

DESCRIPTION OF NATE MACAULEY'S CHARACTER IN *ONE OF US IS LYING* NOVEL BY KAREN M. MCMANUS

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ABSTRACT

This research discusses about description of Nate Macauley's character in *One of Us Is Lying* novel by Karen M, McManus. The focus of study is how the description of Nate Macauley's character in *One of Us Is Lying* novel by Karen M, McManus. The research method used in this study is a descriptive qualitative method with an objective approach. The results of this study found that Nate Macauley was described analytically, as a figure who has dark hair, tall thin body, sharp cheekbones and eyes far apart with dark eyelashes. The character of Nate Macauley who is portrayed directly is sensitive, ignorant, easygoing, mischievous, outspoken and also useful in emergency situations and reliable. While in a dramatic way Nate Macauley is portrayed by the author through actions and dialogue which explains that he has a mischievous character but relaxed, stubborn, playboy, and also described as a figure who is always alert, clever, caring and a bit humorous.

Keywords: Nate Macauley, *One of us is lying* novel, Character Depiction

INTRODUCTION

Literary works, as we known is work of art resulting or human creation in the form of fiction and non-fiction which one of the goals is to meet the satisfaction of a writer and connoisseurs or readers. In the presentation of literary works sometimes involves feelings felt by the writer such as feelings of disappointment, sadness, happiness, and other feelings. These feelings are mostly poured into various forms of literary fiction such as poetry, novels, short stories and also drama, with one of the intrinsic elements of character as an important tool in describing these feelings.

The most popular work of literary fiction among the public is the novel, a narrative text that is long and sometimes contains hidden messages from the authors to readers. Novels have various elements in their making called extrinsic elements, is covering everything about the output of the novel, as well as intrinsic elements that include everything in the novel for examples themes, plots, and the most importantly is characters and characterizations.

A character is a person who does and has a certain disposition, thus creating the characterization that the author wants to convey feelings and messages in their work. Therefore, the description of characters created by the author must be understandable to the reader so that the plot in the story can be understood as well. There are various methods used by the author to present characterization images of the characters created, one of which is analytical and dramatic methods or direct and indirect depictions of characters.

The character in the novel *One of Us Is Lying* by Karen M. McManus, will be the object of study. The description of characters in this novel is direct and indirect, but overall, in the depiction of characters carried out by the author dominates the depiction indirectly. So, it requires more understanding to interpret the character of the character depicted explicitly. Based on the whole story, a character named Nate Macauley is described by the author as a bad boy who only lives with his father and a lizard named Stan. But behind his mischief, Nate Macauley is someone who really cares about others even though he admits that caring is done only for himself.

Based on the background, the author will analyze the characterization or portrayal of the character and describe one of the characteristics namely Nate Macauley in *One of Us Is Lying* novel by Karen M. McManus.

DATA SOURCE

The data source from this study is a fictional novel entitled *One of Us Is Lying*, the novel was written by a British writer namely Karen M McManus. Tells about five popular students namely Bronwyn, Simon, Nate, Addy and Cooper who are caught in a complicated case. Each character has a very different character so the author is interested in analyzing one of the characters described in the novel.

METHODS

In this study, the author uses a descriptive qualitative research method based on Ratna (2011) which states that qualitative research methods are the use of interpretation or analysis methods as a whole and are presented in the form of descriptions. In addition, this method is also limited by the social facts to be studied, because that is its purpose. Therefore, the author will analyze description one of the characters namely Nate Macauley in *One of Us Is Lying* novel which is the object of study, and the results of the study will be presented in the form of a quotation.

The approach used in this study is an objective approach, because the author focuses this entire analysis on the intrinsic elements in literary works. As stated by Yudiono (1984) who stated that the objective approach is an approach that focuses on the intrinsic aspects of the literary work being studied. Therefore, the author uses this approach because the intrinsic element which is character is the main focus in this study.

THEORETICAL REVIEW

1. Characters and Characterizations

A character is someone created by the author who is a perpetrator in describing the feelings that the author wants to convey, and the way it is conveyed through the events that will be experienced by the character. As stated by Aziez and Hasim (2012), a character is an actor who experiences events in a fictional story so that the events are intertwined and become a story. In addition, the most important part of a character is characterization, and Widayati (2019) also argues that characterization

is the portrayal of a story character through the characteristics, attitudes, and behavior of the character in the story.

2. Description Characters and Characterizations

In describing characters, some experts say that there are several methods used by the author in displaying the characters he makes. Panuti Sudjiman (1988) argues that characters in novels or stories are depicted in two methods of presentation, namely the analytical method and also the dramatic method. The analytical method is a method of presenting characters directly, the author describes the character directly based on character dialogue, descriptions and descriptions explained by the author. While the dramatic method is a method of presenting characters indirectly, in this method the author makes the reader guess and analyze the depiction of the author's character based on the content of the character's dialogue, description and description shown by the author. A similar method was also stated by Abrams in Ernawati and Hanifa (2022) the description of typical person's character is sometimes recorded in two alternative approaches, namely telling or analytic which describes the characterization directly by explaining the reasons and characteristics of the character. And then showing or dramatic which describes the characterization indirectly by explaining the character with external actions, thoughts, feelings and responses from the character to show the characteristics of his character.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In *One of Us Is Lying* novel, the author found several results that are fit the focus of research in the description of Nate's character which is portrayed analytically and dramatically. Here are excerpts and explanations about the description of Nate Macauley's character in *One of Us Is Lying* novel by Karen M. McManus:

1. Analytics

The following is an excerpt and explanation of the description Nate Macauley's character written by the author analytically in the novel *One of Us Is Lying*.

Data 1

"His dark hair is more disheveled than ever.... Somehow, though, it works on him. A little too well. Everything from his tall, rangy build to his angular cheekbones and wide-set, dark-fringed eyes is making me lose my train of thought." (McManus 2017:23)

Based on these data, the author describes the physical characteristics of Nate Macauley through the dialogue of one character namely Bronwyn who states that Nate Macauley has dark hair, tall thin body, sharp cheekbones and far away eyes framed by dark eyelashes.

Data 2

"You should've seen Bronwyn and Cooper. They were great. And Nate—my God. I never thought I'd see Nate Macauley take charge that way. I was the only one who was useless." (McManus 2017:15)

The data is a dialogue from one of the characters namely Addy, he witnessed how Nate Macauley tried to save Simon when he had an allergic reaction. Through the phrase "*I never thought I'd see Nate Macauley take charge that way.*" said by Addy, the author explained analytically the portrayal of the character Nate Macauley which turned out to be very useful and reliable.

Data 3

"Our house is on the far edge of Bayview; the kind of shitty ranch rich people buy to tear down. Small and ugly, with only one window in front. The chimney's been crumbling since I was ten."(McManus 2017:36)

The data is an explanation of the situation of the Nate family. Through this data, the author explains directly that Nate Macauley's condition is not good economically, this is illustrated through the explanation of the dilapidated house he lives in

Data 4

"There's a picture curling under a magnet, cracked like a broken window. My dad, my mother, and me when I was eleven, right before she took off." (McManus 2017:36)

Based on the data above, the author explained that Nate Macauley was abandoned by his mother since the age of 11, and until now he only lives with his father.

Data 5

"Another drug bust could land me in juvie. So every Sunday morning before she shows up, I gather up all my unsold drugs and burner phones and stick them in our senile neighbor's shed. Just in case."(McManus 2017:56)

Based on the data above, Nate Macauley is described as a teenage drug dealer, in that sentence he himself stated this, and has even almost been imprisoned. Through sentences "*I gather up all my unsold drugs and burner phones and stick them in our senile neighbor's shed*" The author has explained directly that besides being a drug dealer, he is also someone who is stubborn.

Data 6

"She made me write a list at our first appointment. There's not anything I actually care about on there, just stuff I know she wants to hear about school and jobs. And friends, which she's figured by now I don't have." (McManus 2017:56)

Based on the data, Nate stated that his caregiver officer was very concerned about his education, even the officer wanted to know all about his school activities and also what he did. However, through the phrase "*There's not anything I actually care about on there,*" it is explained that Nate Macauley has a reluctant nature and does not care about school activities or what he has been doing, he wrote the list as a formality. This explains that Nate has an indifferent nature.

Data 7

"The only thing that's different is the place is crawling with cops. Not in uniform. But I can tell, and Officer Lopez can too. After a while some of them look my way, and I get paranoid she's led me into some kind of trap." (McManus 2017:58)

The data is Nate Macauley's dialogue when he is forced by officers who take care of him to attend the funeral of his friend Simon. In the show, Nate does not stop agitating because he realizes that he is being targeted by several policemen, this shows that the author portrays the character of Nate Macauley as a child who is sensitive to the surroundings, even he knows that the officers who are with him have brought Nate into a trap.

Data 8

"That's it, I guess. Lines are drawn. I'm the obvious outlier and scapegoat. There isn't much else to say, so I reverse out of his driveway and head home." (McManus 2017:75)

Based on the data, it can be seen that the author describes Nate Macauley as a person who feels inferior. Through the phrase *"I'm the obvious outlier and scapegoat."* The author emphasizes that Nate always feels self-aware of his shortcomings and tries not to cross the line.

Data 9

"I've noticed that about Nate; he doesn't do pleasantries. Just starts with whatever's on his mind." (McManus 2017:109)

Based on the data, the author's explanation directly through the dialogue of the character Bronwyn who states that she is recording or remembering one of the characteristics of a Nate Macauley, which is never small talk or outspoken.

Data 10

"Especially Nate, All the tween girls post about us on social media love him. They couldn't care less that he's a convicted drug dealer, because he's got dreamy eyes."(McManus 2017:149–50)

Based on the data. Addy one of the characters tells how popular Nate Macauley is among all girls, even when his drug spreading case and after entering juvenile detention, girls still like Nate Macauley especially on social media. This explains that Nate Macauley is described by the author as a popular bad boy. In addition, the data above it is explained that physically Nate Macauley has *dreamy eyes* and it is his attraction among girls.

Data 11

"I put my other hand in the air. " Bronwyn Rojas, I solemnly swear not to murder you today or at any point in the future. Deal?" " You're ridiculous," she mutters, going even redder."(McManus 2017:157)

Based on the data, Nate Macauley is described as someone who is ridiculous with his actions that point his hands in the air while saying sentences like a vow. This is also reinforced by a direct sentence that says that Nate is indeed a Silly person.

2. Dramatic

The following is an excerpt and explanation of the description of the character Nate Macauley written analytically by the author in the novel *One of Us Is Lying*.

Data 12

".. 'I just got here,' he says, and my eyes widen. I never expected Nate to win any attendance awards, but it's almost ten o'clock" (McManus 2017:23)

Based on the data, the author describes the character of Nate Macauley through the dialogue *"I just got here"* when he responds to a question from one of the characters who asks about his whereabouts at school. This shows that Nate Macauley portrays a teenage character who is naughty and too easygoing.

Data 13

"Another drug bust could land me in juvie. So every Sunday morning before she shows up, I gather up all my unsold drugs and burner phones and stick them in our senile neighbor's shed" (McManus 2017:56)

Based on the data, the author explains dramatically about the character Nate Macauley who is a teenage drug user and dealer so that he has participated in a period of rehabilitation for juvenile detention. In addition, Nate is also described as having a violent character, he also cannot be advised and still circulates drugs even though he has been caught.

Data 14

"I stayed calm when he told me the circumstances surrounding Simon's death gave the police probable cause to search my house for drugs, and that they already had a warrant. I'd cleared everything out this morning, so I knew they wouldn't find anything." (McManus 2017:72)

The data is a situation where Nate Macauley again gets a drug search warrant in his house, but before that is done Nate has already cleaned up the drugs so there is nothing left. This shows that the author tried to portray the character of Nate Macauley who is quite alert and also clever, even though it is used in the wrong form.

Data 15

"I answered a few of their questions. The ones I knew couldn't get me into trouble. Everything else was some variation of I don't know and I don't remember. Sometimes it was even true." (McManus 2017:73)

Based on the data, it can be said that Nate is going through the interrogation process and getting some questions. In this case, the author explains Nate's fairly calm personality through the sentence *"Everything else was some variation of I don't know and I don't remember."*

Data 16

"Instead of looking, though, I kick it. Which is pretty satisfying, so I do it another five or ten times, harder and harder until the cheap wood splinters and cracks." (McManus 2017:74)

Based on the data above, Nate Macauley seemed frustrated with what he was going through so kicked the closet to his satisfaction. This is shown by the author indirectly and explains that Nate Macauley is also someone who has thin patience and temper, besides that he is also a rude type.

Data 17

"I stare at him for a second as the tension flows out of me, leaving me limp and slightly giddy. I punch him in the shoulder, startling him so much he actually laughs." (McManus 2017:87)

The data is the reaction of one of the characters, Bronwyn, after getting a joke from Nate Macauley when he felt tense and restless. through the phrase *"I punch him in the shoulder, startling him so much he actually laughs."* revealed by Bronwyn, the author explained that Nate has the ability to break the ice or can also be said to be a cool and humorous person, thus making Bronwyn calm.

Data 18

"...." She pauses, as though she's waiting for me to continue, and laughs a little. "Nate, why'd you call me if you're only going to give one-word answers to everything?" "Maybe you're not asking the right questions." ..."(McManus 2017:94)

The data explains Nate Macauley's attitude towards Bronwyn who is his crush. Through the sentence that Bronwyn said, the author explained dramatically that Nate Macauley also has a cold and indifferent attitude, this can also be seen from the sentence he said himself, there is *"Maybe you're not asking the right questions."*

Data 19

"She's all worried-sounding, so I probably shouldn't laugh, but I can't help it. "So you're not perfect. So what? Welcome to the real world." ..."(McManus 2017:95)

Based on these data, the author explains that Nate Macauley has a realistic mind. This is shown in her sentence which seems to make Bronwyn realize that this is the real world.

Data 20

"After she hangs up I put the phone on my bedside table and pick up the other one. I read Amber's message again, then type, Come over" (McManus 2017:98)

The data is a dialogue of Nate Macauley who describes that he closes the phone he previously used and then opens another phone that displays a short message. It explains that Nate Macauley's character is naturally playboy, where he also plays with women's feelings and has many women.

Data 21

"I feel this almost irresistible urge to answer her, to explain myself, until a hand under the table grasps mine. Nate doesn't look at me, but his fingers thread through mine, warm and strong, resting against my shaking leg" (McManus 2017:105)

Based on these data, the act of Nate Macauley suddenly grasping Bronwyn's hand when he feels nervous, can explain that the character of Nate Macauley is portrayed by the author as having a caring character.

Data 22

"... "Well, there you go," Nate says. "You were right, Bronwyn. The entire school's probably been walking around with bottles of peanut oil in their backpacks, waiting for their chance." ..."(McManus 2017:107)

The data is a response from Nate Macauley to Bronwyn who stated that all possibilities could happen, in response to this Nate Macauley seemed to underestimate Bronwyn's opinion, because the sentence above is a sarcastic sentence, which indirectly describes Nate Macauley's character who has a sarcastic side.

Data 23

.. “You’re the obvious outlier and scapegoat. That’s what she means; she’s just too polite to say it.” (McManus 2017:133)

The data is a sentence that shows the thoughts of a Nate Macauley after hearing advice from Bronwyn which is form of his concern for him. Bronwyn is worried because from the beginning of the case, Nate did not have a lawyer or anyone on his side, so it is likely that the police made him the main suspect. However, Nate was offended by the attention and considered it an insult. Through these responses, it can be seen that Nate Macauley is described by the author as a teenager who has negative thinking.

Data 24

“.. “Oh, well, if Eli says so.” I’m not sure why this guy’s a legal god in Bronwyn’s eyes. He can’t be more than twenty-five. “Sounds like he’s full of dipshit theories.”..”(McManus 2017:156)

The data is a sarcastic sentence or Nate Macauley's response after hearing the absurd allegations made by Bronwyn after discussing with a lawyer named Eli. In this sentence it can be dramatically found that the author describes Nate Macauley as a teenager who always thinks rationally and logically.

Data 25

““Have her meet us at my house. It’s halfway between here and the station.” As soon as I say it I kind of regret it—I still don’t want Bronwyn anywhere near my house when it’s light out”(McManus 2017:156)

Based on this data, Nate Macauley invites Bronwyn to his place because it is close to the police station that Bronwyn wants to go to later, but after saying this sentence Nate feels regret for not wanting to let Bronwyn know the state of her house. Through these data, it is explained that Nate Macauley has prestige properties.

Data 26

“We saw Nate stride over to Bronwyn’s car and open the door, being all exaggeratedly polite about it. He smirked as she got out, and she gave him a look that made Addy and me exchange glances behind our shades.” (McManus 2017:168)

Based on the data, Cooper Clay and Addy witnessed Nate Macauley's unusual treatment of Bronwyn. Nate opened Bronwyn's car after he showed a faint smile. This explains that Nate Macauley also has a caring and sweet behavior, especially for the girl he likes.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of research data, there are 10 data that the author took to explain the description of Nate Macauley's character analytically described by the author. In the data, Nate Macauley is described by the author as a figure who has physical characteristics such as black hair, tall thin body, sharp cheekbones and eyes far apart with dark eyelashes. The character of Nate Macauley portrayed directly is sensitive, ignorant, easygoing, mischievous, outspoken and also useful in emergency situations and reliable. In addition, the characterization that Nate Macauley got as a child who had an illegal business was distributing drugs.

The author found 15 data that led to the dramatic portrayal of the character Nate Macauley that the author portrayed. In the data, the author comprehends some indirect portrayals of Nate's character through actions and dialogues which explain that Nate has a naughty character but relaxed, stubborn, playboy, and he is also described as a figure who is always alert, smart, caring, has high prestige and is a little humorous and ridiculous.

From these results, it can be seen that the author describes the character of Nate Macauley more indirectly or can be called dramatic. The dramatic depiction of characters done by the author is also not too complex and can still be understood easily by the readers. Because of the author uses easy-to-understand language in describing characters through self-descriptions, descriptions of others, dialogue, and actions taken by the characters of the novel, including Nate Macauley.

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