

## **THE CHARACTER ALTERATION OF MALEFICENT FROM SLEEPING BEAUTY INTO MALEFICENT MOVIE**

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### **Abstrak**

Penelitian ini menganalisis tentang posmodernisme dari film *Sleeping Beauty* terhadap film *Maleficent*. Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk menganalisis perubahan dari kedua film di atas. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskripsi komparasi. Teknik pengumpulan data menggunakan teknik note taking dengan menggunakan teori Posmodernisme oleh Linda Hutcheon. Hasil penelitian ini mengungkap ada perbedaan karakter pada tokoh yang sama dalam film *Maleficent* dan film *Sleeping Beauty*. Hal tersebut terletak pada keterwakilan sejarah.

**Kata Kunci:** Maleficent, Perubahan, Posmodernisme, Keterwakilan Sejarah

### **Abstract**

This thesis studied about postmodernism from *Sleeping Beauty* movie into *Maleficent* movie. The objective of the research was to analyze the alteration of *Maleficent* in both movies. The writers conducted the research by using descriptive comparative method. Technique of data collection used note taking technique with theory of postmodernism by Linda Hutcheon. The writers found that there is a way that might others see character *Maleficent* movie is different from earlier in the *Sleeping Beauty* movie. It is in Historical Representation.

**Keywords:** Maleficent, Alteration, Postmodernism, Historical Representation

### **A. Introduction**

Literature has been widely known by many people and experts. The word 'literature' is derived from the word '*littera*' in Latin which means letter. It refers to the written or printed words. The term 'literature' is used to describe what in mind,

idea, beliefs and other expression into a creative writing. Nowadays, the word 'literature' is more focused and restricted to merely imaginative works, which comes up from the imaginative mind of the story writers. Klarer says that in most cases, literature is referred to 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<sup>1</sup>.

Literature is a human behavior commons to all societies, a means of communicating universally similar feelings, thoughts, and so forth which crosses ages and spaces<sup>2</sup>. Wellek and Warren also state that the term literature seems best if we limit it to the art of literature<sup>3</sup>, that is, to imaginative literature. Literature is also produced by imagination of the author. So, therefore literature is an imaginative writing as prose, novel, drama and etc. Sometimes, to make a literature work such novel or drama more interesting they are made into a movie.

Movie, just like other pieces of literature, is a work of art. It attempts to give description about the universe where we live and tries to give a specific impression of universe. It often present something that always happened in daily life, from an individual learns about the world. According to Johnstone in Nikmah, movie is complex text linguistic, structure, and visual codes which were arranged to produce the special meaning<sup>4</sup>. Movie is an electronic signal of moving graphics, pictures, or text used to combine a steady stream of images used for entertainment, education, or other uses. It is different from other kinds of literature such as novel which need more time to understand the meaning, and poetry, even though it is shorter than movie, it needs more time to understand the meaning that is hidden behind those short words. Movie has several genres, such as comedy, romance, action, etc.

Sleeping Beauty movie is an adaptation of the fairy tale of the same name which was directed in 1959. The story told about princess Aurora is cursed by the evil witch Maleficent - who declares that before the sun sets on Aurora's 16th birthday she will die by pricking her finger on the spindle of a spinning wheel and will awake from an ageless sleep with a kiss from her true love. To try to prevent this, the king places her into hiding, in the care of three good-natured - but not too bright - fairies.

Related to Sleeping Beauty, Maleficent movie also talked about fairy tale. This movie released in 2014. Maleficent as a teenager, is a powerful and respected winged fairy helping to rule a magical land full of strange creatures. One day, Henry's son Stefan traipses into the fairy's land and meets Maleficent, causing the two crazy teens to fall into forbidden love but Stefan betrayed her. In response, Maleficent swears revenge on Stefan, she gets her chance when the prince becomes king and has

<sup>1</sup>Klarer Mario, *An Introduction to Literary Studies* (London: Psychology Press, 2004), p. 1.

<sup>2</sup>Timothy J. Reiss, *The Meaning of Literature* (New York: Cornell University Press, 1992: 2)

<sup>3</sup>Rene Wellek, Austin Warren, 1984. *Theory of Literature: New Revised Edition* (New York: Harcourt, Brace & World, 1963), p. 22.

<sup>4</sup>Hidayatun Nikmah, *The Representation of Heroine's Myth by "Katniss" In Hunger Games Movie* (State Islamic University Sunan Kalijaga, 2014), p. 1.

his first child, a daughter named Aurora -- as Sleeping Beauty fans will remember, Maleficent curses her to fall into a death-like sleep after pricking her finger on a spinning wheel on her 16th birthday. However, Maleficent refuses to stay away from Aurora and ends up developing maternal feelings for the girl, eventually inspiring her to try to undo the curse she placed upon the princess.

Even though both of those movies talk about the same story include the characters and plot, but the characterization of the fairy Maleficent is very different, where in *Sleeping Beauty* the person that kissed the princess so she can wake up is prince Philip whether in *Maleficent* the person that kissed Aurora and finally woke up is Maleficent herself, the fairy that curses Aurora before.

Based on the background above, the writers are interested in analyzing the alteration of 'Sleeping Beauty' movie which was directed in 1959 by postmodernism era movie 'Maleficent' that was directed in 2014. The popularization of fairy tale and these two movies in different eras becomes the reason why these movies need to be analyzed and because the comparison of movie is still rarely performed in State Islamic University of Alauddin Makassar.

## **B. Literature Review**

### **1. Postmodernism**

Viewing a work that transformed into a different form requires special attention. In the study of comparative literature, deformation indicate a contain change. The principle applied in this study that cultural production will always adjust the era and the period. A work that appears in one era and appeared later in a different era will changes and be adjusted. The literary works always follow the development of the popular thinking of the era. Changes occurring form of a children literary becomes an adult movie for several decades later became significant to get more attention. As described this movie focuses on the alteration of the character Maleficent evil into good character in this film.

This study uses Gramsci statement on the format and content that builds a masterpiece. Gramsci stated<sup>5</sup>:

“Can one speak of a priority of content over form? One can in this sense: the work of art is a process and changes of content are also changes of form .... Therefore, "form" and "content" have a "historical" meaning besides an "aesthetic" one. "Historical" form means a specific language, just as "content" indicates a specific way of thinking that is not only historical”

This quote illustrates that the content and format are formed and strongly influenced by the history of the nation. If the format changes then the contains also changes, and vice versa if the content changes then the format also changes. By linking the changes seen in the contain change *Maleficent* be the good fairy in this story. Therefore, this study will focus on how the author rationalizes Maleficent alteration in the format that present to different characters in both movies.

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<sup>5</sup>James Martin (Editor), *Antonio Gramsci: Critical Assessment of Leading Political Philosophers*, Volume III (London and New York: Routledge, 2002), h. 201.

Set forth this character change and focus to explore the format change, this research will show how a deconstruction takes place with this format change is causing changes to the content. This research also comes from Linda Hutcheon, she states that the postmodern writers writing their position in the context of history in order to combine the past and present<sup>6</sup>. Connell<sup>7</sup> says that the purpose of this Hutcheon is incident in the past used as a fact that is in structure story not just be a reason. For postmodern, history not only as a discursive medium but also have to be treated as a discourse that constructs.

The occurrences of Maleficent history in the movie that did not previously exist in Sleeping Beauty movie to be attractive as a great space to be explored in this study.

According to Pauline Rosenau<sup>8</sup> postmodernism is a critique of modern society and its failure to fulfill its promises. Postmodern also tendency to criticize everything that is associated with the accumulation of modernity experience. Postmodern theorists tend to reject what is usually known as a world view, metanarrative, totality, and so forth.

In the book *Introducing Postmodernism* Appignanesi, Garrat, Sardar and Curry say that postmodernism implies denial, that it was not modern anymore. Postmodernism, in essence, is a mixture of some or all of the meaning of the results, as a result, the development, denial, and rejection of modernism<sup>9</sup>.

Characteristics of Postmodernism according to that book:

- a. The emergence of a critical rebellion against the project of modernity; waning confidence in religion is transcendent; and the acceptance of pluralism, relativism of truth.
- b. The outbreak of the mass media industry, so it is like an extension of the sensory system, organs and our nerve, which in order to make the world a noticeably smaller. Moreover, the power of the mass media has been transformed like "religion" or "god" secular, in the sense that people's behavior is no longer determined by traditional religions, but unwittingly been regulated by the mass media, such as television programs.
- c. The emergence of ethnic and religious radicalism. This phenomenon appears allegedly as a reaction or an alternative when people increasingly doubt the truth of science, technology and philosophy that failed to meet its promise to liberate man, but instead, what happens is oppression.
- d. The emergence of a new tendency to find an identity and rationalism appreciation and attachment to the past.

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<sup>6</sup>Linda Hutcheon, *A Poetic of postmodernism; History, Theory, Fiction* (New York and London: Routledge, 1988), p. 126.

<sup>7</sup>Connell, *The Year in Hypertension 2001* (London and New York: Taylor and Francis, 2003),.

<sup>8</sup>Pauline Rosenau, *Post-Modernism and the Social Sciences: Insights, Inroads, and Intrusions* (United Kingdom: Princeton University Press. 1992)

<sup>9</sup>Richard Appignanesi, et al. *Introducing Postmodernism* (Malta: Gutenberg Press, 2004), p. 4.

- e. The strengthening of urban areas as cultural centers and rural areas as a suburb. This pattern also applies to the strengthening of the dominance of developed countries on developing countries. Like the developed countries as the "central point" that determine the motion on the "fringe".
- f. The opening up opportunities for social classes or groups to express opinions more freely. In other words, the era of postmodernism has contributed to the democratization process.
- g. The era of postmodernism is also characterized by the emergence of a tendency for the growth of eclecticism and confusion of the various discourses, portraits fragments of reality, so that one is hard to be placed strictly on cultural groups exclusively.
- h. The language used in postmodernism is often impressive obscurity of meaning and inconsistencies so-called "era of postmodernism" contains many paradoxes.<sup>10</sup>

Postmodernism is the ideology that developed after the modern era with its modernism. Postmodernism is not a single ideology as a theory, but instead appreciate the theories are scattered and difficult to find a single meeting point. Many figures are on the meaning of postmodernism as a continuation of modernism. But the continuation has been very diverse.

The notes from Linda<sup>11</sup> in her book *The Politics of Postmodernism* about relevant quotations from especially regarding historical metafiction as follows:

a. Representation

Represents what is really constructed meaning or something inherent in that which is being represented. Like every great word, 'representation/s' is a stew. A scrambled menu, it serves up several meanings at once. For a representation can be an image—visual, verbal, or aural. A representation can also be a narrative, a sequence of images and ideas. Or, a representation can be the product of ideology, that vast scheme for showing forth the world and justifying its dealings.

b. Consciousness

Conscious of which make sense of and construct order out of experience in particular culture. Yet, by simply making representation into an issue again postmodernism challenges our mimetic consciousness about representation (in any of its 'scrambled menu' meanings): consciousness about its transparency and common-sense naturalness. It is a challenge to the realist notion of representation that presumes the transparency of the medium and thus the direct and natural link between sign and referent or between word and world.

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<sup>10</sup>See Richard Appignanesi, *et al. Introducing Postmodernism*, p. 86-88

<sup>11</sup>Linda Hutcheon, *The Politics of Postmodernism* (London: Routledge, 1989), p. 82.

### C. Methods

In this research, the writers used descriptive comparative method by using Linda Hutcheon theory to examine the alteration deconstruction of character Maleficent in *Sleeping Beauty* and *Maleficent* movie.

### D. Findings

This part consists of two sections, the findings and the discussion of the research findings. The findings are presented as data description, and the discussion reveals some arguments and further interpretations.

#### 1. Narrative Representation

Narrative representation is when narrative capacities transform the present into a fulfillment of a past from which the people would wish to have descended. The politics of narrative representation can apparently sometimes be of limited efficacy when it comes to the representation of politics.

NO	Extracts	
	A. <i>Sleeping Beauty</i>	B. <i>Maleficent</i>
1.	<p>The story begins with the celebration of the birth of Princess Aurora which was attended by all the people, 3 fairies invited to bless the princess where Maleficent come to destroy the celebrations with a curse to the princess.</p> <p><b>Narrator:</b> <i>“In a far away land, long ago, lived a king and his fair queen. Many years had they longed for a child and finally their wish was granted. A daughter was born, and they called her Aurora. Yes, they named her after the dawn for she filled their lives with sunshine. Then a great holiday was proclaimed throughout the kingdom, so that all of high or low estate might pay homage to the infant princess. And our story begins on that most joyful day.”</i> (E.1/M.02/S.04)</p>	<p>The beginning of the story begins with a setting and prolog that there are two different kingdoms where one is human’s kingdom and the other is Moors where Maleficent live peacefully with other wonderful creatures.</p> <p><b>Narrator:</b> <i>“Let us tell an old story anew. And we will see how well you know it. Once upon a time, there were two kingdoms that were the worst of neighbors. So vast was the discord between them that it was said only a great hero or a terrible villain might bring them together. In one kingdom lived folk like you and me with a vain and greedy king to rule over them. They were forever discontent and envious of the wealth and beauty of their neighbors. For in the other kingdom, the Moors lived every manner of strange and wonderful creature. And they needed neither king nor queen but trusted in one another.”</i> (E.1/S.38)</p>

## 2. Historical Representation

Historical representation is that essentially the past is a sea of historical phenomena that have to be described and explained. The past was conceived of as a host of phenomena lying before the historian, waiting to be described and explained. The preference for the latest work automatically generated a number of questions, which were mostly epistemological, with regard to the truth of descriptive and explanatory statements made by the historian about the past.

NO	Extracts	
	A. Sleeping Beauty	B. Maleficent
2.	<p>Maleficent appears into several scenes, there does not seem to be any real flying involved.</p> <p><b>Maleficent:</b> <i>“Stand back you fools” [disappears in a flash of lightning, laughing]</i> (E.2/M.09/S.19)</p>	<p>The extent of the character’s abilities were featured in the film including her majestic wings and flying abilities like Superman and the first third of the movie is her origin story.</p> <p><b>Maleficent:</b> <i>“I had wings once. They were stolen from me. That’s all I wish to say about it.”</i></p> <p><b>Aurora:</b> <i>“What color were they? Were they big?”</i></p> <p><b>Maleficent:</b> <i>“So big they dragged behind me when I walked. And they were strong. They could carry me above the clouds and into the headwinds. And they never faltered. Not even once. I could trust them.”</i> (E.2/M.54/S.52)</p>
3.	<p>Maleficent looked for exiled Aurora who is cared by three fairies for sixteen years but she could not find her whereas after having her search patrol to look every places.</p> <p><b>Maleficent:</b> <i>“It’s incredible, sixteen years and not a trace of her! She couldn’t have vanished into thin air. Are you sure you searched everywhere?”</i> (E.3/M.15/S.57)</p>	<p>Maleficent always come around a house where Aurora live and follow the growth of her who is cared in accurately by three fairies, indirectly her motherly soul raised and she keep aurora from a distance.</p> <p><b>Maleficent:</b> <i>“It’s gonna to starve with those three looking after it.” [She gets Diaval to feed Aurora correctly]</i> (E.3/M.36/S.36)</p>
4.	<p>Maleficent fortify Stefan castle in order that Philip could not get into it</p>	<p>There seen where Maleficent build a fortress to protect the Moors</p>

	to help Aurora. <b>Maleficent:</b> “A forest of thorn shall be his tomb. Born through the skies on a fog of doom. Now go with the curse and serve me well, Round Stefan’s castle cast by spell!”[a black cloud appears over the castle. Bolts of lightning strike everywhere, causing the growth of thick thorny bushes. Phillip has to stop before them] (E.6/H.01/M.07/S.45)	kingdom from attack. Royal Soldier: “The wall cannot be burned. It is indestructible.” (E.6/M.39/S.37)
5.	Maleficent turn herself into dragon and fight Philip and she died after a drawn sword in her body. <b>Maleficent:</b> “No, it cannot be!” [appears in front of Phillip] “Now shall you deal with me, old prince, and all the powers of hell!” [transforms herself into a huge dragon]. (E.7/H.01/M.08/S.59)	Maleficent turn Diaval into a dragon and together fight Stefan to save herself and Aurora to go back in the Moors. <b>Maleficent:</b> “Into dragon” [She changed the previous Diaval tangible crows become a huge dragon] (E.7/H.01/M.19/S.12)

## E. Discussion

### 1. Narrative Representation

Represent what is really constructed meaning or something inherent in that which is being represented. Works do not depict life, they depict life as it is represented by ideology'. Ideology --how culture represents itself to itself--'doxifies' or naturalizes narrative representation, making it appear as natural or common-sensical.

**Extract 1.A** explained about the beginning of the movie where the narrator told about the birth of Aurora the new princess who were waited for many years, and the king will hold a day of blessing and invites all levels of society and royal families from various kingdoms.

Extract **1.B** different from Sleeping Beauty, Maleficent movie begins with a prologue that tell about the movie is actually a long story that will be retold and describes the information that is different from the previous story. The scene began of the hostility between the two kingdoms where the first kingdom is the kingdom of human, and the second is the kingdom of the Moors where the inhabitants are wonderful creatures, explained that these two kingdoms will only be united by strength of great hero or terrible villain.

The difference above shows that there is a different story in the beginning between the two movies, where in Maleficent there a narrative which represents something new so that the viewers are ready to be buzzed. The narrator also told that the history that does not exist in Sleeping Beauty, so from what has represented in

Maleficent movie the writer understands that Maleficent cursed Aurora cause of she wanted to make her revenge to King Stefan who betrayed her.

## **2. Historical Representation**

Historical representation is that essentially the past is a sea of historical phenomena that have to be described and explained. The past was conceived of as a host of phenomena lying before the historian, waiting to be described and explained. The preference for the latest work automatically generated a number of questions, which were mostly epistemological, with regard to the truth of descriptive and explanatory statements made by the historian about the past.

Postmodern fiction does not, however, disconnect itself from history or the world. The people cannot avoid representation, they can try to avoid fixing our notion of it and assuming it to be transhistorical and transcultural. The people can also study how representation legitimizes and privileges certain kinds of knowledge -- including certain kinds of historical knowledge.

**Extract 2.A** showed that Maleficent appeared in no wings in Sleeping Beauty movie, she just came by using her long, black dress with horns on her head and magic wand.

**Extract 2.B** Maleficent appeared in several scenes where she had strong wings and can fly over the sky. One scene in Maleficent movie showed when Stefan cut Maleficent's wings (M.18/S.06) so she cannot fly anymore. This clarifies that there something missing in Sleeping Beauty because her wings were stolen and did not exist in scene of it. Again this stated that there is a represent scene in Maleficent.

**Extract 3.A** while Aurora was looked after by the three fairies, in Sleeping Beauty movie, Maleficent looked for her and she already handed over all his men to look for the presence of Aurora but she could not find where the princess is. As in one scene where Maleficent talk to her royal patrol "Are you sure you searched everywhere?"

1<sup>st</sup> Servant: "yeah, yeah, anywhere, we all ..."

2<sup>nd</sup> Servant: "yeah, yeah!"

Maleficent: "But what about the town, the forests, the mountains?"

1<sup>st</sup> Servant: "We searched mountains, forests, and houses, and let me see, in all the cradles."

Maleficent: "Cradle?"

1<sup>st</sup> Servant: "Yeah, yeah, every cradle."

Maleficent: [angry] "Cradle?" [to her pet raven] "Did you hear that my pet? All these years, they've been looking for a baby!" [laughing] "oh, oh, ha, ha, ha ..."

**Extract 3.B** in some scenes Maleficent accompanied by Diaval seen visiting Aurora even save her from danger, as happened when the little Aurora almost falling into the abyss because of chasing butterflies that fly "Oh, look! The little beast is about to fall off the cliff" said Maleficent and help her by moving the timber on the brink of lifting Aurora back to the surface with her magic.

**Extract 4.A** in the story of sleeping beauty, Maleficent quickly build a fortress made of large spiked wooden to block Prince Philip way in rescuing Aurora who was sleeping in the curse of Maleficent.

**Extract 4.B** the same as *Sleeping Beauty* movie, Maleficent also build the same fortress that made of large spiked wooden and indestructible but she built it in a different purpose, it is actually protecting the kingdom from attack of King Stephan troops.

**Extract 5.A** Maleficent to strengthen herself in blocking Prince Philip transform herself into a big dragon and then tried to fight Philip who was on his way to the castle to save Princess Aurora.

**Extract 5.B** in *Maleficent* movie, she did not transform herself, but she turn Diaval who previously intangible crows become a great dragon to help her fight and save themselves from King Stephan and his soldiers then returned with Aurora to her kingdom the Moors. In one scene that showed when Maleficent help Diaval who was trapped in nets for devastating crop of wheat farmers to convert it into a human being. This makes Diaval devote himself to Maleficent which in previous stories known as Maleficent's pet who eventually becomes sculpture in the end.

From the data analysis above, the writers found that there were alterations of Maleficent character. In *Maleficent* movie, *Maleficent* claims to be a deeper look at the story behind *Sleeping Beauty*; showing a more sympathetic, nuanced version of the classic tale. But finding complexity is one thing; inventing entirely new characters is another. While at some points *Maleficent* shows new sides to the story, at others it takes to a previously unimaginable world version.

There is an urge to foreground, by means of contradiction, the paradox of the desire for and the suspicion of narrative mastery and master narratives. Historiography is no longer considered the objective and disinterested recording of the past; it is more an attempt to comprehend and master it by means of some working (narrative/explanatory) model that, in fact, is precisely what grants a particular meaning to the past.

The result is Motivations are changed so that Maleficent may become a villain-heroine, but Disney is only willing to stretch the boundaries of *Sleeping Beauty* so far. *Maleficent* tries to tear common ideology and fit the same positive frame into the original story as what postmodernism purposed.

## F. Conclusion

Maleficent does not actually turn into a good fairy, because she is not a wicked fairy as told in the story of *Sleeping Beauty*, but she only wanted to defend her rights to protect the Moors and took revenge on the King Stefan who had betrayed her. The writers found that there are two ways that make others see character Maleficent that was played by Angelina Jolie is different from earlier in the *Sleeping Beauty* movie, those are; Narrative Representation and Historical Representation.

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