

SNAPE'S AMBIGUOUS BEHAVIORS IN *HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS*

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Abstrak

Snape sebagai salah satu minor karakter di dalam karya fiksi dari penulis J.K Rowling, *Harry Potter And The Deathly Hallows*, digambarkan sebagai salah satu karakter protagonist dan antagonis dalam satu cerita. Selama dalam perkembangan cerita, Snape mencerminkan sikap loyalitas ke kedua belah, Dumbledore dan Voldemort. Kedua belah pihak tersebut sangat meyakini jika Snape sangat loyal kepada mereka, sehingga memungkinkan Snape sebagai Double Agent. Meskipun Snape berpihak kepada Dombledore dan Voldemort, Snape sebenarnya tidak memilih untuk berpihak kepada pihak tertentu. Snape satu-satunya karakter yang dapat dikatakan sebagai Hero dan Anti-Hero. Sikap inilah dalam kajian behaviorisme disebut *ambiguous behavior*. Factor-faktor yang mempengaruhi perilaku Snape tersebut tidak terlepas dari pengalaman masa lalu. Dari sudut pandang behaviorisme, kasus Snape tersebut disebabkan oleh factor personal dan factor lingkungan. Dari factor personal, Snape memiliki sikap jahat terutama kepada yang menyakitinya. Ini disebabkan karena masa kecilnya dimana Snape selalu menjadi korban kejahatan dari temannya.

Kata Kunci: Anti-Hero, perilaku, sikap, lingkungan, personal, hero, perngalaman masa lalu.

Abstract

Snape as one minor character in the work *Harry Potter And The Deathly Hallows* from author J.K Rowling showing up both as good and evil role. Snape's actions throughout the series have shown service to each of the opposing sides. Both Dumbledore and Voldemort believe Snape is only loyal to them, allowing him to work as a double agent. Not only is it unknown until very near the end of the final book which side he is really on, but there is no concrete evidence until then that he has actually chosen one. He has made strong claims, which Dumbledore trusts, to oppose Lord Voldemort's cruelty, but hatred exists between himself and many Order of the Phoenix members. Snape exhibits both good and evil qualities, making him the series' only anti-hero. This kind of behavior is called ambiguous behaviors in behaviorism scope. The factors behind this phenomenon may vary depends on his or her experience. But in Snape case, personal and environmental factors are the reason behind Snape's ambiguous behaviors. Snape possesses a nasty demeanour, and is especially retaliatory to those who hurt him. However, Snape's seeming cruelty may have resulted from a terrible childhood and early youth. When Harry delved into Snape's early memories, there was nothing good to be seen, only an abusive father, a victimized mother, derisive classmates, and a cruel James Potter and Sirius Black. While the series does little to emphasize Snape's good qualities, it is implied, at least until the end of *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*, that he would protect Order of the Phoenix members with his life. He has saved Harry's life on more than one occasion, though it might take a particularly observant reader to see that. Though he treats students badly and is seemingly indifferent to their feelings or situations, he wants them to learn valuable lessons.

Keywords: Attitude, anti-hero, behavior, environment, hero, past-experience, and personality

INTRODUCTION

In *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, Voldemort and his Death Eaters have tightened their grip on the wizarding world. Snape is named Headmaster of Hogwarts, while Death Eaters Alecto and Amycus Carrow are appointed as Hogwarts staff. The novel focuses largely on Harry and his friends, and events outside the school; therefore Snape plays a limited role at the start. In the course of the book, Harry and Ron are led to find the Sword of Godric Gryffindor by a Patronus taking the form of a doe. (Towards the end of the book, Harry learns that this was Snape's Patronus, taking the same shape as Harry's mother Lily's Patronus, a visible sign of his lifelong love for Harry's mother, and that Dumbledore had asked Snape to ensure that Harry gained possession of the sword. The novel also reveals that Snape had covertly used his position as Headmaster to protect the students and to contain the Carrows)

Towards the end of the school year, Professors McGonagall, Flitwick, and Sprout force Snape to flee the school. Voldemort summons Snape to the Shrieking Shack. Erroneously believing Snape is the master of the Elder Wand and that Snape's death will make him the master of the Wand, Voldemort kills Snape by having his pet snake Nagini bite him through the neck. The dying Snape releases a cloud of memories and tells Harry, who has watched the entire scene from a hidden spot, to take and view them.

From these memories, Harry sees Snape's childhood and learns his true loyalties. In this vision, Harry learns that Snape befriended Lily as a child when they lived near each other. Upon their arrival at Hogwarts, the Sorting Hat placed Snape and Lily into Slytherin and Gryffindor Houses, respectively. They remained friends for the next few years until they were driven apart by Snape's interest in the Dark Arts; the friendship finally ended following the bullying episode that Harry had briefly seen in the fifth book, in which Snape calls Lily "Mudblood". Despite this separation and Snape's enduring animosity toward Lily's eventual husband James Potter, Snape continued to love Lily for the rest of his life.

Snape's memories then reveal that Dumbledore had impetuously tried to use the Gaunt ring which had been cursed by Voldemort, and had been suffering from a powerful curse. Snape's knowledge of the Dark Arts enabled him to slow the spread of the curse from Dumbledore's hand through his body, but he would have died within a year. Dumbledore, aware that Voldemort had ordered Draco to kill him, had asked Snape to kill him instead as a way of sparing the boy's soul and of preventing his own otherwise slow, painful death.

Although Snape was reluctant, even asking about the impact of such an action on his own soul, Dumbledore implied that this kind of *coup de grâce* would not damage a human's soul in the same way murder would. Snape agreed to do as the Headmaster requested. Snape's memories also provide Harry with the information he needs to ensure Voldemort's final defeat, in the form of conversations Snape had with Dumbledore.

1. Statement of Problem

Based from the background above, this study wants to identify the following problems:

1. How are Snape's ambiguous behaviors depicted in the *Harry Potter and The Deathly Hallows*?
2. What are the motives of Snape's ambiguous behaviors related to behaviorism scope?
3. What are the main events from the previous novels that can be taken as an evidence of Snape's ambiguous behaviors depiction?

2. Purpose of Study

Based on the statement of the problem above, this study proposes the purpose for this study as follows:

1. To reveal the kinds of behavior Snape character has in the novel.
2. To reveal the motives behind Snape's ambiguous behaviors.
3. To reveal and explain Snape's ambiguous behavior depicted in *Harry Potter* novel series.

3. Significance of Study

This study assumes that the significance of the study as follows:

1. The result of this study can be used as a study or a reference to identify the character changing-behavior in literary works.
2. The result of this study to signify that there are such relations between the mind and psychology that affect someone's attitude and behavior. And also control the emotions and taking decisions.
3. The last, the result of this research are expected to provide or as information in the future.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study uses a close-reading method toward the sources and using behaviorism-psychological approach in order to identify the main problem for this thesis. Behaviorism that –mainly- used in this thesis is from B.F Skinner's Behaviorism. This thesis also used the theory from the experts to improve this thesis. This theory lead us to find out the main character type personality,

disposition and behavior that causing the multi disposition.

The researcher takes data and samples from any sources that can be used in order to complete this research. The sources may come from books, papers, journals, previous research and online sources (internet).

This study, firstly, take the relevant data from any reliable sources, such as scientific journals and papers, or from online media (internet). Then, take the data into several hypotheses before analyzing it with related theories. Next step is analyzing process with the collected data and relevant theories in order to solve the problem and to prove which the previous hypotheses was right or false.

STUDY ANALYSIS

Behavior is formed by someone's backgrounds and histories. The way someone show his or her behavior is different depends on his or her react to people and objects. This react is also called attitude. An attitude can be defined as a positive or negative evaluation of people, objects, event, activities, ideas, or just about anything in your environment, but there is debate about precise definitions. Eagly and Chaiken, for example, define an attitude "a psychological tendency that is expressed by evaluating a particular entity with some degree of favor or disfavor." Though it is sometimes common to define an attitude as affect toward an object, affect (i.e., discrete emotions or overall arousal) is generally understood to be distinct from attitude as a measure of favorability. The study how to view, study and analyze someone's attitude is called behaviorism approach.

According to Doob (1947), experience can account for most of the attitudes we hold. The study of attitude formation is the study of how people form evaluations of persons, places or things. Theories of classical conditioning, instrumental conditioning and social learning are mainly responsible for formation of attitude. Unlike personality, attitudes are expected to change as a function of experience. In addition, exposure to the 'attitude' objects may have an effect on how a person forms his or her attitude. This concept was seen as the "Mere-Exposure Effect". Robert Zajonc showed that people were more likely to have a positive attitude on 'attitude objects' when they were exposed to it frequently than if they were not. Mere repeated exposure of the individual to a stimulus is a sufficient condition for the enhancement of his attitude toward it. Tesser (1993) has argued that hereditary variables may affect attitudes - but believes that they may do so indirectly. For example, consistency theories, which imply that we must be consistent in our beliefs and values. As with any type of heritability, to determine if a particular trait has a basis in

our genes, twin studies are used. The most famous example of such a theory is Dissonance-reduction theory, associated with Leon Festinger, which explains that when the components of an attitude (including belief and behavior) are at odds an individual may adjust one to match the other (for example, adjusting a belief to match a behavior). Other theories include balance theory, originally proposed by Heider (1958), and the self-perception theory, originally proposed by Daryl Bem.

Rowling wrote and built the characters in her novel uniquely. She created multiple personality in one character. For example, Severus Snape character. He has an unique behavior and attitude. His attitude and behavior changes in line with story plot. At first he depicted as a person of considerable complexity, whose coldly sarcastic and controlled exterior conceals deep emotions and anguish. In the first novel of the series, Snape is a teacher who is hostile from the start toward Harry and is built up to be the primary antagonist until the final chapters. As the series progresses, Snape's character becomes more layered and complex. Rowling does not fully reveal the details of his true loyalties until the end of the final book, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*. Over the course of the series, Snape's portrayal evolves from that of a malicious and partisan teacher to that of a pivotal character of considerable complexity and moral ambiguity.

Here are some example of Snape's ambiguous behaviors depiction in the novel.

Figure 1. The depiction of Snape's ambiguous behaviors.

Evidence that Snape is loyal to Dumbledore	Evidence that Snape is loyal to Voldemort
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After Harry attacked Snape in the Shrieking Shack, Snape makes excuses for him. He tells Cornelius Fudge that Harry was being controlled by Sirius via a Confundus Charm (P241). Dumbledore vouches for Snape's loyalty before the Wizengamot (Gf36). Snape (along with McGonagall & Dumbledore) was visible in Barry Crouch Jr.'s 'Foe-Glass' (Gf35). Dumbledore never expressed any distrust of Snape. Dumbledore says Snape was remorseful after he told Voldemort about the prophecy (HBP25). After Voldemort's re-birth, Dumbledore gave Snape some sort of grim assignment (OP36). Over and over (until HBP) Harry's suspicions of Snape prove to be unfounded, what Snape says is often at odds with what he does. Timing suggests that Snape may have been the person that tipped Dumbledore off that Voldemort planned to kill the Potter's child. According to Dumbledore, "Professor Snape's timely action when I returned to Hogwarts, desperately injured [after breaking the ring Horcrux], I might not have lived to tell the tale." (HBP23) Snape does not join the other Death Eaters after killing Dumbledore; instead, he rescues Draco and confronts Harry but does not kill him (HBP27). Snape is a superb Occlumens and could have hidden his loyalty to Dumbledore from Voldemort. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Snape murdered Dumbledore when Draco was unable to (HBP27). The "remorse and hatred etched in the harsh lines of his face" as he kills Dumbledore (HBP 27). Death Eater, refers to Voldemort respectfully as "Dark Lord". Knows dropped on Trilunary's prophecy and reported what he heard to Voldemort (HBP25). Tells Bellatrix that all his work for Dumbledore was done under Voldemort's orders (HBP2). Marciana Mallory believes that Snape is the "Dark Lord's favorite, his most trusted adviser" (HBP2). Abuses his power as a professor; cruel to students, especially Harry, Hermione and Neville. Lifelong fascination with the Dark Arts. Ambitious and resentful of people who are well liked. Snape is a superb Occlumens and could have hidden his loyalty to Voldemort from Dumbledore.

According to Bandura (1990) individual behavior is constructed mostly by external factors such as society or his relationships with other people. Both factors are also possible to influence the development of one's personality. This model suggests that human functioning can be explained by a triadic interaction of

behavior, personal and environmental factors (see figure below).

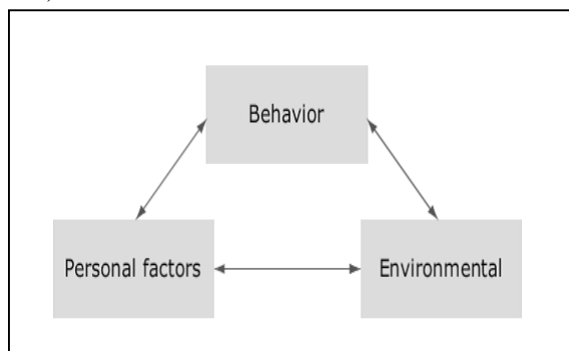


Figure 2. Behavior changing factor (Bandura, 1990)

Those factors always connect to each other and help to build up character and behavior. The Personal factors include character personality and psychological state. Personality character is how the character's appearance or how the character is portrayed. Psychological state such as past life or has the person recently experienced any changes in his life. Environmental factors represent situational influences and environment in which behavior is performed while personal factors include instincts, drives, traits, and other individual motivational forces.

Based on those theories, we found that Snape's behavior position is unclear to us until very late in the final book when it is revealed. The reason is his past experience in the first to fifth book. His personal factors build his own behavior and attitude.

Personal factors are involving anything with his personal life such as his childhood, his love and his past memory. The environmental factor or the external factors are the thing that related with his life such as his career in Hogwarts.

CONCLUSION

Conclusion

Snape's actions throughout the series have shown service to each of the opposing sides. Both Dumbledore and Voldemort believe Snape is only loyal to them, allowing him to work as a double agent. Not only is it unknown until very near the end of the final book which side he is really on, but there is no concrete evidence until then that he has actually chosen one. He has made strong claims, which Dumbledore trusts, to oppose Lord Voldemort's cruelty, but hatred exists between himself and many Order of the Phoenix members. Though seemingly fearing a world under Voldemort's domination, he would appear to have equally little place in one where the Order is victorious. There is

little reason to believe he has an interest in either side winning, and he may even prefer being able to exert influence on, and gain favours from, both.

Snape exhibits both good and evil qualities, making him the series' only anti-hero. Snape possesses a nasty demeanour, and is especially retaliatory to those who hurt him (James, Sirius, Snape Sr.) However, Snape's seeming cruelty may have resulted from a terrible childhood and early youth. When Harry delved into Snape's early memories, there was nothing good to be seen, only an abusive father, a victimized mother, derisive classmates, and a cruel James Potter and Sirius Black. While the series does little to emphasize Snape's good qualities, it is implied, at least until the end of *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*, that he would protect Order of the Phoenix members with his life. He has saved Harry's life on more than one occasion, though it might take a particularly observant reader to see that. Though he treats students badly and is seemingly indifferent to their feelings or situations, he wants them to learn valuable lessons.

During the series, we see these contradictions in Snape's behaviour. He seems motivated by his hatred for Harry and, occasionally to some extent, Dumbledore. We can easily believe, like Harry, that Snape is attempting to eliminate Harry in *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*. Snape's consistently sabotaging Harry's Potions coursework throughout the year is clearly going to be something of a recurring story element throughout the series. Yet by that book's end, Snape acted to save Harry's life in his first Quidditch match. In *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*, we are as aware as Harry that Snape coveted Remus Lupin's teaching post, and that Snape distrusts Lupin; yet, Snape had repeatedly brewed a very tricky Wolfsbane potion, flawlessly, fully aware that any minor error would have eliminated Lupin from the school forever, without provable intent on Snape's part – "Anyone can make a mistake, Headmaster, surely you don't think I would have deliberately done anything to risk a student's death from a werewolf bite?" And as late as the final book's mid-section, when we hear that Ginny Weasley, Luna Lovegood, and Neville Longbottom had been "punished cruelly" by being sent to help Hagrid, when Snape knows precisely where Hagrid's sympathies lie, we are left wondering whether Snape deliberately minimized the punishment he was meting out to protect the students. That Snape's mother's surname was Prince, and that he is a half-blood, hints broadly at the title character's identity in the sixth book, *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*.

The memories Snape reveals to Harry serve two purposes. The first set, up to the deaths of Harry's parents, seem to explain Snape's feelings, and provide a

basis for his later actions. Snape, who first met Lily Evans at age 9 or 10, had revealed to her that she was a witch and he was a wizard, and introduced her to the Wizarding world. He had also defended her against her Muggle sister, Petunia, as Lily prepared for her first year at Hogwarts. They became close friends, a friendship that was eventually strained to destruction by Snape's association with darker Slytherin students. Despite their friendship's demise, Snape continued loving Lily, and he had agreed to do anything in exchange for Dumbledore's promise to save Lily, and her family, from Voldemort. When the story opens, Snape had kept this promise for eleven years, starting when he first turned informant against Voldemort, and continued to keep it throughout the series, even beyond Dumbledore's death, protecting Harry against Voldemort and his allies.

After James and Lily's deaths, Snape's memories, while still reinforcing our understanding of Snape's unrequited love for Lily, also show Dumbledore and Snape working together to protect Harry and mold him into the weapon that eventually destroys Voldemort. Dumbledore, knowing he had little time left and that Voldemort had charged Draco with killing him, orchestrated his own demise at Snape's hands, telling Snape it was to protect Draco's soul, and to allow Dumbledore to retain some dignity in death. We also learn that Harry has become an unexpected seventh Horcrux, and that Snape must somehow have Voldemort kill Harry in order to destroy it. We learn, in particular, that Dumbledore had set large plans in motion, and that Snape, much to his own dismay, was merely a cog in Dumbledore's machinations. Snape is particularly dismayed that, having worked so long and so diligently to protect Harry, they must now arrange his death to finally defeat Voldemort.

Later in the book, we will find that, despite the large role Dumbledore had planned for Snape, and the extreme trust he placed in him, Dumbledore never told Snape the entire story. Some pieces, notably the Elder Wand's role and Harry's inability to be killed by Voldemort, he reserved, perhaps feeling them to be too dangerous, or perhaps worrying that knowing the entire plan would cause Snape to become overzealous and unwittingly allow Voldemort's escape.

Suggestion

The researcher believes this study needs more improvement in the future. If there are any suggestions in order to improve this study, the researcher gladly to take any advices.

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