

Characterization of Belle as the Main Role in the Beauty and the Beast Movie by Bill Condon

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Abstract - This research examines the main character's characterization in the 2017 film *Beauty and the Beast*, directed by Bill Condon. Belle is the primary character in this film, and she is the daughter of Maurice, an inventor in Villeneuve, a small French town. The film depicts a love story between a cursed prince who transforms into a Beast and a lovely country girl. The purpose of this research was to discover the characterizations of Belle, the film's most dominant character. Characters' appearances, interactions, personal descriptions, reactions to other characters, actions, and speeches can all be used to describe them. According to the analysis, the heroine Belle is not only portrayed as compassionate, brave, brilliant, and loyal, but also as a free-thinking loner who can be forceful and even judgmental. After all, Belle, the principal female character in Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*, is one of the most well-known and well-loved Disney princesses. She, like her royal peers, is gorgeous, encouraging, loving, and strong.

Keywords: character, characterization, main character, film.

1. Introduction

Characters and characterization is the key determinants in literary work. Character refers to all of the qualities and characteristics refers to that distinguish one person, group of people, or location from others. Their word shows their hates, their dreams, their success, their strength and their weakness (Lailiyah & Yustisia, 2018). In a word, a character is a personality that is conveyed through many attributes and characteristics. The definition of a character. Abrams (1999) stated that the person symbolizes a piece of dramatic or narrative that interprets moral, intellectual, and emotional attributes from their distinctive techniques of conveying the discussion, and from what they are doing the actions.

There two types of character who plays a pivotal role in the literary work, main character and supporting character. A main character is a character who is given special attention in the literature. She or he is the main figure who is usually told, either as the culprit or as the victim of the incident (Nurgiyantoro, 2005, p.176-177). As a result, the main character is a character who plays a dominant role in a drama, novel, or film. There are other types of characters, but the primary character draws the most attention and becomes the audience's focal point of awareness. According to their nature, characters are typically classified into two categories which are the protagonist and antagonist. However, some of the story line has a character which is a combination of the two called tritagonist. The protagonist is a good figure in a tale that plays a central role. This role can either be the most hurtful or the most suffering, eliciting pity from the audience. The protagonist is usually the primary figure in a movie who determines the plot. The role of antagonist is the opposite of the role of the protagonist. This role is a role whose character depiction is related to bad and negative things in a story. This character will cause conflict in the story and hatred towards the audience. This role will likely also be the protagonist who gets hurt the most. A companion role, whether for the protagonist or antagonist, is known as a tritagonist role. This character can be a supporter or an opponent of the main character, but they can also be a mediator or a link in a dispute settlement. This role evolved into a protector of the figures they accompany. The main supporting role is included in this position.

Characterization in literature refers to the process by which authors create characters and create images of them for the audience. On the other hand, it refers to the approach by which an author revealed a character in a work of fiction, or the method of character depiction (Putri, 2017, p.3). It means that characterization describes how one character differs from others. Furthermore, Jauhari (2013) claimed that characterizations are the author's portrayals of persons or performers. There are two techniques to characterization, direct characterization and indirect characterization. In direct characterization, the author informs readers about the character inside a story through the narrator, other characters, or the character himself, which is typically utilized in novel characterizations. According to Charters (2011), external

information such as character names or other open comments could be involved. Direct characterization occurs when an author teaches readers about a character inside a story via the narrator, other characters, or the character himself, and is commonly used in novel characterizations. External information such as character names or other open comments, according to Charters (2011), could be involved. Indirect characterization, the author helps readers grasp the character's personality through the character's thoughts, actions, speech, and dialogue. Typically used in film characterizations. In literary works, Burroway (2000) defined four categories of indirect characterization: 1) words, 2) thoughts, 3) actions, and 4) appearances.

Movies are typically used for pleasure, but they may also be used to learn about exceptional human existence by showing stories of romance, terror, and tragedy, as well as displaying the characterization of the character in the film. *Beauty and the Beast* is a 2017 American musical romance fantasy film directed by Bill Condon and written by Stephen Chbosky and Evan Spiliotopoulos. The plot was a remake from Disney's 1991 film of the same name, which depicts the story of a lovely prince who was cursed to become a hideous monster due to his arrogance. The only way for the prince to be rid of this curse is to find true love. Someday, Belle was hunting for her father and arrived to the Beast's castle to help him, but the Beast captured Belle as a prisoner. They progressively became closer after spending time together fell in love. However, the prince only has a little time to release the curse before the last rose petals fall.

This study focuses on characterization and the key characters who are the most dominating in the film *Beauty and the Beast*. Furthermore, this film is intriguing enough to be the subject of this research. Belle is the main character who can be considered as a role model and for some purpose. This study examine how she is portrayed despite the fact that she lives in a small hamlet where the majority of the inhabitants are closed-minded. This movie has many moral values, messages, and knowledge that may be taken from.

2. Method

As the basis for collecting and interpreting data, the study design is descriptive and qualitative in character. The subject of the research is Bill Condon's play *Beauty and the Beast*. According to Latief (2010), the descriptive qualitative research method or research design involves authentic data as the study's results. As a result, content data analysis was used, with language change and linguistic etiquette as factors. The data was extracted from a 139-minute-long movie. Belle's character is shown through moral standards in her behavior, actions, and dialogues. The authors conveys characterizations through the narrator, but the author can also penetrate the feelings and inner conflicts of the audience. While the indirect characterization of the figure directly shows the characterization through the dialogue and the situation, the mental qualities of the characters, even the Tone of voice, Pressure, Dialect, and Vocabulary.

3. Results and Discussion

Kind

The author discovered that one of Belle's traits is that she is a good girl. Being good is bringing enjoyment to others and being kind to them.

Belle : Come, come...the blue bird (teaches little girl read a book)
Little girl : That flies over the dark wood
Belle : That was amazing
(Bill Condon, *Beauty and the Beast*, duration 00:15:20-00:15:38)

The previously stated quote occurs while Belle is doing laundry with the laundry equipment she made. The little girl approaches Belle and inquires as to what the horse is doing, after which Belle politely invites the girl to come and teach her how to read and then compliments her on her ability to read. Someone will be happy if they receive praise from others. It is a wonderful thing to do, and praising others can indicate that someone has a decent character. According to the quotation, Belle is a good girl since she always brings love and happiness to others.

Another evidence that Belle is a wonderful girl is when she realizes Beast is a cursed prince and wants to help him come back to life as humans.

Belle : I want to help you. There must be some way to break the curse.
(Bill Condon, *Beauty and the Beast*, duration 01:07:19)

In addition, Belle thanked Beast for saving her life from a wolf attack when she visited him when he was reading a book in the rose flower garden. Saying thank you is one of the positive characteristics that make others feel valued for their kindness.

Belle : I never thank you because saved my life
(Bill Condon, *Beauty and the Beast*, duration 01:15:15)

According to the dialogue in the scene, Belle is a good girl. It is clear through her actions and how she interacts with the people, the magical items, and Beast that she is a decent girl.

Courageous

The author discovered that one of Belle's features is that she is a courageous girl. Courageous means having a strong sense of self-worth and not being frightened to face hazards and problems. Being courageous is beneficial to our lives. Belle is a bold young lady, as seen by her actions and words. It can be observed from the dialogue below how Belle is a brave girl.

Belle: Philippe...what happened? Where is papa? take me to him!
(*Bill Condon, Beauty and the Beast, duration 00:26:34*)

This incident occurs when Maurice's horse (Philippe) arrives at Belle's house without Maurice on board. Then Belle rode her horse through the icy woods to save her father, and she ran until she arrived at the cursed castle. Belle dismounts from Philippe, collects some wood, and walks fearlessly into the castle. It takes bravery to be alone in a scary-looking strange environment. This terrible castle appeared to be haunted. Belle was not afraid and did not want to return to the village. After hearing his father cough, she grabbed the lamp (Lumiere) and dashed up the stairs.

Another scene in which Belle was not terrified when she first encountered the Beast. Belle passionately cries and debates with Beast, even daring to beg Beast to "come into the light." This action was brave because yelling and disputing with Beast, who appears unpleasant and cold-hearted, may have resulted in Belle being assaulted (*Bill Condon, Beauty and the Beast, duration 00:29:35*). In addition, the dialogue below between Belle and Beast provided more evidence of Belle's bravery.

Belle: Who's there? Who are you?
Beast: Who are you?
Belle: I've come for my father
Beast: Your father is thief
Belle: Liar!!!
Beast: He stole a rose
Belle: I asked for the rose, punish me not him!

.....
Bill Condon, Beauty and the Beast, duration 00:28:53-00:29:00
Belle: A life sentence for a rose?

....
Belle: Come into the light

(*Bill Condon, Beauty and the Beast, duration 00:29:36-00:29:43*)

According to the scene above, Belle attempted to converse with Beast and requested that he show his face. Belle believes that her father was sentenced to life in prison for stealing one stalk of rose. She took over her father's punishment role by duping him and promising to escape from prison. This is a daring stunt in which Belle is alone and there is no indication of when she will be released. As a result, Belle has taken a chance on all the horrible things that will happen to her.

Belle : (whispers) I'm not afraid and I'll escape. I promise
Maurice : What?!

Belle then pushed her father out of the prison door, then the door closed, and Maurice fell to the ground. Beast thought the two of them were stupid -
(*Bill Condon, Beauty and the Beast, duration 00:29:58-00:31:18*)

Finally, the author discovers Belle's heroic attitude as her father is being taken captive in a horse carriage. Belle used her pincers to help him, then she left the village and rode to the castle on horseback to save the Beast from Gaston and the villagers (*Bill Condon, Beauty and the Beast duration 01:42:30-01:43:50*). Belle's bold nature may be shown in her acts and how she spoke to Beast, which indicated she was a brave girl, according to the explanation above.

Clever

The author discovered Belle to be a clever young lady. Other characters' personal descriptions can attest to this. She can read and teach others to read, and she can recall quotes from books. The first piece of evidence came from one of the villager who stated "with a dreamy, far-off look and her nose stuck in a book.." (*Beauty and the Beast, Bill Condon, 00:07:10*) and "Now it's no wonder that her (Belle) name means beauty, her looks have got no parallel...she's nothing

like the rest of us.” (*Beauty and the Beast*, Bill Condon, 00:07:48-00:08:05) According to the dialogue scene, Belle is attractive and smart because she is attentive in reading books, indicating that she is a clever village girl.

The action of reading books and helping young girls to read provides the second proof. She improved her literacy by borrowing books from the Pere Robert library, but she had already read them all.

Librarian : Ah, if it isn't the only bookworm in town. So, where did you run off to
this week?
Belle : two cities in northern Italy. I didn't want to come back. Have you
got any new places to go?
Librarian : I'm afraid not but you may re-read any of the old ones that you'd
like
Belle : Thank you Pere Robert, your library almost makes our small corner of
the world feel big
(*Bill Condon, Beauty and the Beast, duration 00:06.36-00:00:06:55*)

The dialogue in the scene demonstrates that Belle can read and enjoys reading because she has already read all of the books on the shelf. Other evidence demonstrates Belle's intelligence when she teaches young girls to read.

Belle holds books and teaches little girls to read.
Belle : Come...Come! the blue bird flies.
Little girl : Over the dark wood.
Belle : That's was amazing
Headmaster : What on earth are you doing? Teaching another girl to read? Isn't
one enough?
(*Bill Condon, Beauty and the Beast, duration 00:15:29-00:15:46*)

This scene emphasized that school is only for guys, but Belle demonstrated that she is the only girl in that village who can read. The peasants, on the other hand, refer to Belle as a peculiar, crippled, and unfortunate individual. As a result, the villagers were enraged when they observed Belle teach the young girl to read and then empty her wash barrel from the laundry pool onto the ground. The locals regard intelligent women as negative and harmful.

Furthermore, Belle's ability to recall quotes from books demonstrates her intelligence. She babbled about quotations from Shakespeare's book while caring for the Beast, and she liked Romeo and Juliet's book. Belle is a brilliant girl, as seen by her ability to remember quotes.

Belle : love can transpose to from and dignity. Love looks not with the
eyes but with the mind and therefore...Beast turns around to Belle and joins in.
(*Bill Condon, Beauty and the Beast, duration 01:08:35-01:08:45*)

According to the dialogue in the scenes above proven that Belle is a bright young lady. The author discovered evidence that those are personal accounts from villagers and other characters, Belle teaches a young child to read, and Belle's ability to recall a passage from the book.

Bold

Another character's trait of Belle's found by the authors is bold. People who are decisive are difficult to persuade. She will set her own boundaries and understand what is proper for her. The following are three parts of the evidence scene that demonstrate Belle's strong personality. The first piece of evidence is that when Gaston saw Belle, he thought she was a beautiful and exceptional girl and planned to marry her. When Belle is going around amid a crowd, Gaston runs into her in the middle of a market. He invites Belle for having dinner, but she declines.

Gaston : (Giving flower) For your dinner table, shall I join you this evening?
Belle : Sorry not this evening.
Gaston : Busy?
Belle : No.
(*Bill Condon, Beauty and the Beast, duration 00:10:25-00:10:35*)

The second evidence of Belle portrayed as the bold young lady is when she washing the laundry and teaching little girls to read, but the principal seems does not like it to see that and the villagers become enraged, spilling Belle's laundry on the ground. Le Fou then instructed Gaston to be Belle's hero, and he followed Belle inside her home.

Gaston : Belle! I heard you had trouble with the headmaster! He never liked me either.
Belle : All I wanted was to teach a child to read
Gaston : The only children you should concern yourself with will be...your own.
Belle : I'm...not ready to have children.
Gaston : Oh...Belle. Do you know what happens to spinsters in this village after their father dies? They beg for scraps, like poor Agathe. This is our world belle. For simple folk like us, it doesn't get better.
Belle : I want to be a farm girl. But I'm not simple. And I'm never going to marry you, Gaston. I'm sorry.
(Bill Condon, *Beauty and the Beast*, duration 00:16:42-00:17:35)

According to the discussion, Gaston approached Belle after learning of her problems with the school administration and persuaded her to marry him. Gaston has tried everything to woo Belle, but she flatly refuses, saying, "I'm never going to marry you, Gaston." The final piece of evidence is Belle singing with an irritated countenance because Gaston forces her to marry him. With the words of this song demonstrating Belle's tenacity, she desired to live a life other than a provincial one.

(Belle sings) Is he gone? Oh, can you imagine? Me, the wife of that boorish, brainless!! Madam Gaston! Can't you just see it? Madam Gaston! His 'little wife' ughh! No sir! Not me! I can guarantee it! I want much more than this provincial life!
(Bill Condon, *Beauty and the Beast*, duration 00:17:52-00:18:11)

Belle's statement above indicates that she has a strong personality. This is clear from her actions and the way she speaks. She politely declines Gaston's invitation to supper and states unequivocally that she will not marry Gaston. The last one is that the song she sings implies that she is adamant about not marrying a snobbish and illiterate man like Gaston.

Free thinker

In the same way, Belle is described as a free thinker. Belle asserts in the classic song that she lives in a provincial town full of little people. This shows that she is more cultured than her neighbors, or that she is bored with them. While the other village lady bakes bread, buys eggs, and raises children, she is learning more about a range of topics and from a number of sources.

(Belle's sing) Little town it's a quiet village. Every day like the one before. Little town full of little people. Waking up to say. Bonjour...Bonjour....There goes the baker with his tray like always. The same old bread and rolls to sell. Every morning just the same. Since the morning that we came. To this poor provincial town. (Bill Condon, *Beauty and the Beast*, duration 00:04:54-00:05:40)

From the first Belle show up in the film she singing about the life in the village make her boring because every day has the same activity. This scene shows that Belle is free thinker, she shows that she is one step ahead than the villagers. The another proof is when she greeting Monsieur jean then he asks where are you off to? She tells that "To return this book to Pere Robert, It's about two lovers in fair Verona" and he tell that "sounds boring" (Bill Condon, *Beauty and the Beast*, duration 00:05:42-00:05:57) but this activity makes Belle's know about another word with reading a book.

The second evidence is when the villagers say that Belle is a strange girl because Belle doesn't like other people, she likes reading a book. Belle is bored with the villager activity she wants more than this life this indicates from she says 'There must be more than this provincial life' (Bill Condon, *Beauty and the Beast*, duration 00:09:14-00:09:16) Belle expects more life from the small village she lives in. She wants to go out and have a free adventure like the stories she read in books.

In one's own world

Since she has read about so many beautiful places, she often finds herself in her own little world, daydreaming. While this is common and a good way for her to develop her creativity, it can also cause her to become disoriented. In fact, towards the start of the film, she is strolling and reading, completely unaware of what is going on around her. She could have overlooked something critical, or even worse, made a mistake.

(The villagers sing) Look these girl is strange, no question. Dazed and distracted, can't you tell? Never part of any crowd. cause her head's up on some cloud. No denying she's a funny girl that Belle.

(Bill Condon, *Beauty and the Beast*, duration 00:05:59-00:06:15)

According to the action above villagers describing Belle as a special girl, she doesn't like other villagers she only interests in reading books whenever there are. Another proof is when Belle also asks her father that she is odds just because she like reading.

Belle: Papa, do you think I'm odd?

Maurice: Odd? My daughter? Odd? Where did you get an idea like that?

Belle: I don't know. People talk.

Maurice: This is a small village, you know. Small minded as well. But small also means safe. Even back in Paris, I knew a girl like you, who was so ahead of her time. So different, people mocked her until the day they all found themselves imitating her

(Bill Condon, Beauty and the Beast, duration 00:12:15-00:12:40)

From the evidence above shows that Belle is different from the villagers, she even feels that she is not as strange as the villagers think. Because she was too immersed in reading books, she was not liked by the villager, especially the principal because at that time the school was only for boys. that's why she considered special, which means it's flawed.

The third proof is when villagers sing to describe Belle's figure "Look, this is a very strange girl to us, I wonder if she is okay, with a dreamy look, distant, and her nose stuck in a book. What a puzzle to the rest of us is Belle" this action happens when Belle walk while reading a book. she doesn't care about her surrounding, she just busy reading books while the others villager working. *(Bill Condon, Beauty and the Beast, duration 00:06:59-00:07:12)*

Judgmental

Belle is bright, yet her line delivery might come across as critical at times. She was well-read, and it has been alleged that she seemed unconcerned about the fact that no one else shared her enthusiasm for learning. Furthermore, she appeared to make assumptions and boldly proclaim her thoughts to everyone from the townspeople to Gaston (who, obviously, deserved a little judgment and being put in his place) to The Beast.

The first evidence was when Belle had a problem with the Headmaster, Gaston coming over to her house to ask to marry him but Belle refused, this incident can be seen from the dialogue below

Gaston : Belle! I heard you had trouble with the headmaster! He never liked me either.

Belle : All I wanted was to teach a child to read

Gaston : The only children you should concern yourself with will be...your own.

Belle : I'm...not ready to have children.

Gaston : Oh...Belle. Do you know what happens to spinsters in this village after their father dies? They beg for scraps, like poor Agathe. This is our world belle. For simple folk like us, it doesn't get better.

Belle : I want to be a farm girl. But I'm not simple. And I'm never going to marry you, Gaston.

I'm sorry.

(Bill Condon, Beauty and the Beast, duration 00:16:42-00:17:35)

According to the discussion above, Belle who has a lot of insight doesn't think of herself as simple like other girls who are just getting married and taking care of children, Belle wants to have an adventure. Because she has an insight into reading books she wants to teach children in her village to read. Belle doesn't want to marry someone like Gaston who can't share her enthusiasm for learning. Belle also thinks Gaston is a brainless and boorish person.

The second evidence is when Belle returned to the village to save her father who was locked up in a horse carriage to be taken to a psychiatric hospital because Gaston did not accept that Belle chose beasts over him.

Belle : Gaston, tell him!

Gaston : You know how loyal I am to your family but your father's been making some unbelievable claims.

Villager : It's true, Belle. He's been raving about the Beast in a castle!

Belle : I've just come from the castle and there is a Beast!

Gaston : You'd say anything to set him free. Your word is hardly proof

Belle : You want proof? Show me the Beast (asking to mirror).

(Show the Beast to the villager) There's your proof

Gaston : This is sorcery! Look at this Beast! Look at his fangs! His claws!

Belle : No, don't be afraid. He's gentle and kind

Gaston : The monster has her under his spell. If I didn't know better, I'd say she even cared for him!

Belle : He's not monster, Gaston. You are! The beast wouldn't hurt anyone.

Gaston : I've heard of the effects of dark magic but I've never before seen it with my own eyes! This is a threat to our existence! We can't have her running off to warn the Beast... Lock up her too!

Belle : No, No. You won't get away with this Gaston!

(Bill Condon, Beauty and the Beast, duration 01:35:04-01:36:27)

This action happens when Belle knew her father was in danger, she saw her father through a magic mirror lent by the Beast. When she learned of her father's condition she immediately returned to the village to save him. She asks Gaston to

save her father but Gaston refuses it because Belle's father refuses request to marry his daughter, Belle bravely argues with Gaston and proves that Beast is in the castle and he is not wicked but Gaston makes a story so that the villagers are provoked by anger. Belle already knows it, all of this is Gaston's doing. She also stated the real monster is Gaston. The third evidence happens when Belle bravely refuses Beast's invitation to join him for dinner, she chooses to starve instead of having dinner with Beast.

Beast : (knock the door) you'll join me for dinner. that's not a request
Mrs. Potts : gently, master. The girl lost her father and her freedom in one day
Lumiere : yes, the poor thing is probably in there, scared to death.
Mrs.Potts : exactly
Knock the door....
Belle : Just a minute
Lumiere : you see? There she is. Now, remember, be gentle
Mrs.Potts : kind!
Plumette : Charming!
Cogsworth : Sweet!
Lumiere : and when she opens the door, give her dashing, debonair smile.
Come, come. Show me the smile
Mrs.Potts : Oh, mon dieu!
Beast : Will you join me for dinner!
Belle : You've taken me as your prisoner and now you want have dinner with me? Are you insane?
Antiques: Uh-oh he's losing it
Beast : (knocking the door with anger) I told you to join me for dinner
Belle : And I told you no
M.Garderobe : Ooh! What time is it? What's happening?
Belle : I'd starve before I ever ate with you.
Beast : Well be my guest. Go ahead and starve...if she doesn't eat with me then she doesn't eat at all... Idiots!

(Bill Condon, *Beauty and the Beast*, duration 00:43:55-00:45:17)

From the dialogue above, it can be seen that Belle expressed her thoughts boldly, how could the Beast that locked her in prison rudely invite her to dinner. Belle also shouted at the Beast so loudly that the Beast became very angry, she also chose to starve instead of having dinner with the Beast. On the other hand, in this scene, Belle is trying to escape the castle through the window by tied some clothes into a rope that she had obtained from Madame De Garderobe.

4. Conclusion

Beauty and the Beast movie tells about a handsome prince who was cursed to be a terrible monster because of his arrogance. Belle is a girl who dreams of adventure and loves roses. Someday her father is sentenced to life by the Beast in the castle prison for picking a rose for Belle. She came to save her father and took his place. After spending time together, they gradually fell in love and Belle released the curse from Beast because of her love.

After discussing Belle's portrayal as the major character in Bill Condon's *Beauty and the Beast* film, the writer finishes with three important points: First, the character has been split into three categories: protagonist, antagonist, and tritagonist, a combination of the two. Second, there are two techniques to characterization: direct characterization and indirect characterization. The final character is Belle, who is portrayed in the film *Beauty and the Beast* as a compassionate, brave, brilliant, creative, forceful, and devoted young lady.

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