. It can be said that every element that exists in literary works is true that it is interconnected and structured as Parmin (2019) said about the structuralism view of literary works assumed to be a phenomenon that has a structure that is interrelated with each other the structure has a very complex part, so that the meaning must be directed into the relationship between the elements of the whole. This can be seen from the conflict that occurs in the overlord anime which makes the character Ainz a cruel and cold-hearted character who initially has a humanitarian nature and also because of this, the plot in this anime changes which initially aims to find Ainz's friends who are trapped in the world of world conquest by spreading fear and this makes the character Ainz an antagonist in it. And in the aspect of plausibility this is possible because with the depiction of the body of Ainz, who is an undead, it is supposed to have a cruel nature and not have human nature in him, especially when it is depicted in a fantasy world.





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