

# ANNA FOXX'S CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT IN A.J FINN'S *THE WOMAN IN THE WINDOW*

Jeinni I.E Mangar, Adeline Grace M Litaay S.S., M.Pd.  
Jeinni I.E Mangar, Universitas 17 Agustus 1945, Indonesia  
Adeline Grace M Litaay S.S., M.Pd, Universitas 17 Agustus 1945, Indonesia  
[jeni13mangar@gmail.com](mailto:jeni13mangar@gmail.com) , [adelinegrace@untag-sby.ac.id](mailto:adelinegrace@untag-sby.ac.id)

---

## ABSTRACT

The thesis is about Anna Foxx's character development in *The Woman in The Window*. The objective of research is to describe the character development of Anna Foxx in A.J. Finn's *The Woman in The Window*, and to examine the causes and effects of Anna Foxx's character development. The analysis uses qualitative descriptive method and the intrinsic approach is applied this research. The results of this study show the portrayal of Anna Foxx character development: coping with fear and anxiety drug abuse and drinking, coping with loneliness and panic attack. The causes of Anna Foxx are friendship with Jane and Ethan Russell and Anna's witnessing Jane Russell's murder. The effects of Anna Foxx are finally able to live a normal life and make genuine friends.

**Keywords:** *character development, causes, effects, drug abuse and drinking, loneliness, panic attack*

---

## INTRODUCTION

Character development in general is a process of changing or growing the personality of certain character. Character development in literature is the ability to provide a character personality, depth, and motivation that propels them through a story, because as he has gains knowledge from previous experiences, a person who has gotten through difficulties and problems in his life will be stronger and a better person. Every human being has, without a doubt, a goal in life: to win or succeed. The human journey is not always straightforward when it comes to achieving a life purpose. They frequently encounter difficulties, obstacles, and even long-term issues that cause anxiety, pain, and depression. Asserts that every person encounters life's challenges on a daily basis, resulting in numerous obstacles. If a person gives up in the middle of their life because they have to deal with problems and difficulties, they will lose everything and never be able to even consider ending their own life. As a result, they should

try to resolve their issues or get out of the way as much as possible. According to Hurlock (1974), nobody is born into the world as a positive person because a human could be affected by other factors and it can improve or foster in the long run through being influenced by interaction with people, social circumstances, natural, and personal and social exercises in their early lives. The human personality can evolve.

The writers draw the reader into the plot by making the characters likable. Character development is one literary term that writers hear a lot about. However, it serves as a hook into a story's narrative and is an essential part of writing fiction. Each has natural characteristics such as personality, image, and a backstory that make them relatable. The circular segment of the story has made available by the character's sources of inspiration, which also explains their actions and decisions.

This novel, A.J. Finn's *The Woman in The Window*, tells the main character's story. Anna Foxx, who is a child psychologist with the symptoms of excessive anxiety about what is happening outside her home. Anna Foxx always stand in behind of the window and does her activities while spying on her neighbors who are around her house using a camera. The camera that she uses to spy on her neighbors is a silent witness to all the actions taken by her neighbors. However, one day Anna sees a very shocking incident in which a murder scene occurs on her new neighbor named Jane. Anna, who sees the incident, rushes out of the house to save her neighbor. The novel is interesting to be analyses because Anna Foxx has unique character traits and shows great character development that influence her life story. The conflicts experienced by the main character gives the readers a great moral value.

This study uses three solve the problem of the influenced Anna Foxx's character development by several factors. The first, how is the portrayal of Anna Foxx character development. The second, what are the causes of Anna Foxx character development. The last, what are the effects of Anna Foxx character development. The study aims to 1) To portray Anna Foxx character development in *The Woman in The Window*; 2) To describe the causes and effects of Anna Foxx character development in *The Woman in The Window*.

## **Characters and Characterization**

According to Kennedy (1983), the story's character is the author's imagined person. In novels, a character also goes through experiences that help them develop. The character's experiences and events influence it. Books, on the other hand, seem to be longer works of fiction than collections of short stories, with many complex and subtle characters and drivers, and that incorporate elements of real-life experiences into the storyline. In any good novel, a writer creates fictional characters by giving them goals, throwing obstacles in their way, and creating conflict. Any human character in a story can also undergo character growth.

### *The Character Definition*

A character, according to Putri (2018), a character appears in the story through conversation, action, or thought and emerges a fictitious name as their identity. These characters also show how they talk to and interact with one another, and their origins are

explained. Because fiction's characters clearly explain and portrayed, readers are likelier to recognize them than to identify people in real life. The way people act, think, and feel are what make up their character, and each person's life experience is different. Every person on this planet goes through a variety of life experiences that influence their behavior, movement, and responses. Because of this, people's personalities differ from one another, making them distinctive.

### *Type of Character*

There are two kinds of characters in fictions: static characters and dynamic (developing) characters (Perrine 2018:145). Characters who do not change at all in the story are called static characters. From the beginning to the end of the story, the static character is the same person. The character, in contrast to the dynamic one, is subject to change for a variety of reasons. The dynamic character exhibits character, personality, and perspective shifts. In other words, the character will continue to act the same and will not change, whereas a dynamic character will eventually change.

According to Forster (1927), there are two kinds of characters in literature flat characters and round characters. The flat character has no effect on the story. A few sentences can describe the character. As an example, if we already know that a character is a hero, we can expect that, at the end of the story, he will still be a hero who enjoys helping others. In contrast, the round character plays a significant role in the narrative, constantly bringing about changes and advancing the plot. Therefore, in a story where the protagonist typically transforms from a bad character into a good one or vice versa, they have around. The researcher uses characterization to describe a character or person in a story or literary work. This researcher can better describe and flesh out the characters in the story with the assistance of characterization. In the story, characterization is also used to paint a picture of the character.

The process of characterization carried out in a certain way can create characters in a fictional story that is unique to the person or figure of the story. According to Murphy (1972), characterization methods include personal description, character as seen by another, speech, past life, other people's conversations, reactions, direct comments, thoughts, and mannerisms. In direct characterization, the narrator, other characters, or the character themselves provide explanations for the characters. The context-specific background of the plot and setting information explains the reader's comprehension. In contrast, indirect characterization explains how one character affects another and paints a picture of the characters. In most movies, this characterization is used to show how the character behaves, thinks, and speaks in every situation.

### **Character Development**

Character development in literary technique or tool that allows the reader to connect with the characters in a story. According to Self-Publishing School (2022, September 16). The characters are central to the plot, character structures, and themes. In a story, the elements would aid the character's development over time. Character development is how an individual's behavior and personality change or grow to discover and describe specific traits. The character in the story can constantly develop or change, and various factors can influence this. According to Perrine (2018:146), one such tale should meet several conditions, including character changes impacted by the circumstances and conditions experienced by the character's location and personal feelings in the story following the story being dramatic and, at the time, in a report. In general, character changes in individuals don't happen spontaneously and in a linear fashion.

## **Conflict**

A tension, stress or pressure that occurs in a literary work. It can emotionally connect readers to what is happening in the story. They include the antagonist and protagonist characters' problems, arguments, and resistance. Dewan Toro (2016:23) states that conflict occurs when two or more people disagree on a problem of overall organizational substance and have some emotional antagonism toward one another. In addition, Stanton (1965):16) implies, a conflict is a story is that occurs in major character. Human beings very easy to be in this situation because all human social interactions have certain objectives which are when two characters are in no same agreement. In real life, it usually happens in most people around the world due to their individual goals as being mutually exclusive, so if they feel that achieving one person's goals keeps the other persons goals from being achieved.

## **Cause of Conflict**

According to Pruitt (2004:849) the cause of the conflict is generally due to the diversity of interests that actually conflict with the interests of the other parties involved. Pruitt explanation (2004) shows that conflict starts from the interest of a particular individual. So that desires, interests and other things that are underestimated can be the cause of conflict, some of which are also causes of aggression. Some major ones are: scarce resources, adversity, faulty communication, perceived differences, biology environment, health.

## **METHOD**

In this research, the writer employs qualitative, because the writer collected the data occurring from *The Woman in The Window* in the main character. It follows Krathwohl's theory in Wiersma in his book *Research Methods in Education*: the data used and gathered are contextual, data of words or images and not numbers. In this research, the writer employs qualitative because the writer collected the data from *The Woman in The Window*, the novel's main character. It follows Krathwohl's theory in Wiersma's book *Research Methods in Education*: the data used and gathered are contextual data of words or images, not numbers. Qualitative research analyzes, explains, and describes human activities, situations, conditions, and relationships. This intrinsic approach uses because the writer uses the theory of character development, which focuses on the character development of the story's main character, which Anna's circumstances would influence. The development of Anna's character is due to everything that happened in her life. The writer collects the data through several steps; 1) choosing *The Woman in The Window* novel as the object of analysis. 2) reading the novel to understand the novel. 3) identifies and classify the data by taking notes of the characters' words in the story that shows the development of Anna's character. Academic psychology is a science that examines literary works from a psychological point of view and has three possible meanings: Through character development theory, the writer examines the information that has to identify and classify. After that, the writer makes a conclusion based on the findings.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

This chapter of the thesis presents an analysis of the problems, which are divides into three sections: The portrayal of Anna Foxx character in A.J. Finn's *The Woman in The Window*, including the causes and effects of Anna character development.

### **The Portrayal of Anna Foxx's Character Development**

It that a child psychologist named Anna Fox experienced PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) due to an accident that killed her husband and child; at that time, Anna was the one

directing the car. Anna becomes acrophobic, where she feels extreme anxiety when she leaves a room/open place and in this story, she is very anxious and afraid when she leaves the house. A person's phobia can be attributed in large part to this factor. The event in question is terrifying and horrific, and it has a profound psychological impact. Additionally, Anna is a complete alcoholic; she may have had the accident in order to overcome her feelings of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). She even uses wine to get medicine from his doctor. Anna even became one of her friend's patients at a psychologist to overcome this mental illness. Anna feels responsible for her family's deaths. The following quotation explains the analysis.

Anna is unable to go outside because of her anxiety event. She can only look at the sky after that accident, a sky that is unusually wide. When she is lying with her injured family, she only sees the wide sky. After the accident, the sky becomes a bad memory for her, result trauma in her and she is afraid to look at it. Anna developed trauma and always remembers her family when she has in the outside world and the open space. She is very afraid of what is outside her home and worried about what is there. Once a week visitor Bina, a yoga and gymnastics instructor, suggested that Anna open the window so that the warm weather outside would bring positive energy into the house. This time, Anna became sensitive and traumatic event emerges. This claim reveals the trauma Anna experienced when it snowed. Because when the car accident, her family died in snowy. Anna's encounter at the scene of the vehicle collision served as more evidence of her traumatic event. All of those quotations above show that Hutch Mansell exhibits toxic masculinity traits, specifically traumatic is depicted from the chosen data of Anna's personality banes on her own confession, the narrator's description, and the utterances from someone else.

### *1. Getting Rid of Fear or Anxiety*

Numerous antisocial, paranoid, and dissociative behaviors are displays by Anna. For instance, Anna Fox is the story's main character. She gets psychological problem after the car incident. She is frightened and anxious as a result of the accident. One of the effects of social anxiety, which makes sufferers feel constantly watches, is that they will continue to hide and try to keep information about them hidden. Similar to what happiness to Anna, she did not want him to feel uncomfortable by opening the window and letting the wind and light into the house, which would make him feel overshadowed by the overly bright conditions. Anna watches her neighbors through her windows, and when she wants to see something or someone more clearly, she uses the high-powered zoom lens on her camera to focus on her subject. In this quote, Anna compares her neighbors to animals in nature; this comparison heightens the writer appreciation of Anna's sense of isolation because the anxiety she has. For about a year, Anna Foxx did not leave her house. It is not easy for ordinary people, but it makes sense if they are apprehensive about leaving the house. It causes a person feels afraid to go outside and staying in lonely. This quotation shows Anna's anxiety. It also explains about leaving the house quite evident. The cause is a fear of being alone outside the house.

Throughout the story, Anna is finally able to cope with her fear and anxiety. In this explanation Anna has dare to show that she is not afraid of tomorrow and she has convinced herself to let go of her addictions and worries.

## 2. *Getting Rid of Addiction to Alcohol and Drug*

Alcohol and drug are a signal with anxiety or traumatic disorder, because of people with it usually have bad emotion or they want to reduce the problem that they have. Some people may have success that way but other will affect negatively. Anna compares herself to her neighbor (Dr. Miller) when it comes to drinking. Anna is a heavy drinker and substance abuser. Anna drink to uplift her mood, to feel more relaxed, energized, and happier although she is alone and never communicates with other people. Anna is terrified when someone sends her a picture while she is sleeping. She is in a state of panic and has no idea what to do. She only drinks to relax, but it can make her feel even more anxious. It demonstrates that alcohol has a short-term effect when panic sets in. Alcohol may act as her coping mechanism for dealing with stress, anxiety and other mental condition. However, this is a temporary solution and as the effect of alcohol wears off, she may feel worse due to withdrawal agoraphobia and change her personality. Anna tries to reduce her illness by consuming drug, but the fact that it makes her body experience side negative effect. She also drinks alcohol, which symbolizes an escape, and feels she will be fine—one more glass before bed. Grasping the bottle by its throat, I turn to the window, toward three ghosts haunting the sidewalk, and hoist it in a toast. Anna Fox will consume alcohol before going to bed. It implies that Anna Fox is addicted to alcohol. And sometimes alcohol makes her experience such hallucinations.

The statement above shows that Anna Foxx is a drug addict who consumes the pill before doing her activities. She uses drugs to relax and communicates with the outside world via an online site. The quotation states that Anna Foxx consumes drugs and the side effect on her physical body. When Anna Foxx consumes a drug, side effects appear in her and her patient, but they are different; Anna experiences fear of being in an open space while her patient can go outside. Drugs also change her body, her mind, and her character. Abuse of alcohol or other substances intensifies the consequences of anxiety. The individual becomes more alcohol or drugs, their physical and psychological anxiety symptoms worsen, forcing them to use more substances in order to maintain their regular level of functioning. In the end, this leads to a cycle of substance abuse that creates a tolerance to the drug and eventually physical dependence and addiction. Here it is shown that Anna finally stops drinking, due to reconvening with doctor Julian Fielding. Anna admits that her addiction to drinking alcohol cannot help her escape from her trauma.

## 3. *Coping with Loneliness*

Anna, who has post-traumatic disorder with agoraphobia (fear of open spaces), never goes outside or communicates with her neighbor; she just investigates her neighbor from the window in her husband's library. The writer implies that the window is a symbol; it symbolizes the world to Anna.

The previous quote describes Anna's loneliness; she is never distracted or disturbed by her neighbor's music, which could distract and bore others hearing the same theme. Moreover, the music or the genre is dislike and unwelcome. With her misery, Anna wants to try to have friends so she doesn't feel lonely at home, due to the anxiety she suffers which causes Anna to not be able to leave the room. In this explanation is the dialogue where he first met Khate who he thought was Jane Russell. She tries making them scurry away by threatening them through the intercom and by banging her window pane. After all, Anna has been through, she is finally able

to cope with her loneliness. The final chapter of the book shows a happy ending. The tone in this section is optimistic. The writer indicates that Anna has come to terms with the deaths of Ed and Olivia. In addition, she has ended her alcoholism. The conflict of the narrative that revolves around Anna's condition is resolved when she can finally step outside onto the snow-cover of her roof. The author shows that there is hope for Anna.

#### *4. Coping with Panic attack*

The panic attack occurs because of the sadness that Anna Foxx had experienced in her past life. Fast breathing, shortness of breath, trembling, numbness, loss of control, imminent danger, is classified as panic physical symptoms of a panic attack. Anna sees her best friend Katie (whom she mistakenly identified as Jane Russell) fighting with someone at Russell's home. Katie's neighbor, Anna is powerless to intervene while Katie is in danger. She observed Katie hanging in her home's window with a bloody chest wound. She is a frightening sight to behold. She truly wants to support Katie, but she suffers from agoraphobia. She tries to phone the police in her desperation but fears it will be too late to save Katie. She tries to force herself to leave the house, but she is unable to move to the open area. The following quotation demonstrates every piece of the aforementioned evidence. Anna makes a valiant effort to leave her house. To help Katie, she went into her kitchen through the side door. She grabs her umbrella and stands in the middle of her home's park, blocking her view of the area outside. She understands that Russell's home lacks a door leading to the park. For her to enter Russell's home, she must first make her way to the street. She is in a panic and stress. She sincerely desires to assist her best friend (Katie).

Anna also expresses her perception that the outside is extremely dark, much like her home's hallway. The word "dark" in this scene illustrates how naive Anna is of the world around her; she believes that something might threaten her. She is unable to move after her mental rage. Another evidence is that Anna has a fear of being in open spaces is when Anna tried to leave her house and help Jane Russell across her house. This shows that Anna is accommodating. It is also depicted Ethan as a victim of his parent's strife's. Ethan accepts her offer and issues Anna with his phone number so that she would call him whenever she needed his aid.

### **The Causes of Anna Foxx's Character Development**

There are two causes of Anna Foxx's character development in the story. They are Anna's friendship with Jane and Ethan Russell and Anna's witnessing Jane's murder.

#### *1. Anna's Conflict inside Friendship with Jane (Katie) and Ethan Russell*

When Ethan first visits Anna, bringing a candle he says is from his mother. When Anna meets the woman, she believes is Jane Russell (Ethan's mother), Jane seems to confirm Anna's belief that Alistair Russell (Ethan's father) is controlling and does not trust people easily. Anna and Jane became instant friends after spending an evening together playing checkers and drinking wine. Jane is Ethan Russell's biological mother. Fortunately, a woman arrives to save her. She helps to bring her back to her home and continues to give her first aid. Anna initiates a conversation with her. Anna explains her condition to Jane who understands her encounter and is sympathetic of her. This shows the toll that relocating to a new town can have on individuals. Anna, on the other hand, is sympathetic to Ethan's situation.

## 2. *Witnessing Jane Russel's Murder*

Though Anna remembers Katie identifying as Jane Russell, it is Anna who first assumes that the stranger must be her new neighbor and calls her Jane Russell. Anna witnesses Jane (Katie) murder through the windows of Russell's house, which is critical to her interpretation of the events as the actual stabbing and perpetrator is hidden from her view. The killer is never shown, but Anna assumes, bases on her interactions both with Ethan and Alistair Russell, that Alistair is the perpetrator.

## **The Effects of Anna Foxx's Character Development**

There are two effects of Anna Foxx's character development shown in the story, which are, able to live normally and able to make friends.

### 1. *Anna Lives a Normally life*

It is satirical that Anna's habit of prying on her neighbors has been useful in solving the murder. At the end of the story, Anna again feels the feeling of breathing open air without any feelings of panic.

### 2. *Able to Make Genuine Friend*

Anna attempts to make an internet friend through the Agora website. She becomes well-known on the Agora website due to her work as a child psychologist. Through the website, she assists many friends who are experiencing the same issues as she is. Anna is an excellent psychologist. Her world, however, becomes very dark after the tragedy in her family. She misses her life as a psychological doctor terribly, but she has not control over her agoraphobia. Six weeks after the incident, Anna pries on her neighbors in the snow. The writer indicates that she still continues with her habit of watching her neighbors from her window. Anna also has a new hobby of reading books. As she watches her neighbors, she states that the Russell house is up for sale. The couple had move after Ethan's incident. The writer highlights the anti-climax of the plot; Anna stops drinking and follows her medication, the detectives are apologetic for failing to believe her initially, and Anna re-joins "Agora" to assist other patients. In the last chapter, Anna returns to a normal life and forget and forgive her past about drugs and alcohol. Now she decided to move and leaves her old house and resumes her work as a child psychologist.

## **CONCLUSION**

Based on the analysis, it is found that Anna Foxx has experiences a character development in A.J. Finn's *The Woman in The Window*. It can be proven from the fact that she has successfully coped with her life story experience, gotten rid her fear, anxiety, and drugs and drinking habit, coped with her loneliness and panic attack. This explanation proves that there is character development. It also shows that Anna's character development of causes by her friendship with Jane and Ethan Russell. Moreover, it is also causing of witnessing Jane Russell's murder. Anna is ready to recognize and open herself to the others, and she is dealing with her trauma through witnessing to those around her, However, based on the witness she provided and the report she made regarding Jane's murder, people believe she provided a false



claim and nobody believes there was no proof provided by Anna. In addition, Anna has mental health problems with drinking habits and taking drugs, making people around her think she is crazy or just imagining. Anna proves that she is not lying and crazy by finding out the evidence of what really happened. The last but not least, the effect of character development is Anna is able to live normally and able to make genuine friends and people realized Anna is not crazy and apologizes to her. And Anna lives life as before by returning to work as a child psychologist.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Character development: 12 steps, arcs, & guides [worksheet]. Self-Publishing School. (2022, September 16). Retrieved December 22, 2022

Forster, E. M. (1927). *Aspect of the Novel*. Edward Arnold Publisher

Hurlock, E. B. (1974). *Personality Development*. McGraw Hill Book Company.

Kennedy, X. J. (1983). *An Introduction to Fiction (Third Edition)*. Boston Little Brown. Laurence Perri

Laurence Perrine, Johnson, G., & Arp, T. R. (2018). *Perrine's Literature: Structure, Sound, and Sense (Thirteenth (ed.))*. Cengage Learning.

Murphy, M. J. (1972). *Understanding Unseen's: An Introduction to English Poetry and the English Novel for Overseas Students*. Allen and Unwin.

Putri, C. (2018). the Characterization of the Main Character in *Gone Girl* Film. *Linguistics*, 7(3), 1–14. <https://doi.org/10.24114/ling.v7i3.11888>

Pruitt, D. (n.d.). *Social conflict*. Google Books. Retrieved December 21, 2022

Suminar, I. D. (2022, January 14). Violet Markey's character development in Jennifer Niven's all the bright places. *UNTAG SURABAYA REPOSITORY*. Retrieved December 16, 2022

Silalahi, E., & Saragih, A. (n.d.). Anxiety disorder on the main character of A. J. Finn novel the woman in the window. *TRANSFORM Journal of English Language Teaching and Learning of FBS UNIMED*. Retrieved December 16, 2022

Utami, M. A. (2018). *The Magic of Howl's Moving Castle: An Analysis of Character Development in a Fantasy Novel*. 6(2), 72–85.