



## The Effects of Warriner's Characterization towards Warriner Himself in Charles William's *Dead Calm*

**Machfud Muhamad Sodiq**  
UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya  
[mfudms@gmail.com](mailto:mfudms@gmail.com)

**Asep Abbas Abdullah**  
UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya  
[abdullah@uinsa.ac.id](mailto:abdullah@uinsa.ac.id)

**Nur Mufid**  
UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya  
[nurmufidali@gmail.com](mailto:nurmufidali@gmail.com)

**Amiq**  
UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya  
[amiq@uinsa.ac.id](mailto:amiq@uinsa.ac.id)

**Abu Fanani**  
UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya  
[abufanani@yahoo.com](mailto:abufanani@yahoo.com)

### Abstract

This study is a study on a character whose behaviors gives impacts to the character himself in Charles William's *Dead Calm*. Compared to other studies on Charles Williams' *Dead Calm*, the result of the study really gives the novelty to the study since uses characterization that is not used by the previous ones. Using close reading as well as dramatic and descriptive approach, the main character, Warriner, acts carelessly in front of the strangers, accordingly, he has to face moral unbalance within himself. The study then gives two impacts, firstly, referring to academic one, it develops the study of literature through the mere study of New Criticism. Secondly, referring to practical one, it gives moral lesson not to behave carelessly in society.

**Key words:** characterization, characterization's effects, close reading

### INTRODUCTION

Character refers to the portrayal of a person wholly (Eagleton, 2013) and the summary of a particular sort of individual (Cuddon, 2013). Lina Varotsi states that character of an individual representation is his different performance

distinguishing him from other people. Though somebody's character can represent his predictable way of thinking as well as acting, however, he is not forbidden to act out of his character when he is with different characteristic people (2019).

Characters are famous with the literary life in literary works in that the readers pay attention to their concern as well as attraction, affection as well as hate, admiration as well as fault on the characters. Accordingly, the readers can understand themselves as well as know who they are through the characters (Bennet, 2014). Hence, character is the structure of a concealed human performance with the unquestionably incomplete story form (Figlerowicz, 2016) with the participation of the readers with fictional characters that are significant parts of the practice of literature (Thomsen, 2017).

Presently, characters of fiction can be broadly visible in a film, a novel, and a promotion pamphlet with the stresses and increases of the hazardous structures and the characters' actions (Euron, 2019) with the picture of universal human kinds with the actions as well as values with a universal human sense, apart from what their real identities: personality, society as well as history (Owen, 2021).

Apparently, a clear difference between characters of fiction and human beings in reality are available; the former refers to be ably identified because they are expressive, predictable, and familiar seen in plots either happy or sad, through which the readers make characters from signs in any work of literature. The latter refers to be impossible to be knowable as well as predictable like literary characters (Saje, 2014).

Accordingly, the researchers tend to conduct the analysis on a character in a novel separated from the author and the background of the history when the novel is composed. Hence, the researchers refer to New Criticism in that the analysis is decently the formal aspects of literature, that is, a text's meaning (Berterns, 2014) apart from certain authorial or historic contexts (Upstone, 2017). The novel is with Charles William's *Dead Calm*. The researchers are interested in conducting the analysis on Warriner's character insomuch as his character gives

moral lesson to the readers in that through his characterization, he becomes a very unhappy person in the world. Accordingly, the readers are inclined to get rid of such a characterization. Then, how the effects of his characterization towards himself are the focus of the researchers' study.

To get the novelty of the study, the researchers refer to the following previous studies: first of all, Sedgwick (2017), in her article *Lost at sea: Space and the Gothic in the films *Dead Calm* (1989) and *The Ferryman* (2007)*, compares *Dead Calm* and the *Ferryman*. Using Gothic approach, the study shows that the main characters are narratively told to overcome the sea isolation.

Second of all, Kurniasari, et. al (2024), in their article *Anxiety of Warriner in Charles Williams' *Dead Calm**, analyzes Warriner's anxiety. Using types of anxiety such as neurotic, moral and realistic anxiety, the study shows that the main character feels weak, worried, punished, regretful and unsafe.

Last of all, Kurniasari, et. al (2024), in their article *Defense Mechanism in Charles Williams' *Dead Calm**, analyzes the main character's effort to reduce his anxiety through defense mechanism. Using three kinds of defense mechanisms such as denial, displacement, and sublimation, the main character, Warriner, manages to decline his anxiety.

From the previous studies above the researchers' study seems to have the novelty because the researcher's study uses New Criticism focusing on the characterization, whilst, no previous studies above use one. Therefore, this is the gap of the researchers' study. Despite, the characterization gives moral lesson to the readers about characterization worthy of application.

## **METHOD**

### **Research Approach**

The method of the study belongs to qualitative descriptive method determining the weakness, observing how the study occurs, showing the influencing factors. Deep observation is worth conducting, though (Nassaji, 2015). Besides, this method is a flawless way to do the social aspect of study (Rutberg

& Bouikidis, 2018). Further, the Effects of Warriner's Characterization towards Warriner himself in Charles William's *Dead Calm* are the focus such as feeling annoyed, feeling introvert, and feeling unsafe. Since the researchers are with the study of literature, the study instrument then is the researchers themselves.

Descriptive and dramatic methods is of any use because in doing the analysis of the novel, the researchers cannot get rid of describing, discussing and reporting the character's speech and actions (Little, 1966). Thus, by description, discussion and report of the character's speech and actions, the researchers present as well as study the effects of Warriner towards Warriner himself like feeling annoyed, feeling introvert, and feeling unsafe. Likewise, to get the clear data analysis, close reading is unavoidable. It refers to the literary technique of analysis focusing on the particular details of a text to categorize deeper meaning coming from the reader's understanding of the text entirely (Pickering, 2019). Thus, the analysis of the effects of the characterization cannot avoid of close reading approach.

### **Kind of Research**

The main character's description, speech and action are used to identify the effects of his characterization towards himself in Charles William's *Dead Calm* insomuch as this study is a literary one.

### **Data Collection Technique**

In this part, the researchers refer to interview, observation, document, and survey the data (Huberman & Miles, 1984) for the technique of collecting the data excluding interview that has nothing to do with the study of literature. By observation, the researchers mean to read the whole novel, to have the problem, and to have the correlated theory. By document, the researchers mean to classify the data dealing with the effects of the characterization such as feeling annoyed, feeling introvert and feeling unsafe. By survey, the researchers mean to analyze the classified data.

### **Data Analysis**

For data analysis, the researchers go back to the research problem as well as its explanation (Huberman & Miles 1984) referring to how characterization Warriner has and its effects towards himself in Charles William's *Dead Calm*. Finally, close reading theory helps the researchers to describe, discuss and report the character's speech as well as actions dealt with the main character's effects such as feeling annoyed, feeling introvert, and feeling unsafe.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

### The Effects of Warriner's Characterization

Before explaining the effects of Warriner's character, the researchers need to present Warriner's characterization leading to the effects towards himself. It is told that Warriner is seen drifted at sea and gets help by John Ingram and Mrs. Ingram, husband and wife. However, Warriner behaves unmannerly as follows. Firstly, Warriner is characterized as an indifferent person socializing with Mrs. Ingram as well as John Ingram, his only associates. "For heaven's sake, stop asking him questions, and let's try to get him to sleep" (William, 1963:18). The quotation expresses the Warriner's indifference viewed from the other character in that Warriner feigns ignorance of the presence of Mrs. Ingram and John Ingram. Besides, Warriner acts in front of them as if nothing happened to him. "Oh... sure." Warriner looked down at it uncertainly and began unfastening it. He placed it on the seat beside him. "I guess I forgot I had it on" (William, 1963:12). This is such an indifference acted by a feigning helpless Warriner who turns out to play tricks to the helpers, John Ingram and Mrs. Ingram. By playing trick to others who have helped him, it means that he is so indifferent with others' interest. Thus, Warriner's feeling indifferent here refers to himself as well as to others, both of which for the sake of Warriner himself. By for the sake of himself, the researchers mean to clarify that Warriner ignores his own interest and by for the sake of others, the researcher mean to show others are made disadvantages.

Indeed, Warriner's indifference has been suspected by John Ingram as John himself does not quite believe in his new acquaintance who has acted indifferently to them. "I doubt it." Then she caught his meaning. "Why? What the difference does it make if he does?" (William, 1963:26). The researchers regard that John Ingram's feeling suspicious toward Warriner is a normal one since Warriner's behavior to the family is

suspicious, too. However, behaving indifferently towards the helpful family is a sort of negative attitude that should not be shown by Warriner.

Secondly, Warriner is characterized as a lying person. That Warriner is a liar can be seen by the evidence that everything he tells John Ingram and Mrs. Ingram does not have the truth. In fact, when Warriner is found floundering away from his ship gets suspected as mentioned above by John Ingram, John Ingram grows in his faith that Warriner has acted falsely that everything he tells about his ship and friends are not true. "But why? He said there wasn't anything worth trying to save, didn't he?" (William, 1963:18). In the quotation, Warriner tries to tell John Ingram and Mrs. Ingram that he has failed to save people on his ship, that his wife has been dead of the poisonous water. In fact, all the people in Warriner's ship including his wife are killed by Warriner.

In a nut shell, the characterization of Warriner is viewed from the way the other character takes a look at him as well as Warriner himself describes his character. Accordingly, his characteristics, namely, indifferent to others and lying to others give effects to him in the following paragraphs.

Firstly, Warriner feels annoyed. It is told that Warriner has told John Ingram and Mrs. Ingram about the truth of the ship Warriner is on, that all the passengers are dead. It then drives Warriner to feel something annoyed. "What is your wife like?" she asked. "Why?" He didn't like the question; he saw no reason he should discuss Rae with these people" (William, 1963:65). Surely, Warriner does not like the question forwarded by the other speaker about his wife, Rae, who has been dead on the ship, allegedly, he kills her. His characterization, lying, drives him into further negative depiction of him. Everything on the ship questioned to him annoys his feeling.

Likewise, Warriner is so strange to live together with John Ingram and his wife on Ingram's ship. It is again caused by his telling a lie to them. That he cannot behave normally like a guest in somebody's dwelling. "You call what he did to my wife an accident?" (William, 1963:154). Warriner's feeling annoyed grows up as the question of the death of his wife is still on. He tries to get away of the punishment. Again, this is the effect of the aforesaid characterization as the English saying runs one good turn deserves another. That Warriner has made a contrast of the saying 'one bad turn deserves another.' Warriner has contrasted his life by telling lies of the fact of people on his ship. He has to confront another difficult life, consequently.

Secondly, Warriner feels introvert. The researchers think that introvert is one of the odd behaviors in society as the introvert person lives unsociably. Human being is a sociable living-creation, therefore, those who get rid of society are regarded as having strange behavior. As a result of his telling lies as well as being indifferent, Warriner keeps everybody out of his live. He prefers living lonely to sociably. "He never let either of us come near him again. He slept, if he ever slept at all, in the sail locker up forward, with the door barricaded inside. He looked rational, at least most of the time, but he was silent and withdrawn" (William, 1963:116). Though scientifically introvert person thinks first before utters words, however, introvert mostly drags the person into unpleasant effects. The person will no longer have no friends in his/her surroundings. It has been told that Warriner becomes a guest in somebody's ship, yet, he withdraws from communicating with the 'hostages,' namely, John Ingram and his wife. 'never let either of us come near him again.' Surely, it is the result of his lies to the family.

Lastly, Warriner feels unsafe. Being unsafe is a natural condition for that who keeps lying and being indifferent to others especially when others need his attention to pay. Warriner has been told that he leaves the people on the ship in a mystery. As a result, he is afraid to go back to the ship. "I'm ashamed of you; I never realized you could be this insensitive. Can't you see that boy's on the ragged edge of a nervous breakdown? For heaven's sake, stop asking him questions, and let's try to get him to sleep" (William, 1963:18). This effect of Warriner's characterization has been presented by John Ingram through his speech with his wife about the condition of Warriner. It means that Warriner is characterized by other character. It again shows that character of a person gives effect to the future fate as Novalis states that character is a fate (Hardy, 1996). That character of a person determines his future life. Those who roots good deeds will harvest good fruits. On the contrary, those who roots bad deeds will harvest bad fruits.

From the findings above about the characterization as well as the effects of the characterization of Warriner, the researchers need to explore the discussion here. It is indeed not easy to raise this novel as the issue in this study since some researchers have been with Sigmund Freud in the study of the novel. However, in order that the researchers hope to develop the study of literature, through close reading approach, the researchers succeed in analyzing this novel with other challenging issue. Then, the researchers discuss this study as follows: firstly, the researchers refer to the used theory as explained in the

background above, that is, New Criticism to analyze the characterization of the main character instead of Sigmund Freud with his psychoanalysis, because Sigmund Freud focuses on the characterization with the psychological problem, whilst, the researchers' analysis focuses on the common nature possessed by somebody as the result of his behaviors. Accordingly, the researchers' analysis is really challenging.

Secondly, the researchers' finding meets the requirement of the novelty, through deep analyses of the study. As explained above that the previous studies, all of which are with Charles Williams' *Dead Calm*, none uses characterization to analyze the issue. They use Freud's theory and Gothic theory, instead.

Lastly, the researchers find it difficult to apply Little's approach of descriptive and dramatic referring to describing, discussing as well as reporting the character's speech and action in that the researchers fail to directly quote the main character's words and action. However, the researchers get help from the other character about the main character's characterization.

## CONCLUSION

The researchers come to conclude that characterization of a person can give impacts to the person himself as Novalis mentions above that the character's future life depends on what he/she does now. Accidentally, the impacts of the characterization in the analysis above merely gives the unpleasant ones. Warriner behaves carelessly before the others, accordingly, he has to face the unpleasant effects on him such feeling annoyed, introvert and unsafe. Besides, the researchers are in considerable hope that there are researchers conducting analysis on different novels using purely New Criticism as it grows challenging to the literary study

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