

The Study of Sinbad's Personality Change in *Magi: Adventure Of Sinbad* and *Magi: Labyrinth Of Magic* Manga Series

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ABSTRACT

This thesis focuses on the journey of Sinbad, the main character of *Magi: Adventure of Sinbad* and *Magi: Labyrinth of Magic* Manga series. These manga series present the adventure of an ordinary young boy named Sinbad who will go through several stages in his journey in order to become a hero. The result of undergoing those stages will affect Sinbad's personality change process. Because of this, I am interested in analyzing the process of Sinbad's personality change in his journey to become a hero. I use the monomyth theory to analyze the process of Sinbad's journey, and the theory of personality development to analyze Sinbad's personality change throughout his journey. First, I am going to analyze Sinbad's personality before he embarks on his journey, second, I am going to analyze the process of his personality change, and lastly, I discuss Sinbad's personality after his journey.

Keywords: Journey, Personality Change, Hero

INTRODUCTION

Manga is a Japanese comic that was first created around the 12th and 13th centuries and is now very widely known around the world. There have been many manga series that have been translated into different languages such as English, Korean, Indonesian, and many more. Nowadays in Japan, other than via magazines (normally manga series are published in a form of magazines), manga has also been released on various official online websites where people around the world can access and buy the manga online. Manga has many sub-genres that are very well known. According to *MyAnimeList* (an official database for manga and anime), there are around 45 sub-genres for manga ("MyAnimeList", 2021). One of the most popular sub-genres in the manga is Shounen.

In Japanese, the word '*shonen*' means young boy under the age of eighteen. Thus, Shonen manga refers to a Japanese comic for boys. Shonen manga is very popular and well-known in Japan. *Weekly Shonen Jump*, a popular magazine from Shueisha Inc., is the best-selling magazine known for featuring famous Shonen manga series such as *Naruto* and *One Piece*. According to Halliday (2016), there are three values that must exist in Shonen manga, which are friendship, effort, and victory. The effort is shown every time the main character faces his problems, and how he will fight monsters or his enemies in order to achieve his goal. Normally the main character in Shonen manga needs to show a big effort for him to get something he wants. Friendship in Shonen Manga is one of the main focuses of the story. Therefore, the Shonen Manga authors will probably describe the friendship in detail (Halliday, 2016). Next is victory, every victory in Shonen Manga does not always mean the final goal of the main character. Victory is the result of the struggle and determination of the main character while they solve their problems. Therefore, successfully solving a simple problem can be referred to as a victory (Halliday, 2016).

One of the best examples of the Shonen manga series is the *Magi* manga series by Shinobu Ohtaka. *Magi* manga series is divided into two which are called *Magi: The Labyrinth of Magic* and *Magi: The Adventure of Sinbad*. *Magi: The Adventure of Sinbad*, the prequel of *Magi: The*

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Labyrinth of Magic, tells the story of a young boy named Sinbad who went on an adventure to seek power from dungeons to change the world. The story first introduces Sinbad as a normal boy who was born from an ex-soldier father and a commoner mother, until when Sinbad has become The King of Sindria, the nation he created later, and it will continue in *Magi: The Labyrinth of Magic*.

The second story, *Magi: The Labyrinth of Magic*, takes place several years later after Sinbad becomes the King of Sindria. In this story, there are other major characters, Aladdin and Alibaba, who play a role in Sinbad's life. This story revolves around Sinbad, Aladdin, and Alibaba, in their fight against their biggest enemy who wants to destroy the world, AlThamen. In the process of his journey from his childhood until now, Sinbad's personality has changed. In the end, with great effort and the help of his friends, Sinbad finally overcome his uncertainty and, in the end, becomes a hero by sacrificing himself to bring Al Thamen down with him.

Sinbad's life narrative in the *Magi: The Adventure of Sinbad* and *Magi: The Labyrinth of Magic* shows his character's personality, which I find unique. At first, he is pictured as an ordinary boy and through his journey, he finally becomes a hero. However, the interesting part is about the process he goes through to become a hero because this is the point where all of his personality change is shown. Based on these changes and the development process, I decided to discuss the process of Sinbad's journey from a nobody to a hero and also the change of his personality after he becomes a hero.

I choose two theories, monomyth and personality development, to analyse these texts. Monomyth, is a theory by Joseph Campbell that explain various patterns are presented in hero's myths and stories around the world. Campbell argues that the journey of the hero and heroine is developing more with the presence of obstacles and dangers throughout their journey. This includes when one loses his/her way numerous times, refusing the first call, as well as encountering and confronting something terrifying and dangerous (Campbell, 2004). Campbell explains that the adventure of the hero is divided into three, namely, departure, initiation, and return. The departure stage is where the earliest stage of the hero's journey describes the hero's life in his/her life in the ordinary world before he/she goes on an adventure. Initiation stage is the stage where the hero begins his journey in the unknown world. Return stage is where the hero is in the process of returning to his/her ordinary world after obtaining the boons from the supernatural world.

The second theory that I am going to use is the theory of personality development. After undergoing so much research on human's behavior, perception, cognition, and social relations many scientists come to the conclusion that the term personality is these unique traits within people and development as the process of how that uniqueness changes over time. "Personality is about the psychological differences that make the biggest difference within people for adaptation to social life while development is about the temporal course of emergence, growth, change, and continuity regarding these psychological differences" (Tackett et al., 2019, p.221). In every person's life, personality development begins during childhood until adulthood. During that time people will be exposed to different situations in their life which affects the development of their personality.

ANALYSIS

2.1. SINBAD'S PERSONALITY BEFORE HE EMBARKS ON HIS JOURNEY

In his journey, Sinbad needed to go through several stages and changes to be a hero. Before he begins his journey, Sinbad is an ordinary young boy who does not possess any magic power. During his childhood, Sinbad has suffered from a traumatic experience, Sinbad shows changes

in his personality that causes him to develop pessimistic and easily giving up personality. These pessimistic thoughts cause Sinbad to slowly give up on changing his situation. Looking at Sinbad's personality development, I see the 'chain' that connects his traumatizing experience with his pessimistic and easily giving up personality. Therefore, I decide to analyse Sinbad starting from his traumatizing experience.

2.1.1. Sinbad's Traumatized Personality

In the story, Sinbad's childhood is characterized by a traumatic experience. The traumatic experience Sinbad has is about his father's death while doing a military service in the dungeon. At that time, Sinbad's father, Badr, is forced to go to the military service despite his struggles against the order. In the end he cannot survive in the dungeon and died. Trauma, according to Corsini, is a psychological shock that has an enduring effect on one's mind after witnessing or experiencing any painful event, physically or mentally (qtd in Swart, 2009). The events that stimulate those sensations in the mind are called traumatic events. In Chapter 4 during his struggle against the military, Badr shows his amputated leg and scars on his body in front of Sinbad who is still 4 years old. Showing this horrible scene in front of children will make them feel traumatized and unable to forget what they see, especially when it is shown by their parents. Moreover, Badr's death after that makes Sinbad unable to forget the tragic event at that time.

As I mentioned before, Sinbad's traumatic experience affects his thoughts, actions, and, especially, his personality. According to Tackett et al. (2019), a certain life experience in a certain stage of someone's life can influence the process of personality development within the said person. They explained that the process of how a certain life experience affects personality development starts from the influence of the caregiver or a mother on people childhood life through the attachment towards their parents who take care of them (Tackett et al., 2019). Children of young age have yet to know whether their environment is safe or not, the only one who can tell them about that is their parents (Tackett et al., 2019). In the manga, Sinbad's depends on his parents his caregivers, to 'show' him whether his environment is good or bad. Therefore, the event where his father is being forced by the military to go to the dungeon against his will, and died after that, makes Sinbad aware that the environment around him is negative. Therefore, since he is aware that he is living inside a negative environment, his personality also become negative. There are two negative personality that he develops because of his trauma which are pessimistic and easily giving up.

2.1.2. Sinbad's Pessimism

One of the two personalities that Sinbad has developed because of his trauma is pessimistic. The traumatic experience in the past influences Sinbad's personality development, causing him to become someone who is pessimistic about the situation in his life. Pessimistic is a personality in which people look at the negative factors of some events around them. Pessimists always expect the worst to happen regarding a certain situation (Das et al, 2017). After the traumatic experience in the past, Sinbad had become aware of the fact that the environment around him is more negative than positive. The environment showed that the military has the power to oppress people and no one can oppose them. With this kind of situation happening in his environment, Sinbad who stands on the side of the victim of the oppression develops suitable personalities which are influenced by the feeling of helplessness against the military. As pessimists Sinbad believes that whatever he does his situation will always be the same. He will always be oppressed by the people who hold more power than him so no matter how hard he struggle, he can never escape the oppression. The evidence of Sinbad's pessimistic attitude is shown in Chapter 6 of the manga, when Sinbad has a conversation with someone named Yunan.

SINBAD: "Over 10.000 people have challenged it, and not a single one has come back. The people call it a 'hole of death'...now the military is drafting people to be sent to this dungeon of death"

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YUNAN: "There's no way to be relieved of the enlistment...?"

SINBAD: "You saw earlier, right? This is a military nation. If you resist, they'd use force. I'd be sentenced to death if I'm unlucky. The military's orders are absolute..." (Magi: Adventure of Sinbad, Chapter 6)

From the conversation above, it shows that Sinbad is expecting on the negative outcomes of going to the dungeon and resisting against the military. This pessimistic thought makes him unable to find the way to solve his situation.

2.1.2. Sinbad's Lack Of Fighting Spirit

The second personality that he develops after experiencing the traumatic event in the past is easily giving up. This personality is related to his pessimistic personality since his wish of wanting to prevent any negative ending to come from certain events around him, in this case going to the dungeon or objecting to the military, makes him easily give up on doing both actions. In the manga, Sinbad shows that he will easily give up fighting the guards after realizing the fact that his father also cannot do anything to oppose it. He shows that he no longer has any motivation to go against the military order anymore, and he shows that he is going to accept his fate, willingly or unwillingly.

SINBAD: "If I enlist I die. If I resist, I still die. The war is never-ending too. This country...is done for!" (Magi: Adventure of Sinbad, 2013, Chapter 6)

From Sinbad's line above, it shows Sinbad's easily giving up thoughts related to his military service. It shows that Sinbad is giving up on searching for a better solution for him to solve his problem. He thought that he has no choice, and whatever he does, he will always fail.

2.2. THE PROCESS OF SINBAD'S PERSONALITY CHANGE

The process of Sinbad's personality change begins when Sinbad finally starts his journey. According to Campbell, the first stage of the hero's journey is Departure, the early stage which happens inside the hero's ordinary world. Departure stage consists of several substations including the call of adventure. Call of adventure can be in the form of a messenger, or an event (Campbell, 2004). In Sinbad's case, the call of adventure happens when he receives his military service order to the dungeon. At that time, because of his pessimistic and easily giving up personality, he rejects his call. However, as Campbell mention, "the 'call to adventure' signifies that destiny has summoned the hero" (Campbell, 2004, p. 53). Even though, Sinbad has rejected his call, he is still destined to be a hero. Therefore, there is always a way for him to be convinced and accept his call. Chapter 6 and 7 of the manga shows someone named Yunan convince Sinbad to accept his call. In the beginning Sinbad shows doubt but after some thought, and after hearing Yunan's words that gives him hope, Sinbad finally accept his call with a goal to change the world.

With the fact that Sinbad has accepted his call, it shows the beginning of his journey to become a hero. By accepting his call, Sinbad shows his determination to accept changes in his life. Therefore, this action also mark the beginning of his personality change process. The process of Sinbad's personality change is shows in the three stage of his journey: Sinbad's obstacles, Sinbad's uncertainty, and Sinbad's resurrection.

2.2.1. Sinbad's Ability To Face Obstacles

In Sinbad's journey, I want to highlight two events that play an important role in the process of Sinbad's personality change. The first event is when Sinbad need to clear his debt. I find this obstacle important in Sinbad's journey because in this event, Sinbad does not only need to overcome the external obstacle, that is, his fight against the gladiator, but also the internal obstacle, that is, to overcome his arrogant personality as well. The victories in conquering the

dungeons along his journey before this event, makes Sinbad become arrogant. He believes that he will survive every obstacle in his journey no matter what. Because of this belief, Sinbad use to underestimate his enemy, like what happen during this event. In Chapter 64, Sinbad focuses more on the feeling of excitement of his first time fighting in the arena, instead of preparing the strategy to win the fight. This shows that Sinbad is looking down on his enemy, because he believes that it is impossible for his enemy to win against him. The act of underestimating an enemy shows his arrogance which is not good for him because looking down on the opponents makes one cannot give his best to fight them. However, he fails to overcome both obstacles that makes him become a slave. During his enslavement Sinbad suffers so much to the point that it makes him think that he is nothing special, and he too can fail. Therefore, in the end after he is freed with the help of his friends, he becomes less arrogant by acknowledging the fact that there are people who are more powerful than him.

The second event is Sinbad's war against Barbarossa. During this event, Sinbad needs to kill Barbarossa in order to win the war but in the end, he fails to do it, and makes many of his people died. However, Sinbad does not feel guilty at all, it is shown in his monologue in Chapter 173 of the manga.

SINBAD: "If I look back, it was like that from the start. My father left to the front lines in order to protect his family. My mother supported me and sent me on my own way while on the verge of death. It's because all of them were there that I challenged the dungeon, and could start my travels as an adventurer obtaining the power of a djinn. All of it was a necessary factor for my destiny. In other words a 'stepping stone'. Drifting into immuchack, meeting Hinahoho and his family, meeting Ja'far's group, I built the trading company. This outcome was something decided from the very beginning. Because they also...Because they are no more than a 'stepping stone' dragged along by my destiny..." (Magi: Adventure of Sinbad, Chapter 173)

From the monologue above, it shows that Sinbad tries to convince himself that his failure in this event and the events before that serves as the necessary sacrifice for him to fulfil his destiny. This shows his egotistic personality that is, according to Cambridge Dictionary (2021) "is a feeling of considering oneself to be better or more important than others". Based on his monologue above, I assume that Sinbad does not want to be blamed over his people's death. Therefore, he convinces himself to think egotistically that everything revolves around him.

2.2.2. Sinbad's Ability To Overcome His Uncertainty

The terms of uncertainty, according to Merriam-Webster dictionary, is explained as 'the state of being uncertain', and what it means to be uncertain is: indefinite, dubious, doubtful, not constant, not known beyond doubt, not clearly identified (Han et al., 2019). In the text, Sinbad shows that he is inconsistent towards his action and decision regarding his goal, also his doubt about what he truly believes. This makes Sinbad feel hesitant to move forward and wholeheartedly executing his action to achieve his goal. In Chapter 321 of the manga, Sinbad shows his uneasiness and his inconsistency about the decision he is making at that time.

SINBAD: "Why am I going to the sacred palace? I lost track of everything around me because I was so focused on thinking that I could save the world if I went there. Even if war and irrationality disappear, life will go on. And the world will continue to turn. So then why am I going to the sacred palace? Even risking my life...even throwing everything that I have built with my comrades...why...am I...struggling to obtain something that no one wants?" (Magi: Labyrinth of Magic, Chapter 321)

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From the monologue above, Sinbad shows that he is uncertain about his action. With his egotistic personality, he used to believe in his own decision, and also believe that everyone's opinion does not matter in his life but looking at his thoughts above, it shows that he is concerned about what people want. This makes him confused about the purpose of his action as well that makes him anxious.

Based on the evidence of his uncertainty, assume that this is the atonement with the father stage that Sinbad needs to overcome. Campbell defines the atonement with the father as "the problem of the hero going to meet the father is to open his soul beyond terror to such a degree that he will be ripe to understand how the sickening and insane tragedies of this vast and ruthless cosmos are completely validated in the majesty of being. The hero transcends life with its peculiar blind spot and for a moment rises to a glimpse of the source. He beholds the face of the father, understands-and the two are atoned" (Campbell, 2004, p. 135). The 'father figure' symbolises power or concept that is really important in a hero's life. In order to ascend to a higher level, the hero needs to 'reconcile' with the power and bring it to his or her side. In Sinbad's case, the 'father figure' is his uncertainty about his decision that he needs to make it certain in order for him to move forward. In order for him to overcome his uncertainty, Sinbad asks for help from his allies, Alibaba and Aladdin. He declares that he is going to fight them in order for them to reason with him so that he can hear different opinions from them. In the end, with Alibaba and Aladdin's help, Sinbad finally overcomes his uncertainty and acquires new beliefs.

2.2.3. Sinbad's Resurrection

After overcoming his uncertainty, Sinbad possesses a new belief and goals. He changes from a person who used to think that he is more important than others and has the right to control them, into a person who thinks that he is the same as everyone else and team work is better than working alone. Therefore, I assume that by overcoming his uncertainty, Sinbad has transformed into a new self and abandoned his old self. In other words, Sinbad has arrived at the apotheosis stage in which he is reborn as a new person. Campbell (2004) and assimilated to the world-annihilating body of the ogre for whom all the previous forms and beings are only the courses of a feast; but then miraculously reborn, we are more than we were" (p.149). Campbell refers to the apotheosis stage as the point of no return, it's the stage in which the hero passes it, he or she will be reborn into a new body which is greater than they were before. "In order to proceed to the enlightenment of self, the universal hero must confront the greatest antagonist in his journey where he or she would experience the death of the old self and be reborn" (Campbell, 2004, p. 151). In Sinbad's case, the biggest enemy that he needs to overcome is himself. Because of his uncertainty, he becomes the victim to be saved and brought back to the right path. Alibaba and Aladdin represent the power and guidance that will help Sinbad to fight against the last boss, as well as the allies that help Sinbad, as the hero, to overcome the trials. By successfully getting out from his uncertainty, Sinbad will be reborn into a new individual which has a more certain goal and action.

2.3. SINBAD'S PERSONALITY AFTER BECOMING A HERO

After his resurrection, Sinbad has been reborn into a new person. He has abandoned his old self and is now living as a new self with new beliefs and personalities as well. There are a few new personalities that he develops after overcoming his uncertainty.

2.3.1. Sinbad's Humility

According to Buri (1988), "humility does not consist of handsome people trying to believe that they are ugly, and clever people trying to believe they are fools. True humility is more like self-forgetfulness...it leaves people free to esteem their special talents, and, with the same honesty, to

esteem their neighbor's. Both their neighbor's talents and one's own are recognized as gifts and, like one's height, are not fit subjects for either inordinate pride and self-deprecation" (qtd in Venezia et al., 2017). Humility is viewed as "the quality of being humble" and "having a moderate view of oneself often accompanied by a relative lack of self-preoccupation or desire to distort information, or otherwise 'self enhance' or 'make oneself look and feel better', as well as an open-minded willingness to admit mistakes, seek new information, and a general desire to learn" (Venezia et al., 2017). Sinbad shows his humility when he is able to recognize other people's efforts and influences in his life. In Chapter 364, Sinbad shows his recognition of others' in his fight against David, a villain who wants to destroy his world.

SINBAD: "I thought I wanted to live that way. To guide the world through the right destiny. It's something I decided with my own head."

DAVID: "That's right! That's the life-long dream of a singularity! It's the meaning of both of our existences!"

SINBAD: "Why? There is nobody who is actually truly living by their own free will, not even us, right?"

DAVID: "What are you talking about?!"

SINBAD: "A fixation of fulfilling a dream, the wishes of our friends, the expectation of our family. We live by being constantly driven by other people's wills and not our own." (Magi: Labyrinth of Magic, Chapter 364)

In the conversation above, I see the change in his point of view towards himself and others around him. This shows that he finally recognizes other's influence in his life. His egoistic personality in the past prevented him from admitting the fact that other people's influence also important in his life but now, he can give others the acknowledgement that they deserve.

2.3.2. Sinbad's Selflessness

According to APA Dictionary of Psychology, altruism is an apparently unselfish behaviour that provides benefits to others at some cost to the individual (APA Dictionary of Psychology, 2020). Altruistic people might be expected to help more than others only if those who will receive the help appear to be needy or distressed (Speer et al., 1991). In other words, altruistic people are those who will definitely put others' interest before their own. Altruistic people will do anything to save people in need. In the text, Sinbad's altruistic behaviour is shown in Chapter 367. At that time, in order for them to defeat the enemy, Sinbad and his allies need to transfer their power into one person, and let that person slain the enemy. Those who have transferred their power will die, and the person who receive the power will be the only one alive. However, instead of asking others to transfer their power into him, and let him slain the enemy to gain fame, Sinbad choose Alibaba because he admits that Alibaba is more qualified to do so. This shows that Sinbad's priority right now is to prevent the destruction of his world to save others. He no longer wants to do everything on his own and for his own good. Everything he does now is based on other people's needs and sake. This side of Sinbad is different from the time before he overcomes his uncertainty stage. Therefore, it is proven that after overcoming his uncertainty, Sinbad has changed into an altruistic person who values others more than himself.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, based on the analysis in this chapter, I see that Sinbad's personality change is reflected in the process of his journey to become a hero. In the beginning, Sinbad was born as an ordinary person who suffers from his own problem. Because of this problem, young Sinbad turned out to be pessimistic and easily gave up on a person who does not have motivation to change his own situation. Therefore, when he receives his call on adventure in the first place, Sinbad refuses to accept it. However, Sinbad is a person who is destined to be a hero. When

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Sinbad finally accepts his call, it implies that he has finally arrived at the beginning of his personality change process and also the start of his journey. Through this journey, Sinbad's personality does not stop developing, instead it continues to change according to the influence of his environment and his experiences until he arrives at his uncertainty stage. Through overcoming his uncertainty stage, he is reborn into a new person, and later will become a hero to the world. This shows how his personality change affects his journey to become a hero. Therefore, as Sinbad undergoes the process of his journey, Sinbad also undergoes the process of his personality change.

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