

## CHARACTERISTIC ANALYSIS OF THE NOVEL “FANGIRL” BY USING READER RESPONSE

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### Abstract

This research is an analysis of the personalities of the twin characters named Cath and Wren expressed in Fangirl novel by Rainbow Rowell. This study analyzes the characteristics of twins based on reader response analysis. The researcher found several characteristics in the twin characters including caring, anxious, fearful, impulsive, headstrong, forgiving, enthusiastic, and wise. The method used in this research is descriptive qualitative method. The main data source comes from novel literature. In addition, as research supporting data, from articles in magazines and the internet. The data collection technique used in this research is document analysis.

**Keywords:** *Characteristic, Fangirl, Reader Response*

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### I. INTRODUCTION

Rees (1973) states that literature has two meanings, namely literature in a broad sense and literature in a narrow sense. Literature in a broad sense includes for example timelines, catalogs, textbooks, travel brochures, etc. Meanwhile, literature in a narrow sense is all writing that expresses thoughts, feelings, and actions in life.

Literary work is a description of human life in which the author writes in the form of his creations and imagination, (Kanserina, 2015). In literary works, the author describes the ups and downs that are often experienced by himself or experienced by humans in general. Literary works are divided into three, namely prose (fiction), poetry, and drama. prose (fiction), for example, is the novel, which the author is now focusing on research.

Literary works that tell the full side of the problems in the life of a character or several characters, the world of imagination is what is called a novel, Harahap dan Ningsih (2022). in a novel often tells the life of a character who often has problems in his life. The character that often appears in a novel is the main character or what is often called the protagonist, this character has a large enough role in the story of a novel.

### II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Literature is generally understood as writing or the use of language in written form. There are several literary works, but literary works such as plays, poetry and novels are more interesting to read than textbooks and textbooks because they are very interesting and bring joy to readers. One of the literary works is a novel. Novel is a work of human imagination which can be classified as a product of fiction (Sari, et al.,

2015). Fiction imitates real life, but some novels have unreal characters and events at their core. The language used in the novel can be classified as a display language. This makes it easier for the reader to understand.

In this paper, the writer is interested in the novel “Fangirl” by Rainbow Rowell. This novel tells the story of a girl who is crazy about writing fanfiction. In the novel of “Fangirl”, the reader has to think a lot more about what happened and how to get to the truth about the story. So that the reader can understand the whole story. This study discusses some of the main character's personality problems in Fangirl novel, based on the analysis of readers' responses.

### **III. RESEARCH METHOD**

The method used by the author is descriptive qualitative method. Zaim (2014:14) explained that the descriptive method is a research method that collects data in the form of words. The data can be in the form of oral or written, so that the results of this study are in the form of descriptions or presentations that can produce factual symptoms. According to Ratna in (Fauziah, 2021:79) the descriptive method is carried out by describing or describing facts that can provide understanding and explanation, which is then followed by analysis.

The subject of this research is Rainbow Lowell's literary work Fangirl. The type of research method used is descriptive-qualitative. Primary data sources come from the literary works themselves, while other data sources come from journals, books and articles on the internet as data sources to support research. The data collection and data analysis technique used in this research is document analysis.

### **IV. FINDING**

From the data analyzed by the researcher, the first thing the researcher found was about the personality of the main character and the conflict that the main character experienced in the novel. In addition to internal conflict, the researcher found that the main character experiences external conflict, that is, he also finds out what he is experiencing in relation to other characters, as well as what the main character is experiencing with society and things other than himself.

#### **Characteristics of The Twins in The Novel Fangirl by Rainbow Rowell**

Character is a way of thinking and acting that distinguishes each individual to live and work together, both in the family, society, nation and nation. People with good character are able to make decisions and are willing to take responsibility for any consequences of their decisions. According to Gulo W characteristic can be seen from a person's personality both in terms of moral and ethical points of view. There are several kinds of characteristic one of those is honesty. The character of honesty is obtained from the moral values instilled by each family, as well as other polite values.

At this stage, the writer identifies, describe, and analyzes the personality characteristics depicted in this novel. In the Fangirl novel, there are two main characters, namely Cath and Wren. Although they are twins, they still have differences. The most striking thing are their style and characteristics. Cath tends to be introverted, nerdy, with stylish glasses and long hair tied in ponytail. Meanwhile, Wren is an extrovert with a more fashionable style with short hair.

## **Catch Characteristic**

### **Care**

*“Dad, stop ignoring my voice mail. Do you listen to your voice mail? Do you know how? Even if you don’t, I know you can see my number in your missed calls. **Call me back, okay?**”*

*“**Dad. Call me. Or call Wren. No, call me. I’m worried about you. I don’t like worrying about you.**” (Page, 62)*

The data above is taken from Cath's statement. Cath repeatedly said “Dad? Call me” and “I'm worried about you”. From this statement, it can be seen that Cath is worried about her father's condition. This shows that Cath has caring characteristics.

According to (Josepson) caring is a trait that makes an individual feel and know how race and experience are owned by other people, these actions are shown to show attitude of helping each other in taste. According to (Siburian) there are several indicators common in caring those are loving, showing care, express gratitude, forgive others, and help people who need.

### **Anxious**

*“You must be Cather,” the boy said, grinning and holding out his hand.”*

*“**Cath,**” she said, feeling a panicky jump in her stomach. She ignored his hand. (She was holding a box anyway, what did he expect from her?)*

*The boy took the box out of her hands and set it on an empty bed. The bed on the other side of the room was already covered with clothes and boxes. (Page, 4)*

The data above explains that Cath felt an uncomfortable sensation in her stomach when she met a man she didn't know. This shows that Cath is feeling anxious. According to (Drever, 1973:17), a chronic and complex emotional state characterized by various neurological and psychiatric disorders, with fear and anxiety as its main components. Also of concern is the fear of certain value threats.

### **Fearful**

*“**Please don’t make me do this alone.**”*

*“You’re never alone,” Wren said, sighing again. “That’s the whole fucking point of having a twin sister.” (Page, 7)*

The data above is taken from Cath's statement. Cath said "Please don't make me do this alone" From this statement it was clear that Cath begged his twin brother to stay with him. This shows that Cath looks scared if she has to go through her campus life alone without her twin.

### **Impulsive**

*“You don’t think we should go?” I think we should finish our finals,” Wren said. “By the time we’re done, he’ll be just coming out of the haze, and we can be there for him.” **I’m going,**” Cath said.” (Page, 226)*

From Cath’s statement above which says “I’m going.”. With this statement, Cath immediately made a decision without taking the advice of her twin into account. Her twin suggested that finish the end of semester exam first because her twin think

that their father would wake up after they finished their end of term exams, but Cath made up her mind right away to meet their father. This shows that Cath has impulsive characteristic.

Impulsive behavior is a characteristic when someone doing an action without thinking about the consequences of what has they done. Generally, this condition shown by children, because they do not understand how to convey emotions. And also being impulsive is when a person acts on his instincts.

### **Headstrong**

*“But I don’t want to write my own fiction,” Cath said, as emphatically as she could. “I don’t want to write my own characters or my own worlds – I don’t care about them.” She clenched her fists in her lap. “I care about Simon Snow. And I know he’s not mine, but that doesn’t matter to me. I’d rather pour myself into a world I love and understand than try to make something up out of nothing.” The professor leaned forward. “But nothing more profound than creating something out of nothing.” Her lovely face turned fierce. “Think about it, Cath. That’s what makes a god – or a mother. There nothing more intoxicating than creating something from nothing. Creating something from yourself.” (Page, 275)*

The data above is taken from Cath’s statement. Cath said “But I don’t want to write my own fiction,”. From this statement, Cath refused Professor Piper’s request to write fiction. Even though professor Piper had warned and persuade him, she still doesn’t want to write original fiction because she has fallen in love with Simon Snow’s novels. This shows that she has headstrong characteristic.

According to KBBI, the meaning of headstrong is an individual who does not want to follow the advice of others. People who have headstrong characteristic usually does not want to do what is given to him, but he has no reason to aim.

### **Wren Characteristic**

#### **Care**

*“What? Why?” “He lost it at work” “Is he okay?” “I don’t know. Kelly said he wouldn’t leave his office.” Wren sighed. “Fucking Kelly?” (Page, 226)*

Wren received a call from her twin that their father was rushed to the hospital. Wren immediately asked her twin “What? Why?” and “Is he okay?”. From the statement shows that Wren is worried about her father’s condition. That matter shows that Wren has caring characteristic.

As explained above Caring is a basic value and attitude of paying attention and acting proactively towards the conditions. More broadly caring is one’s self-aligned attitude towards problems that exist in the surrounding environment.

#### **Forgiving**

*“It’s not a big deal,” Wren said. “I’ve talked to mom a few times on the phone, and I’m going to hang out with her for a couple hours tomorrow.”*

*“You talk to her for the first time in ten years, and that’s not a big deal? And you call her mom?” (Page, 169)*

The data is taken from Wren’s statemen. Wren said “It’s not a big deal,” and “I’ve talked to mom a few times on the phone, and I’m going to hang out with her for a couple hours tomorrow”. From the statement it can be seen that Wren doesn’t mind

going to spend time with his mother and Wren gave his mother opportunity to be close to her, it shows that Wren did not hate her mother and forgave her mistakes.

#### **Enthusiastic**

*Wren couldn't wait for all this college stuff to start. She and her roommate – Courtney – had been talking for weeks. Courtney was from Omaha, too. The two of them had already met and gone shopping from dorm-room stuff together. (Page, 7)*

The data makes it clear that Wren can't wait to get started on all things related with the campus. Wren had also been talking about her plans with her roommates for a while week. It shows Wren's enthusiasm for campus life.

#### **Wise**

*"I think we should finish our finals," Wren said. "By the time we're done, he'll be just coming out of the haze, and we can be there for him."*

*"I'm going," Cath said. (Page, 226)*

Wren said "I think we should finish our finals,". From the statement Wren is seen suggesting that he and his twins complete their end of term exams first. Because according to Wren their father might wake up after they finished the final exams. This shows that Wren has characteristic of being wise.

#### **Headstrong**

*"Wren sat back in her chair and took a second to recover. He'd never cursed at either of them.*

*"Everybody drinks," she said calmly, The Only Rational One."*

*"Your sister doesn't" Wren rolled her eyes. "Forgive me, but I'm not going to spend my college years sitting soberly in my dorm room, writing about gay magicians" (Page, 372)*

The data is taken from Wren's statement. Wren said "Everybody drinks,". From that statement, it can be seen that Wren rebuked her father who asked her to stop getting drunk by making excuses that everyone drinks alcohol. That matter showing Wren is headstrong.

## **V. DISCUSSION**

Character is a style of thinking and acting that allows each individual to live and work together in the family, society, nation, and nation-state. People of good character can make decisions and are willing to accept responsibility for the consequences of their choices (Letari, 2021). Gulo W characteristics can be noticed in a person's personality from both moral and ethical perspectives. There are various types of characteristics, one of which is honesty. Honesty comes from the moral standards imparted in each family, as well as other polite qualities.

The writer identifies, describes, and analyzes the personality traits depicted in this novel at this stage. Cath and Wren are the two primary characters in the Fangirl novel. They are twins, yet they are not identical. Their style and qualities are the most noticeable. Cath is an introverted geek with fashionable spectacles and long hair wrapped in a ponytail. Wren, on the other hand, is an extrovert with a more stylish style and short hair.

There were several characteristics. The following are the similarities and variances in the twins' characteristics: (1) Cath and Wren have similar characteristics of being caring and headstrong; (2) Cath and Wren have different characteristics of being anxious, fearful, unforgiving, and impulsive, whereas Wren has characteristics of being enthusiastic, forgiving, and wise.

## VI. CONCLUSION

From the results of this study, it can be concluded that in Rainbow Rowell's fangirl novel, there are similarities and differences in the characteristics of the twin characters. The similarities and differences in the characteristics of the twins are as follows: (1) the similar characteristics between Cath and Wren are the characteristics of care and headstrong, (2) the different characteristics between Cath and Wren, Cath shows the characteristics of anxious, fearful, unforgiving and impulsive, while Wren shows the characteristics enthusiastic, forgiving and wise.

While the comparison of the characteristics of twins based on Sigmund Freud's theory, it can be concluded that Sigmund Freud's personality structure that appears in the twins in Rainbow Rowell's novel Fangirl can appear in the same characteristics or in different characteristics.

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