

**VIEWING FROM THE OPPOSITE VIEWFINDER:**

**DECONSTRUCTING THE MALEFICENT**

**A GRADUATING PAPER**

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Gaining the Bachelor  
Degree in English Literature



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## A FINAL PROJECT STATEMENT

I certify that this research is definitely my own work. I am completely responsible for the content of this research. Other writer's opinions or findings included in the thesis are quoted or cited in accordance with ethical standards.

Yogyakarta, 21 January 2018

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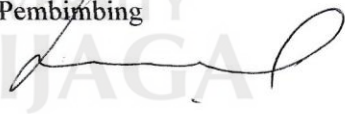
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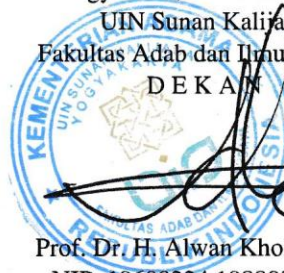
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# VIEWING FROM THE OPPOSITE VIEWFINDER: DECONSTRUCTING THE MALEFICENT

By: Tyas Setyarini

## ABSTRAC

*Maleficent* is a fantasy and an action movie. This movie tells about the changing characterization in two main characters (Maleficent and King Stefan). They change their characterization and role from villain to hero and from antagonist to protagonist. Almost people think that villain will always be an antagonist and hero will always be a protagonist. Then, the researcher want to prove that does a villain will always be an antagonist? The researcher uses binary opposition to find the moral and role. Moral can be used to find a villain and a hero characterization through the method of diegetic and mimetic. The researcher also uses role theory that can be used to find does the character play as an antagonist or protagonist? Then, the researcher uses deconstruction theory of Jean Jacques Derrida to prove that does a villain will always be an antagonist? The analysis is also supported by film theory by Ami Villarejo to sharpen the analysis. Then, the result of this analysis is how the villain character can play as a protagonist and also change to be a hero characterization too.

**Keywords:** Character, Villain, Hero, Antagonist, Protagonist, Diegetic, Mimetic, Film Theory, and Deconstruction Theory.

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# VIEWING FROM THE OPPOSITE VIEWFINDER: DECONSTRUCTING THE MALEFICENT

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## ABSTRAK

Film *Maleficent* ini menceritakan tentang perubahan karakterisasi pada dua tokoh utamanya (Maleficent dan King Stefan). Karakterisasi dan peran mereka berubah dari penjahat menjadi pahlawan dan dari antagonis menjadi protagonis. Hampir semua orang berfikir bahwa seorang penjahat selalu akan menempati peran antagonis dan seorang pahlawan akan selalu menempati peran protagonis. Kemudian dalam penelitian ini penulis ingin membuktikan apakah seorang penjahat selalu akan berperan sebagai antagonis? Peneliti menggunakan teori oposisi biner melalui pembahasan tentang moral dan peran yang digunakan untuk menentukan karakterisasi seorang penjahat dan pahlawan melalui metode diegesis dan mimesis. Peneliti juga menggunakan pembahasan peran untuk menemukan apakah kedua tokoh termasuk peran antagonis atau protagonis? Kemudian peneliti menggunakan teori dekonstruksi dari J. Derrida untuk membuktikan bahwa tidak semua penjahat menempati peran antagonis. Analisis ini didukung juga oleh teori film dari Ami Villarejo untuk melihat kebenaran analisis oleh peneliti. Hasil dari penelitian ini adalah bagaimana seorang penjahat dapat berperan sebagai protagonis dan juga merubah dirinya menjadi pahlawan.

**Kata Kunci:** Karakter, Penjahat, Pahlawan, Antagonis, Protagonis, Diegesis, Mimesis, Teori film, dan Teori Dekonstruksi.

## MOTTO

*"Sebagian kita seperti tinta dan sebagian lagi seperti kertas. Dan jika bukan karena hitamnya sebagian kita, sebagian kita akan bisu. Dan jika bukan karena putihnya sebagian kita, sebagian kita akan buta"*

**"KAHLIL GIBRAN"**



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## DEDICATION

*I dedicate my graduating paper to:*

*My mother, My Mother, My Mother*

*My Father*

*My Big Family*

*My Friends*

*And Many Other People Who Support Me*

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Furthermore, the researcher recognizes that this research paper is very far from perfection because of the limit knowledge of the researcher. Therefore, criticism and suggestion are always need by the researcher for the perfection of this paper. Finally, the research hopes that all parties whom the researcher has mentioned above achieve rewards from Allah. In addition to that, hopefully this research can be useful for the readers.

Yogyakarta, January 21<sup>th</sup> 2018

The Researcher

**TYAS SETYARINI**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>COVER .....</b>	<b>i</b>
<b>A FINAL PROJECT STATEMENT.....</b>	<b>ii</b>
<b>NOTA DINAS.....</b>	<b>iii</b>
<b>APPROVAL .....</b>	<b>iv</b>
<b>ABSTRACT .....</b>	<b>v</b>
<b>ABSTRAK .....</b>	<b>vi</b>
<b>MOTTO .....</b>	<b>vii</b>
<b>DEDICATION.....</b>	<b>viii</b>
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT .....</b>	<b>ix</b>
<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS.....</b>	<b>xi</b>
<b>CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION</b>	
1.1 Background of Choosing the Subject.....	1
1.2 Research Question.....	7
1.3 Objective of Study.....	7
1.4 Significance of Study .....	8
1.5 Literature Review .....	8
1.6 Theoretical Approach.....	8
1.7 Method of Research .....	11
1.7.1 Type of Research.....	11

1.7.2 Data Source .....	11
1.7.3 Data Collection Technique .....	12
1.7.4 Data Analysis Technique.....	12
1.8 Paper Organization .....	13

**CHAPTER II: INTRINSIC ELEMENTS**

2.1 Theme .....	14
2.2 Character and Characterization .....	15
2.2.1 Maleficent.....	16
2.2.2 King Stefan.....	17
2.3 Setting of Place.....	19
2.3.1 Moors.....	19
2.3.2 Castle .....	19
2.3.3 Forest .....	20
2.4 Plot .....	20
2.4.1 Plot of the movie .....	20
2.4.2 Plot Summary .....	20
2.4.3 Graphic of plot.....	21
2.4.3.1 Beginning .....	21
2.4.3.2 Rising.....	22
2.4.3.3 Climax .....	22

2.4.3.4 Falling Action.....	23
2.4.3.5 Resolution.....	23
2.5 Movie Record .....	23
<b>CHAPTER III (ANALYSIS)</b>	
3.1 Morality .....	25
3.1.1 Diegetic.....	26
3.1.1.1 Maleficent .....	26
3.1.1.2 Stefan .....	30
3.1.2 Mimetic.....	33
3.1.2.1 Maleficent.....	33
3.1.2.2 King Stefan.....	39
3.2 Role.....	43
<b>CHAPTER IV: CONCLUSION</b>	
4.1 Conclusion.....	48
4.2 Suggestion .....	49
<b>REFERENCE .....</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>CURICULUM VITAE</b>	

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1 .....	5
Figure 2 .....	5
Figure 3 .....	6
Figure 4 .....	14
Figure 5 .....	16
Figure 6 .....	26
Figure 7 .....	28
Figure 8 .....	29
Figure 9 .....	30
Figure 10 .....	31
Figure 11 .....	32
Figure 12 .....	34
Figure 13 .....	35
Figure 14 .....	37
Figure 15 .....	38
Figure 16 .....	39
Figure 17 .....	41
Figure 18 .....	41
Figure 19 .....	42
Figure 20 .....	46
Figure 21 .....	47
Figure 22 .....	48

**LIST OF TABLE**

TABLE 1..... 21

TABLE 2..... 45



# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of Choosing the Subject

Literature is a fictional and imaginative writing—poetry, prose, fiction, and drama. Literature has been commonly used since the eighteenth century. In an expanded use, it designates also any other writing (including philosophy, history, and even scientific works) (Abram, 2009: 177-178). Klarer (2004) said that in most cases, literature is referred as the entirety of written expression with the restriction that not every written document can be categorized as literature in the more exact sense of the word (<https://www.repository.usu.ac.id/Chapter201.pdf>) Accessed on March 9, 2017. The difference of other literature is seen from the beauty of the language that is imaginative. Wellek and Warren (1963: 22) said that the term of literature seems good if we limit it to the art of literature that is too imaginative literature.

Literature has three genres such as poetry, prose, and drama. To understand literary works such as novels and short stories, the reader only be able to imagine what is in a literary work. Moving images and audio are available to make it easy to understand the characters, the plot, and the sense of place and time.

According to Jacobs, movies are entertainment, movies are documents of their time and place, movies are a forms of self-expression, we see movies at theaters, on television, or home videos. Those are typically narrative films. They tell stories about characters going through experiences. Most of it include lines of dialogue and depict obvious developments of



character that have an explicit meaning to the viewers (<http://www.und.edu/instruct/cjacobs/FilmTheory&Analysis.htm>, Accessed on, March 7, 2017).

Movie as an entertainment must have a special attraction to be seen by many people or perhaps can also be analyzed by people who are within the scope of the movie analysis. One of many movies that have been created is *Maleficent* movie. *Maleficent* movie is a fantasy and action movie genre. This movie is directed by Robert S., written by Linda W., and starring Angelina Jolie in the title role. *Maleficent* premiered at the El Capitan Theater on May 30, 2014. This movie was released on DVD On November 4, 2014 with the runtime of 97 minutes. This movie success with sales of \$ 190,871,149.00 movie. *Maleficent* is a movie that is produced by Disney, the movie is a result of the development movie called "Sleeping Beauty". ([https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/maleficent\\_2014/](https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/maleficent_2014/), Accessed on, March 9, 2017).

*Maleficent* movie tells the story of two rival kingdoms. The first kingdom is led by a power-hungry king and the second kingdom named Moors, it is a kingdom of peace, populated by soft creatures, and led by a fairy named Maleficent. She is a magical fairy, she has large wings and she can fly everywhere. One day, there were three little fairies came to Maleficent and told her that there was a man who stole a piece of jewelry in the Moors. Maleficent was surprised when she saw the thief is a human child named Stefan. Stefan returned the jewelry and went to the Moors again in a few days later. Then, they made a friendship and appeared feelings of love between them.

One day, King Henry wanted to seize the Moors, but the effort failed because Maleficent was stronger than him. Then, King Henry asked his troops to kill Maleficent and who was being successful, he would be rewarded as the successor to the kingdom. Stefan tried to kill Maleficent in the moment asleep, but Stefan could only take her wings. When Maleficent knew that the wings had been stolen and she saw Stefan was crowned as a king, Maleficent became angry. Then she declared herself as a ruler of Moors. One day, King Stefan had a daughter named Princess Aurora, Maleficent gave a gift of a curse that at the age of 16 princess Aurora would stab her finger on a needle and fell asleep forever. The curse would be disappear only with a true love's kiss.

When Princess Aurora was exiled to a forest by King Stefan, Maleficent began to change her mind and wanted to remove the curse, but it still could not because the curse was the eternal curse. Princess Aurora was growing up and she fall asleep. King Stefan was still busy to make plans with his troops to destroy Maleficent. At that time, Prince Philip came and tried to kiss her, but it still could not. Furthermore, when Maleficent came and tried to kiss Princess Aurora, Aurora was awakened and she started her vengeance to King Stefan who had betrayed her during the first.

In this study, the researcher focuses on the changing characterization that happened in Maleficent and King Stefan. Their characterization changed from hero to villain and changed again from villain to hero. The changing characterization raises the character into different roles. It can be referred as

actantial model that occupy the characters to be suitable with their function. According to Julien Greimas (1983), actantial model can complete or live the action. Act-ants can be a person or something that can be personified, while the role is a story that explains the basic unit of meaningful actions that make up the narrative. In a scheme act-ants function may occupy several roles. According to Greimas (1983) a character can both occupy some of the functions and roles in a scheme of act-ants. In this research, the researcher divides the role in two categories, those are protagonist and antagonist.

According to Abrams (2009) antagonist is the character that pitted against an important opponent, and if the antagonist is evil, or capable of cruel and criminal actions, it is called the villain. While protagonist is the chief character in a plot, on whom our interest centers (or alternatively, the hero or heroine) (265).

From the discussion above, the researcher can see Maleficent and King Stefan characterization turned out to be two different characterizations. In this movie, Maleficent and King Stefan undergone some changes from hero to villain. The changing characterization of both can be seen at minute 15:27 until 18:10 when Stefan before becoming a king, he tried to kill Maleficent by visiting Maleficent. When Stefan had met Maleficent, he was deceiving Maleficent with a gentle demeanor. He wanted to warn her that the King wanted to kill her and he said that he would not betray her. Stefan did not kill Maleficent, but Stefan cut her wings and brought it back to the kingdom. This is the evidence that Stefan change from good to bad characterization.



Fig. 1. The shot of Stefan stole Maleficent's wings. (*Maleficent*, 00:17:23)

At minute of 24:01 up to 32:56. Maleficent's characterization changed from hero to villain when her follower said that Stefan has become a king and has a beautiful baby named Princess Aurora. Maleficent turned into an evil fairy and became the ruler in the Moors. Maleficent came to the kingdom of King Stefan to give a gift to the baby in the form of a curse. She said: *"Princess will grow in goodness and beauty. Loved by all who met her, but before the 16th birthday, Aurora will stab her finger with a needle loom and slept like the dead and never be awakened! But the princess could wake up from sleep only by true love's kiss and this curse will last forever"*. Maleficent cursed Aurora because she knew that in this world there was no true love. This is the proof that her characterization changes from hero to villain.



Fig. 2. The shot of Maleficent cursed Aurora. (*Maleficent*, 00:31:48)

After that, the changing characterization of Maleficent can be seen again at minute 36:38 to 1:17:12 when she followed the princess Aurora who was deliberately exiled by King Stefan into the forest in order to save her life from the curse, but Maleficent gave her heart to Aurora until she blamed herself because has cursed Princess Aurora. Then, Maleficent tried to remove the curse, but it cannot. Finally, Maleficent protected the princess wherever and whenever. When the time was coming, Maleficent was still trying to save the princess. Maleficent wanted to revoke the curse, but the princess had been asleep because of jabbing her finger into the needle loom. Maleficent was very remorseful and she brought a prince named Philip to kiss the princess, but it failed. Finally Maleficent kissed the Princess and the princess was awoken.

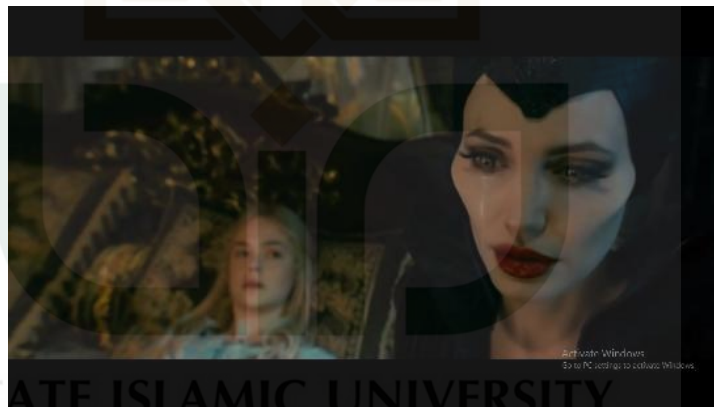


Fig. 3. The shot of Maleficent kissed Aurora and Aurora wake up from her death sleep. (*Maleficent*, 01:17:10)

Maleficent changed her characterization from villain to hero. Even though she still wanted to avenge King Stefan. After that, Maleficent did not change her characterization again, but Stefan still became a villain. It can be seen at the hour 1:05:26 to 1:25:12. It told that King Stefan devised a plan to kill Maleficent if she

come into the castle. At time of 1:25:58 until the end, there is no the changing characterization that happened in *Maleficent*. She became a good fairy as usual.

From the discussion above, the researcher discovered a phenomenon that deserves to be studied that one character can occupy different characterization and role. The figure of *Maleficent* in this movie change her characterization from hero to villain and become a hero again. King Stefan, who was a king that supposed to be a hero, finally in the story he became a villain instead. From that, we can conclude that does a villain will always be an antagonist character? How can a villain be differed from an antagonist character. Abrams said that hero is character that has a good characterization, he is always in the right position in people's perspective. Whereas villain is the antagonist character as like evil or criminal action (2009: 265)

## **1.2 Research Question**

Based on the explanation above, the researcher formulates the following questions from the character and characterization of *Maleficent* and King Stefan in *Maleficent* movie, how can *Maleficent* and King Stefan be described as villain and antagonist?

## **1.3 Objective of Study**

The objective study of this graduating paper is to analyze about how are the characters between two actors can be defined as villain/hero and an antagonist and a protagonist by using binary theory and conclude that does a villain will always be an antagonist character? It will be analyze by deconstruction theory.

#### **1.4 Significance of Study**

The significances of study are to show that interpretation cannot be restricted by limitation because it will disturb the reader for being creative. Through creativity, the interpretations will bring us closer to the true meaning and through binary opposition and deconstruction, the researcher sees that not all the things in the world is true, we can do the deconstruction to get the real reality

#### **1.4 Literature Review**

The researcher found one study of college students to the same work and the same topic. The related study is a thesis titled "*Maleficent Character Development as Seen in Maleficent Movie*" written by Nur Asmawati, 2015, the State Islamic University Sunan Kalijaga. In this study, the author focuses on the characters and the characterization of the movie. The researcher used the qualitative method to analyze how the character description of Maleficent itself. The previous researcher above is different from this research, because here the researcher tends to analyze about two characterizations and its roles and proofs does a villain will always be an antagonist character?

#### **1.5 Theoretical Approach**

In this research, the researcher uses deconstruction theory as the main theory. It begins from structuralism theory. One of the structuralism theory is about binary opposition. Binary opposition is combination of opposites that have a relation and it can't be separated. This theory aims to show the characterization of Maleficent that can be called as a villain/hero.

According to Norris (2003) structuralism is concept that says that supreme reality from reality is structure. Structure is mutual relation from constituents, parts or elements that from the whole, as a constituent of characteristics of something, character, or coexistence in the whole of the different parts. Structure will be seen from how language is formed. Structurally, language is formed by system of difference and the most important point in here is binary opposition. It can be opposition between meaning/form, soul/body, good/bad, correct/wrong, black/white, and superior/inferior. The relation between them can't be separated.

Beside of binary opposition, the researcher also uses structuralism theory

Narratology of Algirdas Julian Greimas to find the characters position in this theory that the character can be called as a protagonist/antagonist.

According to Ratna, it includes the class of narratology structuralism because it has advantages in detailed concept presentation, in which there are storylines about character life which can build bridges of understanding the story through text as a communication media between the author and readers (2009: 128 and 138).

According to Greimas, he has two model of presentation concept. They are fictional model and actantial model (Greimas in Susanto, 2012: 128). Here the researcher chooses actantial model to analyze the role characters.

In Martin (2000: 20), Greimas said that actant is someone or something that enhance or live action. Actant can be person, anthropomorphic (actor who personified), zoomorphic (in general, the term refers to something that is the shape of animals or something else, an item or abstract existence). One actant can take multiple roles. Meanwhile, the actantial is not the same as the actor or character (...)

According to Greimas in Eriyanto, 2013:96, actant's emphasis on the role and position of animating characters and build the narrative elements of the story. Character in the narrative locates the position and function of each. A narrative characterized by six elements: subject, object, sender, receiver, helper, and opponents.

1. Sender is a person or something that can be a source of idea and has a function as a mover of story.
2. Receiver is a person who receive an object that is attempted by the subject.
3. Subject is a person that is assigned by the sender to get an object.
4. Object is a person or something that is needed by subject.



5. Helper is a person who helps the subject to achieve the object.
6. Opponent is a person or something that prevents the subject to achieve the object.

Carter in his book "*Literary Theory*", said that there is a hierarchy. 'Something is appear because the opposite and because it has a relation to 'Another something'. For example as a word 'good' implies the word 'evil', 'law' implies 'lawlessness' etc. (2006: 110). Binary opposition is one of main problem in critics a literary on J. Derrida theory of deconstruction.

According to Abrams (2009) binary opposition such as superior/inferior, good/bad, speech / writing, male / female are essential structural elements. Derrida shows that such oppositions constitute a tacit hierarchy, in the first term as privileged and superior functions and the second term as derivative and inferior (71)

Derrida's procedure is to invert the hierarchy, by showing that the primary term can be made out to be derivative form, or a special case of, the secondary term; but instead of stopping at this reversal, he goes on to destabilize both hierarchies, leaving them in a condition of undecidability (72)

From the theory above, the researcher can assume that deconstruction aims to invert the hierarchy of binary opposition. It proofs that the first term is not always dominant from the second term.

Then, the data that is used in this study is movie. The researcher will use the movie theory as the second theory that supports this research in obtaining the data in the movie. In search of data, the researcher require basic analysis films. Those are cinematography to analyze the focus in framing and camera angle and *Mise-En-Scene*.

According to Heiderich “Cinematography is the art of visual storytelling. Anyone can set a camera on a tripod and hit record, but the artistry of cinematography comes in controlling what the viewer sees (or does not see) and how image is presented” (2012:3).

According to Villarejo (2007) through the *Mise-en-scene*, its attitude toward detail, its sense of its own reality against which we can measure its representations. It provides a useful starting point for describing what you're seeing. There are six components to *Mise-en-scene*; setting, lighting, costume and hair, make-up, and figure behavior to see which characters are formed (28-29).

## **1.6 Method of Research**

### **1.6.1 Type of Research**

The method that is used in this research is descriptive method and the data will be analyzed qualitatively.

According to Creswell (2009) qualitative research is a means for exploring and understanding the meaning individuals or groups ascribe to a social or human problem. The process of research involves emerging questions and procedures, data typically collected in the participant's setting, data analysis inductively idling from particulars to general themes, and the researcher making interpretations of the meaning of the data.

The researcher uses this method to describe the data. The data will be gathered and the researcher do not need observation to collect the data. The researcher collects the data using the data unit, that is the screenshot and also reading books that contain the data that is needed by the researcher.

### **1.6.2 Data Sources**

The supporting data in this research are taken from the data that have relation with the material of this research such as referential books and web sources to support the analysis of this research.

### 1.6.3 Data Collection Technique

According to Elmusharaf (2012) data collection techniques allow us to systematically collect information about our object of study (people, object, phenomena) and about the setting in which they occurred, the technique of data collection divided into four methods, they are document review, observation, interview (face-to-face), and focus group discussion. The researcher uses the documentation method to collect the data.

The data of this research is identified when the researcher read the film because the researcher need to be an active subject to treat the film to be a text and also do the screenshot to be the unit of data movie using technique of cinematography and *mise-en-scene*. Then, the researcher gathered the frame with the variable moral and role which have something to do with the binary.

### 1.6.4 Data Analysis Technique

To analyze how Maleficent and King Stefan are described in *Maleficent* movie. First, the researcher defines the two characters and their characterizations that focus in this research, the character will be found by technique of diegetic and mimetic.

According to Halliwell Stephen in Berger Karol, diegetic is narrative/narration. Diegetic denotes narrative in the wider generic sense of discourse that communicates information keyed to a temporal framework. It explains narrative in the voice of the poet/ storyteller, while mimetic is representation. It is a direct speech in the voices of individual characters in story (407).

Through the two methods above (diegetic and mimetic) the differentiation between two characterizations will be seen, do the two character is a villain or a

hero. Then, the researcher uses theory of role by A.J Greimas to know does the character of the actor is antagonist or protagonist. Third, the researcher will analyze it through *Maleficent* movie that does a villain will always be an antagonist character?

### **1.7 Paper Organization**

There are four chapters in this paper. Chapter one is introduction, chapter two is intrinsic aspect, chapter three is analysis, and chapter four is conclusion. Chapter one includes background of study, research question, objective of study, significances of study, literature review, theoretical approach, method of research, and paper organization. Chapter two is intrinsic elements of the movie. Chapter three is the analysis character of Maleficent and King Stefan, includes the causes and impact (where is the character that we call it as an antagonist and a villain). Chapter four is about conclusion.

## CHAPTER IV

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

#### 4.1 Conclusion

After analyzing the data in chapter III, in this chapter the researcher wants to conclude this research. The conclusion is written based on the deconstruction from Derrida, where the theory said that structuralism is not absolute, and his procedure to deconstruct is below:

Derrida's procedure is to invert the hierarchy, by showing that the primary term can be made out to be derivative form, or a special case of, the secondary term; but instead of stopping at this reversal, he goes on to destabilize both hierarchies, leaving them in a condition of undecidability (72)

It can break usual structure like protagonist and antagonist, hero and villain. This research analyzes the main character who can be a villain and hero. The researcher also analyzes about their role, are they protagonist or antagonist. Then, the researcher finds that almost people believed that villain will always be an antagonist because she or he harm other people. But for Derrida, a consequence in symbol is not stabil. For example when people found one meaning or word in a dictionary, they will be directed to other word in defferal. Derrida's argument shows that a text is always in the discourse. It means that there is something else in outside which can be understood. Here, the researcher finds that:

1. A villain is not always be a villain. It can be a hero and hero also can be a villain. It can be happen depend on the situation. We can see it from Maleficent. At the first story, she was a kind fairy, she did not

hurt Stefan when he stole the jewelry from the Moors. Then, she became stronger and be the protector of the Moors. In other situation, she changed to be a villain. She cursed Aurora because of her grudge to Stefan who had betrayed her.

2. A villain is not always be an antagonist character. It also can be happened based on the situation. It can be seen from Maleficent. She became a villain but her position always be a protagonist because she always be a chief character in plots and person who always be an interest character. After she had betrayed by Stefan, she cursed Aurora to stab her finger into the spinning wheel and became asleep forever. Then, in the middle of the story she became a kind woman because of her pitiful feeling to Aurora. Aurora was a baby who did not protected by her parents. Her parents isolated her in the forest with the three fairies who did not know how to care for her. From that, Maleficent cared with Aurora, she tried to revoke the curse, and she came to the castle to save Aurora from her death sleep. After that, she brought Aurora to the Moors and made her to be a queen.

The structuralism is not absolute. Villain can be replaced by hero. Villain is not always be an antagonist character. It also can be a protagonist.

That's all can be deconstruct depend on the situation.

## 4.2 Suggestion

This movie has a theme of action and fantasy. This movie shows that not all villain can be categorized as an antagonist and not all hero can be categorized as a protagonist. For villain, they can be a hero and also can be a protagonist. For hero, they can be a villain and also can be an antagonist. They get second chance to redeem their sin. As a Moslem, the researcher makes a relation about the phenomenon to the verses which is give second chance for Moslem. In the Quran surah Al Imran verses 135-136:

وَالَّذِينَ إِذَا فَعَلُوا فَحِشَةً أَوْ ظَلَمُوا أَنْفُسَهُمْ ذَكَرُوا اللَّهَ فَاسْتَغْفَرُوا لِذُنُوبِهِمْ وَمَنْ يَغْفِرَ اللَّهُ إِلَّاهُ وَلَمْ يُصِرُّوا  
عَلَىٰ مَا فَعَلُوا وَهُمْ يَعْلَمُونَ ۝ ١٣٥

أُولَٰئِكَ جَزَاؤُهُمْ مَغْفِرَةٌ ۖ مِّن رَّبِّهِمْ وَجَنَّاتٌ ۖ تَجْرِي مِن تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا وَنِعْمَ أَجْرُ الْعَامِلِينَ ۝ ١٣٦

*“And those who, when they commit an immorality or wrong themselves [by transgression], remember Allah and seek forgiveness for their sins – and who can forgive sins except Allah? - and [who] do not persist in what they have done while they know.”*

*“Those – their reward is forgiveness from their Lord and gardens beneath which rivers flow [in Paradise], wherein they will abide eternally; and excellent is the reward of the [righteous] workers,” (<https://quran.com/3>)*

The researcher suggests for the next researcher who want to analyze about the same object, the case in this analysis (shifty character) can be identified more deeply in perspective religion. It can also be identify in other cases and theories because this movie is easy to understand but complicated for analyzes.

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