

# ECRANISATION BETWEEN A NOVEL OF FRANCES HODGSON BURNETT'S A LITTLE PRINCESS AND A FILM OF WALTER LANG'S SHIRLEY TEMPLE IN THE LITTLE PRINCESS

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**Abstract.** *The research aims to find out the result of ecranisation of A Little Princess novel into Shirley Temple in the Little Princess film. To achieve the purpose, the researcher finds the similarities and differences in the narrative aspects into seven parts, they are plot, character, characterization, settings, ambience, style and theme. All different data will be classified into reduction, addition, and modification. The research uses descriptive qualitative method. The results of this research shows that there are the similarities of two parts of plot, seven main characters, four places, three ambiances, one style of figurative language, and one theme in the novel and film. There are eight main characters, four supporting characters, and five places are reduced, there are four main characters, four supporting characters, and five places are added, and there are three parts of plot and one setting of time are modified.*

**Keywords:** *Ecranisation, Narrative Aspects, A Little Princess*

## INTRODUCTION

Novel and film use the narrative aspects such as plot, character, settings in telling the whole story. Eneste on his book entitled *Novel dan Film* (1991) divides the narrative aspects into seven parts, they are plot, character, characterization, settings, ambience, style and theme. However, novel and film are different things because novel only uses words in telling the story, meanwhile film uses the visual and audio in telling the story. An author can convey his idea of the story through his writing, and it can be done by himself. It means that the novel is individual work. On the other hand, a screenwriter needs the actors, camera man, and plastic material (the object which is recorded by a camera). It means that a

film needs a great team and plastic material (the object which is recorded by a camera) to convey the whole story.

Film adaptation commonly adapts the story based on the novel. According to Hurcheon (*In Kinney 2013*) claims that the product of adaptation cannot be entirely same with the original text because it will be a plagiarism of work. Adaptation must be different with the original text, but it is still based on the idea of original text. The result of adaptation of the novel into film is known as ecranisation. Eneste (1991) claims that ecranisation is the result of white screening of the novel which it reduces, adds, and modifies the plot, character, settings, ambience, style and theme. The factor of the differences between novel and film adaptation are the limited duration

of film, the medium (converting words from novel into the images and sound), and the audience.

In relation to that, this research attempts to find the similarities and differences of *A Little Princess* novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett and *Shirley Temple in the Little Princess* film by Walter Lang with Ecranisation theory approach.

## **METHOD**

This study uses theory of ecranisation from Eneste to find the similarities and differences of narrative aspects between *A Little Princess* Novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett and *Shirley Temple in the Little Princess* by Walter Lang. The ecranisation theory is the study which only focuses on how the novel adapts on the film version. The ecranisation theory reduces, adds and modifies plot, character, characterization, settings, ambience, style and theme (Eneste, 1991).

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS**

### **A. The Similarities Between *A Little Princess* Novel and *Shirley Temple in the Little Princess* Film**

#### **a. Plot**

Plot is the essential element of story in the novel (Forster in Eneste, 1991). Lukens (2003) claims that plots are the events that

pointing the action of character. In the film, plot is told by audio (dialogue) and visual (plastic material). Plastic material is used to make the symbol of the story. For example, a character in the film will be described as a rich character. Then, the screenwriter has to use many cars, a big house as the plastic material to describe that the character is rich. A plot consists of the beginning, rising action, climax, falling action, and the end (Eneste, 1991) In this research finds only similar rising action and climax in the novel and film.

The first similar plot is occurred on the rising action. In the novel, the rising action shows when the news of the death of Captain Crewe is reached to Miss Minchin. On the page 9, Miss Minchin is surprised with the death of Captain Crewe, she is worried about Captain Crewe's diamond mines (Burnett, 2017: 9).

In the film, at the minutes 37:59 until 38:22, Miss Minchin is surprised with the death of Captain Crewe. She is worried about the money that she has spent to celebrate Sara's Birthday.

The second similar plot is occurred on the climax. In the novel on page 100-101, it tells that Miss Minchin does not have empathy for the condition of Sara. Miss Minchin asks Sara to work hard as a maid if Sara wants to stay at her seminary. (Burnett, 2018:100-101).

In the film, at the minutes 44:08 until 44:44, Miss Minchin forces Sara to work as

a servant if she wants to stay at her seminary.

## **b. Character and Characterization**

Eneste (1991) claims that the characterization of character in the novel is described directly (the utterance of narrator) and indirectly (the utterance and action of each character). In the film, the characterization is performed directly by the actor of film. This research finds seven similar main characters in the novel and film.

The first similar main character is Sara Crewe. She is described as a polite and imaginative girl, she believes that a princess must be polite even though everyone treats her bad. At the page 161, Sara say to herself that A princess must be polite even thought she is treated badly with other servants. (Burnett, 2018:161).

In the film, at the minutes 1:40:03 until 1:04:42 Sara is asked y Miss Lavina to cover her with the blanket even though Sara is in hurry, Sara helps her politely.

In the novel, Sara imagines that her doll is a human being and calls the doll Emily. On the page 23, the author tells directly that Sara is a full of imaginings girl and she deems that the Emily (her doll) is alive (Burnett, 2018:23).

In the film, at the minutes 1:00:13 until 1:00:19, Ram Dass asks Sara about the bird that flies in her attic Sara answers that the bird perches on her bookself. Ram Dass is

confused because there is no bookself. Then Sara answers that the bookself is only her imagination.

Second, the similar main character is Miss Minchin. Miss Minchin is described a materialistic person. In the novel, Miss Minchin does not care that Captain Crewe is dead, but she is worried about his lost diamond mines. It means that Captain Crewe's daughter, Sara is not rich girl anymore. On the page 90, Miss Minchin cries out and says that Captan Crewe that Sara will have no fortune. (Burnett, 2018:90)

In the film, at the minutes 38:16 until 38:33, Miss Minchin does not believe the death of Captain Crewe. It tells that all Captain Crewe's property, diamond mines are confiscated by the enemy. It means that his daughter will be a poor girl, and Miss Minchin will not get the money.

The third similar main character is Becky. Becky is described as a kind person who worries about the condition of Sara. In the novel, Becky is worried about the different condition of Sara (being a rich girl – being a poor girl). She asks permission to Miss Minchin to accompany Sara because Sara has no maid now. (Burnett, 2018:97)

In the film, at the minutes 45:58 until 46:04 Becky is worried about Sara who comes from upper class, becomes the lower class. Becky asks Sara if she needs any help, just calls her.

The fourth similar main character is Ram Dass. Ram Dass is described as a good

person, he becomes friend with Sara. In the novel, Ram Dass watches Sara every night, to make sure that she is safe. (Burnett, 2018:192)

In the film, at the minutes 1:21:26 until 1:21:38 Ram Dass helps Sara to escape from the police because he knows that she is a good girl.

The last characters are Lavina and Jessie. They are always together in the story of novel and film. These girls are jealous to Sara and want to insult her. In the novel, Lavina and Jessie insults Sara that she does not have breakfast this morning. They think that Sara is pretending that she has had a good breakfast. (Burnett, 2018:235)

In the film, at the minutes 1:18:38 until 1:18:09, Lavinia and Jessie show off their delicious chocolate to Sara.

### **c. Setting of Place**

In this study finds that there are four similar places in the novel and film.

The first similar place is at London. In the novel, the author tells directly that the story takes place in London. On the page 7, the author describes the condition, time, and the street of London at night. (Burnett, 2018:7)

In the film, the story also takes place on London. At the minutes 04:54 until 05:03, Miss Minchin explains that her school is the most dignified and exclusive schools in London.

The second similar place is at Miss Minchin's Seminary. In the novel Captain Crewe shows the building of Miss Minchin's Seminary to Sara. (Burnett, 2018:11)

In the film, at the minutes 03:45 until 03:56 Sara says to her father that Miss Minchin's school is not cheerful looking.

The third similar place is the special bedroom. In the novel, the author describes directly that the story takes place in the special bedroom. On the page 14, the author tells that Sara is a special student who has her own pretty bedroom and luxury furnishing. (Burnett, 2018:14)

In the film, at the minutes 08:03 until 08:25, Miss Minchin explains that the room is the best room in her seminary.

The fourth similar place is at the attic. In the novel, it is showed when Emermengarde visits to Sara's attic. (Burnett, 2018:119)

In the film, at the minutes 44:10 until 44:14, Miss Minchin explains that Sara has to work hard and moves from her comfortable room into attic.

### **d. Ambience**

The situation of the story in the novel and film will be affected the reader's feeling and audience's feeling such as the rage, happiness, sadness, and so on (Eneste, 1991).

The first ambience is the sadness. In the novel, the partition of Sara and her father makes the readers feel sad. On the page 19,

Sara and her father kisses and hugs before they are separated.

In the film, at the minutes 11:40 until 12:19, Sara says the parting statement with her father. Of course, she is crying after saying it because her father has to go away. This scene makes the audiences feel sad because of the little girl has to stay away from her father.

The second ambience is the rage. In the novel, Miss Minchin does not care with the condition Sara, she insults Sara that she is quite alone in the world. It makes the readers feel angry to Miss Minchin. (Burnett, 2018:101)

In the film, at the minutes 44:08 until 44:38, Miss Minchin also does not care with the condition of Sara. She takes Sara's thing except her doll, and forces her to work as a maid. This scene makes the audiences feel angry with Miss Minchin.

The third ambience is the happiness. In the novel, Mr. Carrisford takes Sara from Miss Minchin's Seminary and gives her a better life. The readers feel happy because Sara has a better life. (Burnett, 2018:278)

In the film, at the minutes 1:30:23 until 1:30:52, Captain Crewe meets Sara in the hospital. Captain Crewe is not dead, but he is sick. Then, The fact of Captain Crewe is still alive make the audiences feel happy.

#### **e. Style**

Style shows the typical writing of the writer. The writer can use figurative language such as metaphor, simile,

alliteration, and so on. Film uses the dialogue to show the figurative language (Eneste, 1991). In this study finds a metaphor in the novel and film. Metaphor is a statement that compares two things that are not alike.

In the novel, the metaphor is showed in the comparison between the difficult task of maid, and the difficult task of soldier. (Burnett: 2018:112)

In the film, at the minutes 12:29 until 12:54, Sara compares the difficulty in wearing the shoes and the difficult situation in a war.

### **B. The Differences Between *A Little Princess* Novel and *Shirley Temple in the Little Princess* Film**

#### **a. Reduction**

The result of ecranisation reduces the narrative aspects of the novel (Eneste, 1991). In this study, the reduction of the novel is occurred on main characters, supporting characters and setting of place.

#### **1) Character and Characterization**

This study finds eight main characters and four supporting character which are reduced from the novel.

The first main character is Donald. In the novel, Donald is a kind child, but he does not know the difficult situation of Mr. Carrisford. Donald does not know that his

statement offends Mr. Carrisford. On the page 252, Donald is curious with the lost girl that Mr. Carrisford has told. Donald says that “the lost girl” becomes a poor girl and needs help (Burnett, 2018:252).

The second main character is Nora. In the novel, Nora is a kind child, but she also does not understand that Mr. Carrisford has a big problem. Nora makes him remember his fault, he cannot find the lost little girl, Sara Crewe. On the page 252 Nora says that the diamond mines of “the lost girl” is stolen by her father’s friend. In this case, Nora does not know that the father’s friend of “the lost girl” is Mr. Carrisford (Burnett, 2018:252).

The third main character is Janet. In the novel, Janet is described as a tactful and a kind girl. Janet understands what Mr. Carrisford feels, and she attempts to make him calm down. On the page 252, Janet apologizes to Mr. Carrisford about what Donald and Nora have said. Janet says to Mr. Carrisford that the problem of “the lost little girl” is not his fault. (Burnett, 2018:252)

The fourth main character is Ermengarde. In the novel, Ermengarde is a stupid girl who does not understand the difficult situation of Sara. On the page 114, Ermengarde is confused with Sara’s appearance. Sara looks bad and poor, but Ermengarde does not know how to face this situation. (Burnett, 2018:114)

The fifth main character is Lottie. In the novel, Lottie deems Sara as her mother

because Sara takes care of her. Lottie is worried about Sara because Sara stays at the attic. (Burnett, 2018:123)

The sixth main character is Miss Amelia. In the novel, Miss Amelia is described as a weak sister. She does not dare to admonish Miss Minchin, her old sister. However, at the end of the story, she becomes brave to admonish her old sister. On the page 270, Miss Amelia says that Sara will have resentment toward Miss Minchin’s cruelty (Burnett, 2018: 270)

The seventh main character is Mr. Carrisford. In the novel Mr. Carrisford is a trusted friend for Captain Crewe. He is also kind because he wants to give back the diamond mines to Captain Crewe’s daughter. (Burnett, 2018:265)

The eighth main character is Mr. Carmichael. In the novel, Mr. Carmichael is Mr. Carrisford’s solicitor. He is so smart, he knows how to speak with other people with different personality. On the page 265, Mr. Carmichael attempts to explain to Miss Minchin about the aim of the meeting between Mr. Carrisford and her. (Burnett, 2018:265)

After finding the main character, the study will find the supporting characters of the novel which are reduced in the film version. The first reduction of supporting character is Monsieur Dufarge. In the novel, he is described as a nice and smart French teacher. On the page 26, the author tells directly that Monsieur Dufarge is described

as a nice, intelligent, and middle-aged Frenchman. (Burnett, 2018:26)

The second supporting character is Marriette. In the novel, Marriette is Sara's personal maid. On the page 21, Lavinia sees that Marriette often appears in the Sara's room. (Burnett, 2018:21)

The third supporting character is the baker woman. In the novel, she is very kind to Sara. She gives Sara six buns when Sara just pays for four buns. (Burnett, 2018:183).

The fourth supporting character is the beggar girl. In the novel, the beggar girl appears when Sara after buying the buns. (Burnett, 2018:184)

## 2) Setting of Place

There are five places reduced from the novel.

The first place is Hotel. In the novel, it tells that Sara and her father stay at the hotel for several days. (Burnett, 2018:15)

The second place is Children's Outfitter's Shop. In the novel, the author tells that Sara buys a doll at the Children's Outfitter's Shop. (Burnett, 2018:18)

The third place is Mr. Carrisford's house. In the novel, the author describes the warm and comfortable room's Mr. Carrisford's house. (Burnett, 2018:197)

The fourth place is Mr. Carrisford's library. In the novel, the author tells directly that the story takes place in the Mr. Carrisford's library. On the page 262, when

the library door opens, Mr. Carmichael calls Sara to come. (Burnett, 2018:262)

The fifth place is Bakery Shop. In the novel, it tells that Sara sees through the window of Bakery Shop that the baker's shop put some cakes. (Burnett, 2018:180)

## b. Addition

The result of ecranisation adds the narrative aspects of novel. A screen writer can add some narrative aspects which are important for building a new story in the film adaptation (Eneste, 1991).

### 1) Character and Characterization

This study finds that there are four main characters and four supporting characters which are added in the film version. They are Mr. Bertie, Mr. Geoffrey, Lord Wickham, and Miss Rose.

The First main character is Bertie. In the film, Mr. Bertie has role as Miss Minchin's brother. At the minutes 51:15 until 51:28, Mr. Bertie is a kind person, he cannot accept the cruelty of Miss Minchin.

The Second main character is Mr. Geoffrey. In the film, Mr. Geoffrey has role as a soldier who falls in love with Miss. Rose. At the minutes 29:51 until 30:04, Mr Geoffrey spends time with Miss. Rose before going to war.

The third main character is Lord Wickham. In the film, Lord Wickham has a role as the grandfather of Mr. Geoffrey. At

the minutes 25:48 until 26:19, he does not like with Mr. Geoffrey because he has a problem with the father of Mr. Geoffrey. However, Mr. Geoffrey does not hate him.

The fourth main character is Miss Rose. In the film, Miss Rose has a role as Sara's teacher. At the minutes 41:59 until 42:18, Miss Rose feels sad because of the death of Sara's father. She is worried with the condition of Sara after hearing this news.

This study also finds four supporting characters which are added in the film version. They are Mrs. O'Connell, British Army, England native people and the staff of the hospital.

The first supporting character is Mrs. O'Connell. In the film, Mrs. O'Connell has a role as a cook in the seminary. She is a cruel person who punishes Becky because of a little mistake. At the minutes 46:52 until 47:12 she punishes Becky with no breakfast for a day.

The second supporting character is the staff of hospital. In the film, at the minutes 54:13 until 54:23, the staff of hotel asks Mr. Bertie to throw the trash.

The third and fourth supporting characters are British Armies and England Native People. In the film, at the minutes 02:34 until 02:44, England native people assembles around the British armies to celebrate the win of the war of second boer war.

## **2) Setting of Place**

This research finds five places which are added in the film version. These places are Dining Room, Tack Room, Stable, and Kitchen.

The first place is dining room. In the film, at the minutes 16:34 until 16:38 Before Miss Minchin and her pupils have their breakfast at the dining room, they pray together.

Second place is Tack room. In the film, at the minutes 18:05 until 18:06, Miss Rose and Mr. Geoffrey wait for Sara at the tack room.

The third place is Stable. In the film, at the minutes 18:11 until 19:32 Sara talks to her Pony. in the stable.

The fourth place is Kitchen. In the film, at the minutes 46:26 until 46:32, Miss Minchin asks Sara to have her breakfast at the Kitchen.

The fifth place is hospital. In the film at the minutes 53:26 until 53:37 Sara asks permission to Mr. Bertie to get inside the hospital and find her father in the hospital.

## **c. Modification**

The result of ecranisation modifies or makes some variations of the story of the novel. In this case, the screenwriter need modify the narrative aspects to build a new story on his film (Eneste, 1991).

## 1) Plot

The study finds three parts of plot which are modified from the novel. These parts of plot are the beginning, falling action, and the end.

The first plot is the beginning. In the novel, the story begins with the situation of London in the night, and there are a little girl and her father sit in the cap.

“Once on a dark winter’s day, when the yellow fog hung so thick and heavy in the street of London that the lamps were lighted and the shop windows blazed with gas as they do at night..” (Burnett, 2017:7)

In the film, at the minutes 02:35 until 02:54 the film begins with many soldiers and bring a flag “Mafeking is relieve” (celebrating both extravagantly and publicity. It explains that the story happens during the second Boer war.

The second plot is falling action. In the novel, Ram Dass, Carmichael and Mr. Carrisford question the name of Sara’s father. When Sara says that her father is Captain Crewe, Mr. Carrisford exclaims that the girl he has been found. (Burnett, 2017:259)

In the film, at the minutes 1:21:59 until 1:22:12, Miss Minchin and a police man run to chase Sara and Becky.

The third plot is the end. In the novel, Sara Crewe asks the employee of bakery shop to give the buns and bread to all beggar children who come to the shop. The

employee of bakery shop is the beggar girl that Sara has helped in the past. It is shown in the following quotation. (Burnett, 2017:284)

In the film, at the minutes 1:30:23 until 1:30:42 Captain Crewe is recovered from his amnesia after seeing Sara. He recognizes that she is Sara, his dear daughter.

## 2) Setting of Time

In this study, the researcher finds a setting of time which is modified in the film version.

In the novel, there is no exact information of the era of the novel. However, the novel is published in 1904 and it means that the novel happens around 1904. Frances Hodgson Burnett lives in New Market, Tennessee, New York. Burnett starts writing and publishing the stories in magazine on 1865. Frances Hodgson Burnett began to travel to England frequently on 1880s-1890s. *A Little Princess* novel takes place on London. Hence, it can be concluded that the story happens on 1880s-1890s. It is shown in the following quotation. On the page 7, the author tells the story begins with the condition of London and introduction of the main characters (Burnett, 2017:7)

In the film, at the minutes 02:35 until 02:53, the story happens during the war of Second Boer War (1899-1902). At the beginning, Sara sees many soldiers which are showed by a camera that they bring the

flag “Mafeking is relieve” (celebrating both extravagantly and publicity). It explains that the story of film happens on 1899 until 1992.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the narrative aspects which are similar between them are plot, character, characterization, setting of place, ambience, style, and theme. It is found that there are the similarities of two parts of plot, seven main characters, four places, three ambiances, one style of figurative language, and one theme in the novel and film. There are differences in three parts of plot, twelve main characters, eight supporting characters, a setting of time, and ten places in the novel and film.

The narrative aspects of novel change when they are visualized. The difference occurs due to the reduction, addition, and modification. There are eight main characters, four supporting character, and five places are reduced, there are four main characters, four supporting characters, and five places are added, and there are three parts of plot and one setting of time are modified. Thus, the researcher suggests that the reader and audience be able to understand about the reason why there are some differences of narrative aspects between novel and its film adaptation.

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