**ABSTRACT**

**Nur Addin, Muhammad**, 2014. The Character Development Reflected in Edith Nesbit’s *The Railway Children*. Thesis. Undergraduate Program. Mercu Buana University of Yogyakarta. Advisor: Restu Arini, S. Pd., M. Pd.

Keyword : Character Development, *The Railway Children*

This thesis analysed a novel written by Edith Nesbit, *The Railway Children.* The writer talked about the character development that happened to the major characters, Mother, Roberta, Peter and Phyllis. They became major characters because they had big role in this novel and their characteristics changed after they moved to the new environment, Three Chimneys.

This study focused on three problems. The first problem was about the characteristics and the characterization of the major characters. The second problem dealt with the setting of the novel, which concerned with the setting of place and time. The last problem was how the settings influenced the major character’s characteristics.

In conducting this study, the writer employed the formalist approach which gave idea for the writer about how to analyse a literary work based on the intrinsic elements only. Library research method was used to collect the data from the books and the other references. Theories of character and characterization, theory on setting, and theory on characters development were used to answer the three problems formulated of this thesis.

The result of this study showed that the setting of place in this novel influenced the characteristics of the major characters. The major characters in this novel moved to a certain setting which was very different from the previous setting. The major characters that experienced character development in this novel were Mother, Roberta, Peter and Phyllis. Their characteristics changed when they moved from London to Three Chimneys. The children became more mature, independent and brave. They tried to lighten their mother’s burden since they knew that she had to support their life. Yet, Mother who used to be attentive became introvert, inattentive, thougher and strict. She was the only character who experienced degeneration in the characteristics. It was because she had more responsibility toward the children. The setting of place including its society had big influence towards the character development.

In addition, this novel happened in 19th century. Then, from this study, it could also be seen that the setting of time does not give much influence toward the major character as they lived in the same era.

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Kata Kunci : Character Development, *The Railway Children*

Skripsi ini menganalisis sebuah novel karangan Edith Nesbit, *The Railway Children.*Penulis membahas tentang perkembangan karakter pada tokoh- tokoh utama yaitu Mother, Roberta, Peter dan Phyllis. Mereka menjadi tokoh utama karena mereka mempunyai peranan yang besar dalam novel dan watak mereka berubah setelah mereka pindah ke lingkungan yang baru yaitu Three Chimneys.

Ada tiga permasalahan yang dirumuskan untuk menganalisis novel ini. Permasalahan pertama tentang karakter and perwatakannya dari tokoh utama. Yang kedua berhubungan dengan latar. Latar dalam novel ini adalah latar tempat dan waktu. Permasalahan terakhir tentang bagaimana latar dapat mempengaruhi tingkah laku tokoh- tokoh utamanya.

Dalam skripsi ini penulis menggunakan pendekatan formalis. Metode kepustakaan digunakan untuk mengumpulkan data dari buku- buku dan sumber- sumber lain. Teori watak dan perwatakan, teori latar, dan teori perkembangan karakter jua digunakan untuk menjawab tiga masalah yang dirumuskan pada skripsi ini.

Hasil dari pembelajaran ini menunjukkan bahwa latar tempat dalam novel ini mempengaruhi watak tokoh- tokoh utama. Tokoh- tokoh utama dalam novel ini pindah pada latar tempat yang jauh berbeda dari sebelumnya. Tokoh utama yang mengalami perkembangan karakter dalam novel in adalah Mother, Roberta, Peter dan Phyllis. Watak mereka berubah ketika mereka pindah dari London ke Three Chimneys. Anak- anak berubah menjadi lebih dewasa, lebih madiri dan berani. Mereka berusaha meringankan beban ibunya yang harus membiayai hidup mereka sendirian. Sebaliknya, Mother dulu merupakan ibu yang penuh perhatian akan tetapi setelah pindah ke Three Chimneys watak ibu berubah menjadi tertutup, tidak perhatian, lebih kuat and ketat. Mother adalah satu- satunya yang mengalami kemerosotan dalam wataknya. Itu dikarenakan Mother mempunyai tanggung jawab yang lebih besar terhadap anaknya. Latar tempat termasuk masyarakatnya mempunyai pengaruh yang besar terhadap perkembangan karakter.

Selain itu novel ini terjadi pada abad ke 19. Dan dari pembelajaran ini, bisa dilihat bahwa latar waktu tidak terlalu banyak memberikan pengaruh terhadap tokoh- tokoh utama karena mereka hidup di era yang sama.