

CHAPTER IV

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

In this chapter, the researcher presents findings and the discussions answering the formulated problem of this research which is described in the first chapter. It contains two parts; the first part mainly discusses the characterization of John Forbes Nash applied as the main character of the Novel “*A Beautiful Mind*” by Sylvia Nasar. The second part is a discussion of the findings supported by some related theories about the characterization.

A. Research Findings

This research was conducted by the researcher containing one research question formulated which is focused on the characterization of John Forbes Nash applied as the main character of the Novel “*A Beautiful Mind*” by Sylvia Nasar. After collecting the data, the next step done by the researcher was analyzing the data of research. Then, interpreting all collected data by describing the detail information of the characterization of John Forbes Nash applied as the main character of the Novel “*A Beautiful Mind*” supported by theories of the characterization from Roberts (1983) and Herman (2002) and also some related theories.

1. Identifying The Characters of John Forbes Nash

This part is proposed to answer the research question about the characterization of John Forbes Nash applied as the main character of the Novel “*A Beautiful Mind*” by Sylvia Nasar. In line with Roberts (1983), there are four

ways of displaying characters of the literature works such as in the novel namely: (1) the character words, (2) the style of language, (3) the behavior of the characters described, and (4) the conversation between the characters.

By conducting this study, the researcher presented the results findings in order to know how are the characterization of John Forbes Nash applied as the main character of the Novel “*A Beautiful Mind*” by using the table as the secondary instrument of this study. The researcher identified the characterization of John Forbes Nash based on the data examined and found three ways of identifying the characterization applied by the author of the novel “*A Beautiful Mind*”. Those findings are explained as the table below:



| No. | Data | Page | The ways to analyze characterization | | | |
|-----|--|------|--------------------------------------|------------------|--|-------------------------|
| | | | Character words | figure of speech | The behavior of the characters described | The dialog conversation |
| 1 | At school, Johnny's immaturity and social awkwardness were initially more apparent than any special intellectual gifts. His teachers labeled him an under-achiever. | 48 | | | √ | |
| 2 | He was a singular little boy, solitary and introverted. The once-dominant view of the origins of the schizoid temperament was that abuse, neglect, or abandonment caused the child to give up the possibility of gratification from human relationships at a very early age. | 46 | | √ | | |
| 3 | “But by the time Johnny was seven or eight; his aunts had come to consider him bookish and slightly odd. While Martha and her cousins rode stick horses, cut paper dolls out of old pattern books, and | 47 | | | √ | |

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| | played house and hide-and-seek in the “almost scary and buried in a book or magazine”. | | | | | |
| 4 | He caricatured classmates he disliked with weird little cartoons. He later told a fellow mathematician at MIT that, as a youngster, he had sometimes “enjoyed torturing animals.” He once constructed a Tinkertoy rocking chair, wired it electrically, and tried to get Martha to sit in it. He played a similar prank on a neighboring child. | 57 | | √ | | |
| 5 | “In high school, Nash became friendly-though not close friends with a couple of fellow students, John William and John Louthan, both sons of Bluefield College Professors.” | 59 | | | √ | |
| 6 | “Nash was out of the ordinary. If he was in room with twenty people, and they were talking, if you asked an observer who struck you as odd it would have been Nash. | 110 | | | √ | |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|-----|--|--|---|---|
| | <p>It was not anything he consciously did. It was his bearing. His aloofness. Nash was totally spooky. He wouldn't look at you. He'd take a lot of time answering a question. If he thought the question was foolish he wouldn't answer at all. He had no effect. It was a mixture of pride and something else. He was so isolated but there really was underneath it all a warmth and appreciation of people.”</p> | | | | | |
| 7 | <p>“A lot of us would discount what Nash said. ... I wouldn't want to listen. You didn't feel comfortable with the person.”</p> | 110 | | | | √ |
| 8 | <p>“To an ambitious young mathematician like Nash, the gaps and flaws in von Neumann's theory were as alluring as the puzzling absence of ether through which light waves were supposed to travel was to the young Einstein. Nash immediately began thinking about the problem that von</p> | 132 | | | √ | |

| | | | | | | |
|---|--|-----|--|--|---|--|
| | Neumann and Morgenstern described as the most important test of the new theory.” | | | | | |
| 9 | “His arrogance was seen as evidence of his genius, and so as his eccentricity, a source of both amusement and grudging respect, the other side of the genius coins, as it were.” | 215 | | | √ | |

Table 4.1 The Analyzing of the Characterization



Based on table 4.1 above, the researcher found 9 data supporting the identification of characterization applied to the main character in the novel “A Beautiful Mind”. Those results of the identification were categorized into three namely: (1) The figure of speech used by author containing 2 data, (2) The behavior or actions of the characters described by the author in the novel containing 6 data, and (3) The conversation between the characters described by the author containing 1 datum.

In this research, the author tells the characters of John as the main character in the novel by implementing the figure of speech. In line with Murphy (in Aryanti, 2008, p. 9) claims “The author describes the characteristics of a character through the way one character speaks to other characters which means that the information spoken can give the reader an insight of one’s characteristics in a story”. Then, the identification of the character used by the author is applying the behavior or actions of the characters described. Means that the author defines a person’s mannerisms, habits which directly tells the readers about his or her character in the story (Aryanti, 2008). Lastly, the author applied the identification based on the conversation between the characters. It can be stated as the identification used by the author to the readers by using the conversation about the character to know the characteristic of one character which means that it is about what people said focusing to the particular character in the story (Herman: 2002; as quoted in Aryanti, 2008).

2. The Characteristics of John Forbes Nash

In the novel ‘A Beautiful Mind’ written by Sylvia Nasar, the main focus of the story is actually John Forbes Nash as the main character of the novel. John, a major character in this novel, became the center of the story from the beginning until the end of the story. At the beginning of the story, it described how John Nash identified as a being mentally ill person. Moreover, the dynamics of the story is focused on him because this novel demonstrates John F. Nash’s capacity to change and/or to grow as the reactions of him toward the events and to influence other characters in the novel.

Based on the data examined in this research, the researcher found the identified characters by John Forbes Nash. The findings were revealed that John is categorized as the person who is introverted, indifferent, arrogance, eccentric, ambitious and brilliant in mathematics.

B. Discussion

The researcher discussed the characterization of John Forbes Nash applied as the main character of the Novel ‘A Beautiful Mind’ by Sylvia Nasar. All of the data in the novel were examined by the researcher in order to answer the research question formulated. The characterization of the main character in the novel used in the data of this study was examined based on the theories of Roberts (1983) and Herman (2002) and the interpretations of the research findings by related theories and some previous studies.

Moreover, the term characterization means “The author's way of displaying person’s characters, the relationship of the characters with other stories, and how the author describes the character in the story” (Herman, 2002: 165). The identification of the character within the story are classified into four namely: (1) the character's words, (2) the style of language or figure of speech used by the author, (3) the behavior or actions of the characters described by the author and (4) the conversation between the characters.

1. Identifying The Characters of John Forbes Nash

Answering the formulated problem of this research, it is essential to know the characters and characterizations of John F. Nash by analyzing and identifying them. As the main purpose of this study in order to know how the characterizations of John as the major character in the novel, this research was supported by the related theories of character proposed by Roberts (1983) and Herman (2002). It is stated that “Identifying of the characters are recognized by several ways consisting (1) the character words, (2) the style of language, (3) the behavior of the characters described, and (4) the conversation between the characters. As a result, the researcher found three ways of identification called: applying the style of language, identifying by the behaviors of the main character and by interpretation of the conversations uttered by the characters involved.

The novel is known as one of the literary works. Identification of the characters involved, there are many ways to understand the interpretation of the characters in the novel. People can get someone’s personality from the way they

speak, walk and/or even what they wear. People can also find out someone's feeling and other personality by looking at their physical appearances, their clothing, their make-up and so forth. In line with Murphy (1972) claimed that "identifying the characters can be done by the reader in order to interpret the authors implied through the literature works consisting: personal description, characters as seen by another, speech, past life, conversation of others, reactions, direct comment, thoughts, and mannerism".

Furthermore, in the novel as the source of this study, the author applied the three ways through the language used as presented in table 4.1 presented. First, identification from the figure of speech used by author containing 2 data. In this study, the author tells the characters of John as the main character in the novel by implementing the figure of speech. As it is proposed Murphy (in Aryanti, 2008, p. 9) "The author mainly describes the characteristics of a character through the way one character speaks to other characters which mean that the information spoken can give the reader an insight of one's characteristics in a story".

Moreover, the identification used by the author from the behavior or actions of the characters described by the author in the novel containing 6 data. Means that the author defines a person's mannerisms, habits which directly tells the readers about his or her character in the story (Aryanti, 2008). Lastly, the identification character coming from the conversation between the characters described by the author containing 1 datum. According to Herman (2002; as cited in Aryanti, 2008), "The identification applied in the story by using the

conversation about character can be used by the author in order to understand the characteristic of one character focusing to the particular character in the story”.

2. The Characteristics of John Forbes Nash

John Forbes Nash as the main character in the novel “*A Beautiful Mind*” has a complex personality identified. His character is also can be categorized as a round character because his character in the novel changes within the story. In line with Aryanti (2008, p. 8), “Round character is described as complex in temperament and it is represented with insignificant particularly that changes a person in life”. Additionally, the changes show that John grows his nature of psychology of the character.

As a major character, he is expressed by the author in detail in the novel. Basically, John was born on June 13th, 1928, exactly four years after his parents’ marriage. He was born in the Bluefield Sanitarium, a small hospital in Ramsey Street, and baptized into the Episcopal Church. Mostly, he spent his childhood in an earnest situation through the parents actively loved him so much at that time.

“He was a singular little boy, solitary, and introverted. The once-dominant view of the origins of the schizoid temperament was that abuse, neglect, or abandonment caused the child to give up the possibility of gratification from human relationships at a very early age.” (46)

Based on the quotation mentioned, the researcher inferred that as a young person, John is very introvert one although he is brought up in a loving family surrounded by close relations. His parents also show him much warmth on him as

the beloved son. John also shows the symptoms of being a true-lonely boy in his childhood. It can be identified by his manners. As stated by Murphy (in (Aryanti, 2008, p. 45), "Identification of someone's personality can be judged through his or her mannerism and habits". Thus, it is clearly stated that as a true-lonely boy, John does not like playing with someone else even his parents and his sister namely Martha. As it is seen in the data below:

"But by the time John was seven or eight; his aunts had come to consider him bookish and slightly odd. While Martha and her cousins rode stick horses, cut paper dolls out of old pattern books, and played hose and hide-and-seek in the "almost scary and buried in a book or magazine".
(47)

The data above shows that John is identified as a Lonely-boy. Even though John likes to play by himself, he is busy in his activity without somebody next to him. John also ignores the neighborhood children by preferring to stay indoors alone. He was interested in books when he was young but little interest in playing with other children in his environment. It is not because of lack of childhood friends that he behaves as the way he was but John mostly preferred playing by himself with toy airplanes and matchbox cars.

By knowing John's character which is identified as a lonely boy, his parents seem to unintentionally control his loner attitude by bringing him to get an education as well as the wish of his parents that John could be able to make relationships with his friends in his childhood. Virginia, his mother, responds by enthusiastically encouraging John's education by making sure that he gets good

learning at school and also teaching him herself. Meanwhile, John's father, called as John Sr., also reacts toward his wife by treating John like an adult by providing him science book when other parents may give their children either coloring book or even drawing book as their age normally. By treating him as this way, his parents hope that John builds his character as an independent boy. Typically, John does not like to depend himself to others neither his sister nor his parents who did love and care about him as a family. At that time, John's best friends were books. He was happy as always learning on his own.

“At school, Johnny's immaturity and social awkwardness were initially more apparent than any special intellectual gifts. His teachers labeled him an underachiever.” (48)

As a student, John also shows his indifferent attitude with others. Thus, the teachers at school certainly do not recognize his genius. His teachers assume that John has a serious problem in social skills. By knowing this condition, John was labeled by his teachers as a backward student. Moreover, John always gets bored at school. By the time at his age at twelve years old, he starts showing great talent as he is interested in carrying out scientific experiments in his room at home. It is exactly clear that he learns more at his home and he does what he has learnt at school. Dealing with his unusual childhood attitude, his parents keeps on encouraging him to involve in social activities. By this motivation, John joins some activities such as sports, dances, visits to relatives and other social activities.

“In high school, Nash became friendly-though not close friends with a couple of fellow students, John William and

John Louthan, both sons of Bluefield College Professors.”
(59)

Moreover, the first hint of John’s skill at math comes in his fourth grade at school. Coming from the situation happened at his class, when the teacher tells Virginia, one of his classmates, that the boy could not do the math to solve the simple problem in math, she laughs. By that time, John solves his teacher’s awkward proof in just a few elegant steps. John shows his brilliant when he becomes one of ten nationally awarded winners of the George Westinghouse Award which provides him with full scholarship to the Carnegie Institute of Technology. At that time, he took mathematics courses as well as science courses. In a particular studying chemistry, science was a favorite topic. From those past of his stories, it can be said that John is considered as a brilliant and indifferent boy.

John also determined as the ambition boy. Although he has no close companion, he enjoys performing in front of people. He always keeps on asking his mother many questions related to electricity, geology, weather, astronomy, other technological subjects and natural world. He spends most of his time by thinking. In his grow up time, he keeps on searching the answer of every question that comes up in his mind. Consequently, it shows that he is deliberated to be an ambitious person regardless he is known as an odd person. In line with Murphy (in Aryanti, 2008, p. 47) claimed that “A person’s character can be recognized from his or her various situations and conditions as his or her reacts”.

“He caricatured classmates he disliked with weird little cartoons. He later told a fellow mathematician at MIT that,

as a youngster, he had sometimes “enjoyed torturing animals.” He once constructed a Tinkertoy rocking chair, wired it electrically, and tried to get Martha to sit in it. He played a similar prank on a neighboring child.” (57)

Based on the quotation above, it shows when John interacts with his peers, his weirdness is also shown up. John describes the situation of his study. As he quickly aspired to great things in mathematics, he took the William Lowell Putnam Mathematics Competition twice even though he did not make the top five. It became a failure in John’s eyes and the situation make him taking badly. Furthermore, despite his weirdness, his ambition has led him to pursue his dream. He received a BA and an MBA in mathematics in 1948. By the time, he had been accepted into the mathematics program as Harvard, Chicago and Michigan. He felt that Harvard was the leading university and he wanted to go there. Meanwhile, his offer was less generous than that of Princeton. Thinking about the prestigious fellowship that Princeton had, John made decision to study there.

John also reveals his big ambition when he issued his paper “The Bargaining Problem”. He wants to prove that his ambition comes with the right expectation. He intentionally tries to beat his professors in Princeton called John von Neumann and Oskar Morgenstern. First time, they have issued one of the finest work of arts that have ever been issued namely “The Theory of Games and Economic Behavior”.

“To an ambitious young mathematician like Nash, the gaps and flaws in von Neumann’s theory were as alluring as the puzzling absence of ether through which light waves were supposed to travel was to the young Einstein. Nash

immediately began thinking about the problem that von Neumann and Morgenstern described as the most important test of the new theory.” (132)

Although John’s effort is considered as the impolite action, “The Bargaining Problem” eventually has corrected the weakness of “The Theory of Games and Economic Behavior”. But, in this case, John takes that his theory is not perfectly arranged as he begins to think for the possible solution to make it fixed.

Moreover, John’s ambition, brilliance and oddness have supported by his arrogance when he was in Princeton. It begins when he starts to smug the class discussion and underestimate his friends. The first-year students are extremely arrogant bunch, but John immediately strikes everyone as a good deal cocker and stranger. His appearance helps to create the impression. The arrogance is also elaborated on his being eccentric. He does not care about the habit that all this time college students learn through lectures. Whereas, he gets his own faith that he could be able to learn from another way and it becomes one of his reasons to keep ignoring his lectures.

As considered that John is an arrogant young, through his personal description, the author emphasized his character as seen in the data in this study that some fellow students put comments of his being arrogant.

“Nash was out of the ordinary. If he was in room with twenty people, and they were talking, if you asked an observer who struck you as odd it would have been Nash. It was not anything he consciously did. It was his bearing. His aloofness. Nash was totally spooky. He wouldn’t look at

you. He'd take a lot of time answering a question. If he thought the question was foolish he wouldn't answer at all. He had no effect. It was a mixture of pride and something else. He was so isolated but there really was underneath it all a warmth and appreciation of people. A lot of us would discount what Nash said. ... I wouldn't want to listen. You didn't feel comfortable with the person." (110)

From the quotation based on his friends' opinion and the way he reacts, it proves that his arrogant character. It is supported from his statement mentioned as viewed "*...I wouldn't want to listen.*" Moreover, his arrogant can be viewed in the quotation below:

"His arrogance was seen as evidence of his genius, and so as his eccentricity, a source of both amusement and grudging respect, the other side of the genius coins, as it were." (215)

Based on the descriptions among the data mentioned, it can be stated that overall, John Forbes Nash's characteristics become more understandable and clear that he is described as genius, indifferent, introverted, ambitious, a brilliant young mathematics and also an arrogant man. The author used the description of the main characters in the novel by identification of the style of language or figure of speech used by the author, the behavior or actions of the characters described by the author and the conversation between the characters.