

THE CHARACTER ANALYSIS OF GLEN HANSARD IN ONCE FILM

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Abstract: This paper analyzed the characterization of talented actor named Glen Hansard in *Once* film. This study employed a descriptive qualitative research design based on theories of Rahardjo (1985), Robert (1965), and Card (1988). Primary data sources were whole *Once* scenes film directed by John Carney which had low-budgeting production with two stars, Glen Hansard and Irglova, while secondary data sources were collected from the articles related to this study. This research mainly investigated two aspects involved two character analyses of the main actor, Hansard. The first one was the construction of Hansard's characters and the second one was the effect between his character and another actors' character. The study showed that Hansard's characters were constructed by five factors: from what the character did and said, what the other characters said about him, how the appearance and its milieu were, influencing one and another. The study also found that he had struggle, visionary, ambitious, introvert, sensitive, straightforward and curious characters, but more characters that showed strong characters of his were struggle, visionary and ambitious, because the scenes reflected them more.

Keywords: *literary works, film, character, characterizing.*

INTRODUCTION

Film has an emotional and intellectual appeal that can be an exciting discipline of film studies. Therefore, there is educational institution or university, concerning about examining all about film. Most plays in film contain major and minor characters that always become essential part to influence the audience. Then, the conflict of the story is required as the main idea to get the viewers' attention, so the director views to create more significant influence.

Hawthorn (2001: 100) states "A novelist constructs a plot in a particular manner so as to draw attention to certain things which might otherwise escape notice, to product different effect upon the reader, and so on,". Similar to a film

director, constructing the plot should be focused especially in constructing each character to get viewers' attention and curiosity. In addition, Klarer (1998: 57) states that film is a performing art and also dramatic genre that use actor as the major means of expression, that has visual power and needs modes of presentation such as camera angle, editing, slow and fast motion, recorded with sound that tells a story.

On the other hand, the phenomenon from the first generation of people who may ever watch and know how the character in their favorite film, such as kind character, wicked, rude, friendly, etc is taken from each view film series. They watch seriously and enjoy the film till it ends completely

and they feel the goose bumps without realizing why they can break into that film, knowing what factors influencing the character construction. Furthermore, they are unaware of how the one character and the other characters get and give the effect on each other. Those are the basis phenomena of this study that all the factors supporting the above statement are analyzed.

In its simple meaning, "character is one of person who appears in the play," (Rahardjo 1985: 49). In the other case, Scott (1988) said that character is the complex of mental and ethical traits marking a person or the inner self of natural human being. For example, a person with a strong character quality of truthfulness is much more likely to accurately report the facts in a given situation than a person who tends to be characterized by deceptiveness. Someone who has the character trait of alertness will be more likely to be a better, safer, driver than a person who does not see or recognize the potential dangers around him. A person with the character quality of tolerance will be more accepting of others less prejudiced.

Let see *Tom and Jerry* cartoon film. *Tom* never gives up catching and eating *Jerry* through many wicked ways that *Tom* has. Hence, it gets responses from the other characters to both of them. We as the viewer feel angry sometimes to *Tom*, because what *Tom* does to *Jerry* is indicating the bad attitude of *Tom*. So in this case, the character is constructed by what it does.

The treatment of character is a basic part of playwright's work. One actor has different characters with the others', so the director can create the character related to the plot of story in his literary works such as in the film, theater, novel, or in the short story. The period and the author's personal vision affect the treatment of character as

Roberts (1963: 55) states:

Character in literature is an extended verbal representation of a human being, specially the inner self that determines thought, speech and behavior and whereas in life things may "just happen," in literature the actions, interactions, speeches and observations are all arranged to give you details you need for conclusion about character.

From the statement above, characters in this study are the inner self of human being that can appear of their representation. Thus, how the factors that contribute to create the character study and also the effects one and another characters were the main points of this study.

As characters are related to the human beings, so to know what their characters are, we have to analyze the factors on how they are constructed, whether from what the characters themselves say, what the characters do, what the other characters say about them or what the author says about them and so on. Based on the clarification above, this study analyzed how the character Glen Hansard was constructed and how the main actor's characters affect to the other actors' characters.

METHOD

This study was carried out in descriptive qualitative method as it attempted to analyze and describe how the characterization was constructed and how the main actor's characters affected to and got affected by other actors' characters.

The techniques of the study was related to Sugiono's (2011) theory: the first one was to analyze the main problem by descriptive observation (collecting). "Descriptive observation is done when the researcher in a certain social situation as the object of the research," (Sugiyono, 2011: 315). It was the step of observation where the researcher was looking for the problem,

entering the situation or phenomena but still finding out the case that would be the main problem of the research. Interesting cases were chosen before the researcher did the research analysis in the study. The second one was to choose the main topic by focused observation (describing). In this step the writer focused on one case guessed as the problem raised. It was also said as a mini tour observation focusing on one aspect. The third one was to limit the focus study with selected observation, in this step, the researcher itemized the focus study, so the data got detailed, with this analysis of componential of focus, the researcher had characteristic, the differences of categories, and the relation of them. The fourth was to continue watching and analyzing to get more supporting data (analyzing).

To get supporting and complete data, I watched and analyzed the case till the date were saturated. The fifth was to describe data interpretations (classifying). In this step, the writer classified and separated the data taken into each parts of analysis as shown in the table 1.

After all the data and all the factors were already collected, the characters of the main actor were then concluded. Thus, it enabled the researcher to find out the interaction of the characters about their reciprocal affects. Eventually, the conclusion was drawn, taking a short one to analyze how the result date was collected.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

According to Rahardjo (1988), Robert (1963) and Scott Card (1988),

Table 1
The Sample of Data Description

No	Character	Scene time	Description
1			
2			

Table 2
The Characters Influenced by What the Character Did (Once Film, 2007)

No	Character	Scene time	Description
1	Struggle	00:00:36	Glen Hansard as the Dublin busker guy was singing and playing the song. His Earnings were stolen and he ran to catch him.
		00:10:00	The Hoover was brought to be repaired by him.
2	Ambitious	00:03:58	He was singing and playing the second song, the title "Once" till the evening.
		00:45:25	He and his friend Irglova were preparing all they need for promoting his song to the one of music recording studio.
		00:46:28	They recruited 3 additional players to get started recording.
		00:57:29	They showed the song with their own old CD player to the music recording director.
		01:10:20	All the recording songs finished during long time.
3	Careful	00:25:47	He always remember what he need, included his CD player.
		00:55:33	He prepared to get great recording by practicing together with his new friends.
4	Visionary		We can see almost all the scenes showed his performance and effort in music.
5	Curious	00:13:18	He saw Ignova who was singing.
6	Friendly/kind	00:30:41	He was taking care with Irglova by lapping her daughter to bed.
7	Entertaining	00:09:50	There were many people who enjoyed with their attention.

there are some factors that can guide to know how the actor in the film is characterized, such as what the character does, what the character says, what the other character says about him, how the appearance, milieu and as the additional there is what the author says about him. These were used to explain the exact characters of Glen Hansard as the major character in that *Once* film. That might appear more than one character. Table 2 shows the presentation of his all characters.

Firstly, it was about how the characters were constructed, influenced by firstly from what the character does. Before explaining the description, the table of that character analyses was shown taken from what the character did as follow:

In the beginning, the film was performed by a Dublin busker who felt, played old guitar and sang the song very enthusiastically in Grafton Street, a Dublin shopping district. He was shabby with the trials of performing on the street, including chasing after a heroin addict (Darren Healy) who attempted to steal his earnings, and then we could see then the girl's Hoover that he got to repair while he was busking on the street in the evening showed that he was struggling and ambitious to face his life, even singing was one of his hobby.

Moreover, from what he did we could see also his struggling when he and his friend, Irglova, were preparing all they needed for promoting his song to a recording studio in Dublin. They prepared the sample song, costume and kept their effort to convince his song to the music director with their own old CD player, which it turned they got the chance of free recording. Beside that, the moment he recruited 3 additional players that he found them were busking on the street indicated his struggling. Of course, they got started recording, and then they practiced together before,

finally went to the studio. Then, we could see his struggling when he guided his friends for all recording process that took long time. We could see it from all the participants, the players and the recorder looked so tired, napping on the recording controller room.

On the other scene we could see a careful character when he always brought what he needed, like his CD players that he prepared on his bag to be lent to her. Irglova even she did not ask first yet. Also his attention to face the recording by preparing all he needed included practicing the song on his bed room with his four new friends indicated his careful character. It means that to get the best result, all should be prepared well.

Then, he also had visionary character from almost all the scenes, showing from his performance and effort in music in addition to his effort to find his true love.

From his gesture, his curious character was also known when he saw Ignova who was singing, his face seemed surprised and seemed to know more. He was also friendly and entertaining; he could busk and get more attention from the viewers who watched and danced around him. On the other scene his kindness appeared when he kept attention by lapping Irglova's daughter to bed.

The second was from *what the character says*. It was the fact that the characterization was raised from what the character said. From the scene we could know the new or supporting facts of the character that we had known before from what the character did. Here was the description table from what the character said, see table 3 below.

Here was the explanation of table 3 above. Introvert was the other character that he had, especially when the others asked about his ex-girlfriend. For example, in the second scene as he

Table 3
The Characters Influenced by What the Character Said Factor (Once Film, 2007)

No	Character	Scene time	Description
1	Introvert	00:07:05	He answers "no one", when he was asked who he would write the song for.
		00:20:24	He tell just the little bit of his relation with song in the bus.
		01:18:00	He presented appreciation; although he felt jealous or unhappy.
2	Sensitive	00:04:29	He sang a song on the street "Say it to me now."
		00:08:01	He sang a song in his bedroom "all the way down."
		00:20:29	He sang a song on the bus "leave."
3	Curious	00:38:53	He sang a song while saw webcam image "leave."
		00:29:31	He asked something to Irgnova in her house.
		00:32:30	He asked her to hang out even that is the end of conversation.
4	Ambitious	00:11:00	He asked some questions to Irglova in mini restaurant.
		00:46:30	He invited three of busker street to join for recording.
5	Visionary	01:18:18	He decided to go to London.
		00:43:10	He wanted to make a song recording.
6	Struggle	01:14:49	He asked her to hang out even her husband said that he will come soon.
		00:07:46	When all day he busked, he said that he worked also for Hoover service.
7	Straight-forward	00:21:01	He sang the song that showed he struggled to get his girl back.
		00:25:31	He was brave to say the something honest and apologizing.

Table 4
The Conversation of His Introvert Character (Once Film, 2007)

A	:	Who'd you write that song for, please?
B	:	No one.
A	:	Bullshit. Where is she?
B	:	She's gone.
A	:	She's dead?
B	:	No, she's not dead, she's gone.
A	:	You love her still?
B	:	Jesus, man.

sang a song on the street, he was asked by Irglova. the conversation was quoted, see table 4 and remember for all the conversations in this research that A was Irglova and B was Glen Hansard.

From the conversation above, it was known that he could not share about who his girl was and answered the questions just as he needed, appeared when they were in the bus and he told the little bit of the girl with the song, when it was impossible to tell directly. It

indicated he was Introvert.

The other fact that showing Introvert character appeared when he felt jealous, see the excerpt at table 5.

From the conversation in table 5, actually it showed his jealous when he tried to get closer to her. He showed that he was really happy, even he was disappointed.

Next character that we could know from what he said was sensitive. Almost all the scenes were full of the songs that

Table 5
The Conversation of His Introvert Character (Once Film, 2007)

B	:	What do you have to organize? What's, what's that about?
A	:	I, I spoke to my husband last night. He's coming over.
B	:	Ah, brilliant. Fair play... That's great. I'm really happy for you. It's good. Yeah.

Table 6
The Conversation of His Curious Character (Once Film, 2007)

A	:	Thanks for the company.
B	:	I needed it.
A	:	Me, too.
B	:	You don't want to go for late coffee or a walk or something? No?
A	:	I can't. See you. Bye.
B	:	See you.

he had, such as the titles *the healing has begun, say it to me now, all the way down, falling slowly, leave, the fair city waltz, if you want me, lies, trying to pull myself away, when your mind's made up, fallen from the sky, when your mind's made up, falling slowly* and once as the final film credits song, they could lead that he had a sensitive character, especially for his ex-girlfriend in London who he really loved, almost all the film told about her; he could not forget her and wondered to get her back from London (see the appendix for full song contents).

Let us see the curious character of his, at 00:29:31 scene time. He was invited to come to Irglova's house, her small apartment, where she lived with her baby daughter and her mother, who spoke only Czech. He asked how to say thank you in Czech when her mother said that he was handsome. Then he was curious to know where her husband directly to Irglova that it was known as a private thing. At 00:32:30 scene time, He asked her to hang out even there was the end of conversation. Please see table 6 below.

From the conversation in table 6 above it appeared that he could not hide his feeling, even actually he was comfortable beside her. He wanted together for more time. It indicated that he was curious.

Here were some questions that showed his curious character in 00:11:00 scene when he was with Irglova. See the table 7.

From the conversation above, asking three questions, he was curious about her life background. It indicated he has curious character. The other character that we could know was ambitious that we could indicate it from what he said. When he invited three buskers street to join for recording, he walked around the street and found them, his great effort to get his dream by inviting them to join. Moreover, in the other case, ambitious character appeared when he wanted to get his girl back from London; he told it to his father after he showed his recording CD that he wanted to get his girl back from London.

Table 7
The Conversation of His Curious Character (Once Film, 2007)

B	:	So you know a bit about music then?
A	:	My father used to play in the orchestra back at home. He played violin. But he got arthritis then, and he killed himself.
B	:	Really?
A	:	But before he goes, he teaches me how to play piano. "It's not so hard on the fingers," he said.
B	:	Do you get to play much?
A	:	Hmm. No, I don't, I don't have a piano at home. I can't get one in Ireland; it's so much money. I can't afford it.
B	:	Yeah, it's expensive all right.

Table 8
The Conversation of His Visionary Character (Once Film, 2007)

B	:	I was thinking, I was thinking before I go, I want to make a recording of a few songs. A couple of the songs I was playing you, and I really liked the way you played and your singing. So, if you feel like, would you be into playing along? Like what we were playing on?
A	:	I would sing and play?
B	:	Yeah.
A	:	I'd love that.
B	:	Really? Cool. So you'd be in my band for a few days.
A	:	Yeah.

Table 9
The Conversation of His Visionary Character (Once Film, 2007)

B	:	Where you going?
A	:	Home.
B	:	You don't want to come back? I'll make you breakfast. We could listen to the CD, no?
A	:	No. I have to go see Ivonka and organize things.

Visionary character was also known from what he said when he met Irglova who was selling flowers on the Dublin street. He said that he wanted to make a recording CD and asked her to join. Here was the excerpt of the conversation. Please see table 8.

We could see from the conversation in table 8 that he asked her to join with him in his recording.

Actually it was the way of his to get closer with her. On the other scene, it showed the supporting data of this character. The excerpt of the conversation could be seen in table 9.

From the table 9, the conversation showed that he tried to be someone required by Irglova by showing his effort to approach her. It was indicating that he had visionary character.

Table 10
The Conversation of His Struggling Character (Once Film, 2007)

A	: What shop you work in?
B	: I work in a Hoover repair shop.
A	: A Hoover?
B	: You know, like a vacuum cleaner.whhzzz.
A	: You fix vacuum cleaners?
B	: I do.
A	: I have a broken vacuum cleaner. You fix it for me?
B	: Yeah.

Table 11
The Song's Lyric of His Struggling Character (Once Film, 2007)

Ten years ago, I fell in love with an Irish girl She took my heart but she went and screwed some guy that she knew And now I'm in Dublin with a broken heart Oh, broken-hearted Hoover-fixer sucker guy Oh, broken-hearted Hoover-fixer sucker... Sucker guy One day, I'll go there and win her once again But until then, I'm just a sucker of a guy.

The other scene that was showing his struggling also appeared from what he said, seemingly when all day he had been busking in the street, and approached by a beautiful girl, Irglova. (See table 10).

From the table above, he was asked what shop he worked in and he answered that he worked also for Hoover (vacuum cleaner) service. So, beside working as a busker, he also worked for Hoover service. It indicated that he had hard work, and hard work was a part of struggling. The other fact of this character was also taken from his song. His struggling character was accentuated in song lyrics. (See table 11).

We could also get the value of his struggling from what the song was about in table 4.10 above, telling that he got his girl back from London after many years ago eventhough she left him and screwed some guy that she knew there.

The last a straightforward character was indicated from what he

said. He was brave to say something honestly and apologized in the morning in the Dublin Street for his fault when last night he asked her to stay in her bedroom, apparently offending her. Here was the excerpt of the conversation. (See table 12).

From the conversation above, it showed that he tried to convince her even he knew that he had a fault. That was impolite to ask the girl who had just known to stay all the night. The third was from *what the other character say about him*. It was the time to know the character of Glen Hansard as the main actor of Once film from what the others said about him.

There was just a little bit of the facts that this research could find it from this term. Here was the description of what the other character said about him. (See table 13).

This was the explanation of table 13 above. Previous data confirmed that he was struggling, and this was a supporting

Table 12
What The Character Said Data (Once Film, 2007)

B : Hey.. hey...!!
 How's it going? Hey, where you going?
 I wanted to give you the CDs that I made for you.
 I'm really...
 I'm just really lonely, and you're gorgeous, and I just...
 I'm sorry. I fucked up. I'm sorry. I... I don't know what to say.
 It won't happen again.

Table 13
The Characters Influenced by What The Other Character Said About Him (Once Film, 2007)

No	Character	Scene time	Description
1	Struggle	00:06:35	In the beginning of the scene, when he was busking on the street. Irglova said that she always saw him busking everyday.
2	Visionary	00:45:25	The fact was taken from the conversation when they promoted his song to a music studio manager.
3	Ambitious	01:18:18	When he showed his song to his father, his father asked him to get his goal and make his mother proud of him.

fact. In the beginning of the scene, when he was busking on the street, Irglova said that she always saw him busking every day. Here was following excerpt of conversation. (See table 14).

"I see you everyday" from the conversation above was related to his effort that busking almost every day he had. She was a florist always selling her flower passing the place where he was busking.

Next, It seemed that visionary was being his main character: Irglova as his opponent convinced the music studio manager that he was a great and professional musician who was always serious for all his dreams. Here was what the other characters said facts. See table 15.

From the fact above, the speech indicated that he was really talented and came to promote his song, because his dream to be a famous musician was still breaking in himself. The last when he showed his song to his father at 01:18:00 scene, his father asked him to

get his goal and make his mother proud of him indicated an ambitious character that he had. His father believed that his son could get what he wanted; it was nothing if he did not believe his son in doing that.

The fourth was from *how the appearance*: characters were found as the inner self of an actor in the particular film. Moreover, the previous ways had been done; here the appearance took place to know his character, it would be one of characterizing used by a film director. It became last part of the ways to find out supporting data or the characters of Glen Hansard. As a matter of fact, there were some people making an assumption to another by classifying all supporting data, especially what their first sight, including appearance or body description.

It seemed that he had not given full over attention to his dressing fashion. It was simple, matched with the cold weather in Dublin. He always used warm coat. Here were the supporting

Table 14
The Conversation of His Struggling Character (Once Film, 2007)

A	: How come you don't play it during daytime? I see you every day.
B	: You know, during the day, people want to hear songs they know, just songs that they recognize. I mean, otherwise, I wouldn't make any money.

Table 15
The Character of His Visionary Character (Once Film, 2007)

A	: The quality is poor, but if we can get a professional tape, I'm, I'm satisfied that he can secure a lucrative deal. You take it home, you, you listen to it. You play it to your boss. I'm sure you can get him to approve.
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data used to know his struggle and spirit to face the life as even he had got the problems.

His elegant body and also his spirit gesture of his strapping body showed that he struggled to live in the glamour life over there. His body was still trapping even that was night, he busked attractively. Activities all day did not make him tired, because exhaustion was nothing there. The last was *milieu* or circumstances around the character. Also it was possibly meant setting used to indicate the character. It was really hard to find out the character of Glen in Once film taken from this term without concerning to the others aspect of characterizing. However, taken a scene of his house, struggling was found as the character of his.

The Secondly analysis was about how glen hansard effects and gets effect from the other characters Interplay among characters was an important thing that we could see in the movie scene. Due to the interaction of them, it can create the bridge on how the story becomes complex and interesting.

It was particularly in this section as the main character, Glen Hansard affected to the others' characters and vise versa. Like the classification in the previous part, it appeared from the scene. Here were the events that could indicate effects and got effect on them.

In 00:43:28 scene, he asked Irglova to join him in music recording and recruiting moment at 00:46:30. On the other scene, it was also seen that they were practicing together in his bedroom to face their recording at 00:55:31. His position of musician could be not running well without a team of a band. Knowing from the scene that recording process was not tracking but living, it meant that recording directly recorded all together, not one by one of arrangements. Therefore, it needed more participants. When it took live recording, actually he could get it alone. Yet, he believed that he needed them because they had different skills of music and it could be nice tune as combined. They as the people around him also needed him to take their talents distributed. In brief, the contribution of them was effecting of him and also for him.

CONCLUSION

The result of this research analysis that characters of the main actor Glen Hansard in *Once* film are constructed by some factors, consisting of what he did, what he said, what the others said about him, his appearance and milieu or circumstances that they support each others, it means that his characters are characterized but all those factors.

Regarding with the findings, the analysed characters of his are struggle, visionary, ambition, introversion, sensitivity, straightforwardness and curiosity. Yet, more characters showing great power of his are struggle, visionary and ambition as the scenes appearing reflect them more.

Glen Hansard left by his girl to London, tries to be patient to get her back while he has to work as Hoover service, helping his father and busking on the Dublin street. He lives without his mother, only with his lovely father. So as a son, he should help the family to live. On the other scene, he has belief that he can bring his girl back from London and get his dream as the professional musician by recording in absolute music recorder place. It is supported also from his effort to be closer to the girl that he recognizes from the street, Irglova. This really shows of his three major characters above: struggle, ambition and visionary.

The main character Glen Hansard as a busker and Hoover service worker also has effected the others characters to join in his life interaction. For example, three other buskers and Irglova are influenced to join his way in his musical line, so they do that recording together. On the contrary, he is influenced by two women: his ex-girlfriend leaving him to London and new lady, Irglova, coming in to his life while he was getting his goals. So, the result is that they influence or give and get effects each other in delivering the messages of this film.

Therefore, the analyses have answered both research questions about how Glen Hansard as the main character in *Once* film is characterized and how he effects and get effect from the other characters.

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