

ANALYSIS OF THE MAIN CHARACTER ARCHETYPES PORTRAYED IN MADELINE MILLER'S NOVEL *CIRCE*

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| Abstract | Article Information |
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| <p><i>This study aims to analyze the archetypes that appear through the characters in Madeline Miller's Circe. Archetypes are universal patterns that appear in stories, myths, and cultures that influence the way humans think, behave, and feel. The research method used is a qualitative method with an archetypal literary criticism approach. The research data is in the form of dialog quotes and narratives that describe the characters in the novel Circe. The data were analyzed by identifying the characteristics of the characters that correspond to certain archetypes, testing their suitability, and explaining the archetypal meaning contained in the characters. The results show that the novel Circe presents several prominent archetypes, such as the Mother Goddess, Hero, and Witch archetypes. The character of Circe, as the main character, depicts the archetypes of the Mother Goddess and the Sorceress that reflect the strength, independence, and ambiguity of women's roles in Greek mythology. Meanwhile, the character also displays the archetype of a Hero who struggles to find self-identity and overcome challenges in her life journey. This research contributes to the understanding of the use of archetypes in contemporary literary works, and its implications for the representation of characters and themes raised in the story.</i></p> <p>Keywords Archetype, Character, Circe, Madeline Miller</p> | <p><i>Received:</i> Sept 02, 2024</p> <p><i>Revised:</i> Sept 05, 2024</p> <p><i>Accepted:</i> Sept 07, 2024</p> |

INTRODUCTION

Novels are a form of literary expression that often embodies the criteria of literature, including careful use of language, narrative complexity, character development, and thematic depth. Novels often reflect and depict various human personalities through their characters, providing insights into the complexities of human behavior, motivations, and emotions.

Through the interactions, conflicts, and character development in novels, readers can understand various aspects of human personality, including motivations, emotions, internal conflicts, and changes that occur in the characters in the story.

Archetypes are universal symbols or patterns found in the collective unconscious of all humans, introduced by (Carl Jung 2014). They are inherited from our ancestors and expressed through dreams, myths, and cultural symbols. By recognizing and understanding archetypes, we can gain insight into our own behavior and the behavior of others, as well as the cultural symbols and myths that shape our understanding of the world.

In the novel "Circe" by Madeline Miller, the relationship between the character and Circe is very close, creating a deep understanding of the character's personalities, emotions, and journeys. Circe is a complex goddess with various emotional, psychological, and moral dimensions, and her relationships with humans, particularly Odysseus, provide advice and assistance on their journey. Archetype analysis can help in understanding these layers and how they interact with myth and literature.

This article discusses characters in literary works, especially novels. Characters in novels are often used to explore and reflect various aspects of human personality. Through character portrayals, authors can provide insight into the complexities of human behavior, motivations, and emotions.

Novels also often deal with archetypes, which are patterns of behavior, symbols, and myths found in the human collective unconscious. The analysis of archetypes in novels can provide insight into the various aspects of human personality contained in such literary works.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Archetypes

Archetypes are universal symbols, patterns, or themes that appear in literature, art, mythology, and culture. The concept of archetypes was developed by psychologist Carl Jung, who considered archetypes to be innate psychological structures that shape human behavior, emotions, and thought patterns. Jung identified several major archetypes, such as persona, shadow, animus, anima, and self. Characteristics of archetypes include universality, symbolism, collective unconsciousness, repetition, affect, and multiple interpretations.

Swiss psychiatrist Carl Jung popularized the concept of archetypes, arguing that they are innate psychological structures that shape human behavior, emotions, and thought patterns. Archetypes can take various forms, such as character, plots, symbols, or themes, and carry symbolic meanings that resonate across different cultures and time periods. Archetypes are inherited and exist within the collective unconscious of all individuals, leaving behind a memory of the past, an archetypal memory. They play a significant role in individual development by shaping thoughts, behaviors, and emotions, providing a framework for understanding and navigating the world. Understanding and integrating archetypes can lead to personal growth, self-awareness, and a deeper connection to the collective unconscious.

Novel

Novels are a diverse literary genre that encompasses a variety of social speech types, languages, and individual voices. These elements are organized into social dialects, group behavior, professional jargon, generic languages, and languages of various generations and age groups. Novels are narrative and continuous, with actions and reactions between characters, particularly antagonists and protagonists, making the storyline more alive.

The theme is the core idea of a story, which is built by the author using intrinsic elements such as plot, characterization, and setting. Intrinsic elements include the theme, character, setting, plot, point of view, language style, and message. The theme refers to the recurring issues addressed in the story, while the character is connected to each specific event. The setting is the setting of events in fictitious works, and the plot is a series of events interrelated according to the law of causation.

The point of view is a strategy used by the author to present the character, actions, settings, and events in the story. Language style is used to enhance the effect by introducing and comparing objects or things. The message is the idea that underlies the story or message that the author wants to convey to the reader.

Extrinsic elements, such as culture, education, and religion, are external components that indirectly impact the work's structure and ideas.

Characters

Characters in fiction can be anything, from people to plants, animals, or even aliens, and are the driving force behind the story. Character development occurs during the climax, or falling action, where the character undergoes positive changes after experiencing an epiphany or insight. Characterization involves the depiction and characterization of characters, focusing on their identity, characterization, and placement within the narrative. Techniques for character portrayal include direct portrayal, which provides a straightforward description of the character's attitudes, traits, behaviors, or physical characteristics, and indirect portrayal, which allows the character to show themselves through verbal and nonverbal activities and events (Minderop, 2005:2)

Direct description techniques involve giving a direct, straightforward description of the character's attributes, traits, and behaviors, often revealed at the introduction stage. This method does not involve the reader participating in an active imaginative role, making it difficult to find a complete description of a person in reality.

Dramatic techniques, such as conversation, behavioral thoughts and feelings, stream of consciousness, character reaction, setting, and physical depiction techniques, allow the reader to be active, creative, and imaginative in interpreting the character's traits, attitudes, and behaviors.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research uses a qualitative approach to identify the form of personality archetypes in the main character in the novel *Circe* by Madeline Miller. A qualitative approach was chosen to obtain in-depth understanding and comprehensive results, focusing on a limited scope of research (Moleong, 2017:17). The main data source in this research is the novel *Circe* by Madeline Miller published by Brown & Company in 2018, with a total of 393 pages. The data taken are words, phrases, or sentences that show the existence of archetypes and plot sections that describe the transformation of the main character.

Data collection is done through the following steps:

1. Reading the novel carefully and repeatedly to find archetype symbols.
2. Marking words, phrases, or paragraphs that display archetypes, the conditions for the emergence of the protagonist's traits, and the characters involved.
3. Analyzing and recording important parts, then rearranging the data obtained.

Data analysis is done by reading the data more carefully, making notes, and providing explanations. This includes identifying sentences or paragraphs that show certain archetypes, actions that shape the characters in the archetypes, and character backgrounds that indicate transformation. The collected data will be selected and organized based on the research problem, so that the author can conduct an analysis to reveal the archetypes and transformation of the main character in the novel.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

Love

Circe's love for Glaucos was a manifestation of the powerful archetype of Love within her. She has found true love, something rare and precious, which can move her heart purely and completely. *Circe's* loyalty and honesty towards her feelings are evident in her complete and honest devotion to Glaucos.

In *Circe's* novel, she falls in love with Odysseus sincerely, despite initially intending to take advantage of him. She is willing to sacrifice everything, including her powers as a witch, to maintain their relationship. Although Odysseus has left, *Circe* remains loyal and steadfast to her love. She was willing to change herself, including giving up her magical powers, in order to be with Odysseus.

However, when Glaucos betrayed her, *Circe* experienced deep sadness and disappointment. She felt betrayed and used, confused and incredulous that Odysseus could leave her so easily. Despite being betrayed, *Circe* tried hard to maintain her love for Odysseus. She experiences anger and despair as a result of her betrayal.

The betrayal prompted *Circe* to redefine her identity and self-worth, which were previously strongly linked to her love for Odysseus. Through this bitter experience, *Circe* is finally able to transform and free herself from her dependence on Odysseus, towards a fuller identity.

In short, Circe's love for Glaucos is a powerful manifestation of the archetype of love within her. She is committed to her love and sacrifices everything for her partner, showing her dedication to her love.

Helper

Circe, a magician, is a helper on the island of Aiai, a place where she teaches her skills and helps others. She is known for her care, giving, sharing, mentoring, protecting the weak, nurturing, empathetic, and transforming nature. Circe's Helper archetype is evident in her willingness to share her knowledge and abilities, regardless of race or social status. She sees potential in others and is happy to help them develop it. Circe's willingness to teach her skills is not limited by race or social status, but is a powerful manifestation of her Helper nature. In her quest for help, Circe needs loyal hands skilled in the island's ways. She is aware of her need for the help of others and is open to receiving reciprocity. She wants to create a symbiotic mutualism, where she can provide guidance and teaching while also receiving loyalty and expertise from those she has nurtured. This balance of the Helper archetype in Circe is a powerful manifestation of her character.

Circe, a novel by Aristophanes, portrays Circe as a nurturing and giving character who is also a mentor and guide. She is known for her empathy and sensitivity towards others, and her ability to transform and empower those she encounters. Circe's Helper archetype is evident in her willingness to share her knowledge and abilities, not limited by race or social status. She is also willing to receive help from those she has nurtured and taught, demonstrating her willingness to create a symbiotic mutualism. Circe's role as The Helper is balanced, as she recognizes the importance of cooperation and learning. She is aware of her limitations and the need for help, such as when she needs Odysseus' help. She also acknowledges her dependency on others and seeks mutual support. Circe's role as The Helper also allows her to learn and grow, integrating her experiences with the world around her. Overall, Circe's story highlights the power of empathy, empathy, and mutual support in a transformative and transformative role.

Caregiver

In Circe, the caregiver archetype is evident in Circe's actions, which demonstrate her genuine desire to protect, guide, and keep the creatures under her care. She places all beings on equal footing, utilizing her nurturing and maternal nature to ensure their growth and development. Circe's actions reflect her nurturing and maternal nature, as she proactively seeks ways to protect those in need. She uses her magical powers, such as changing shape, to protect and keep those around her safe. Circe also provides physical protection, such as hiding slaves on her island. She also provides shelter, empowers people through guidance, and sacrifices for protection. Circe's actions, such as caring for Prometheus, demonstrate her nurturing and maternal side as a true caregiver. Despite the risks she might take, Circe's empathy and desire to care for others are stronger than her fear of consequences. This demonstrates that caring and genuine intention to help others are at the core of the Caregiver archetype.

Trickster

Circe, a powerful witch, possesses a strong Trickster archetype that allows her to face threats and protect her property. She uses her magical powers to trick and beguile robbers, who come with evil intentions. Circe's agility, cleverness, and unpredictable nature make her agile and unafraid of threats. She can create unexpected transformations, turning the tables and making them regret their impudence. Circe's manipulative and cunning nature is evident in her ability to turn guests into pigs and imprison them. She uses her magical powers to deceive, violate social rules, and have ambiguous and contradictory views. She often defies and rebels against the power of the gods, dismantling existing power structures and gender roles. Circe's transformation and change abilities allow her to shape-shift herself and others according to her will, demonstrating her ability to face threats and protect her property.

Persona

In Circe, the archetype of Persona is evident as Circe deals with different people, demonstrating her ability to adapt, adjust, and protect aspects of herself while maintaining her strength and integrity. She describes herself as "the light-haired witch with her wild magic, the lonely guardian of this island," and her identity is formed through her use of a public figure or mask. Circe's identity is shaped by her ability to hide her fragile and lonely side, allowing her to adapt and function well in her environment while protecting her true identity. She wears a fearsome mask when facing greedy and avaricious humans, displaying her wild magical powers. However, when with Glaucos, she opens up, revealing a vulnerable and genuine side of herself. The Persona archetype in Circe helps shape and maintain her strong, independent, and powerful self-image, allowing her to position herself in a harsh world. Circe conceals her dark side, adapts to societal expectations, uses her magical powers to influence and deceive people, and constructs a social mask that makes her acceptable to gods and male heroes. There is a tension between Circe's persona and her true self, which is more complex and multidimensional. Throughout her life, Circe transforms from a feared witch to a respected goddess, demonstrating her ability to manage her projection of herself before the world.

Shadow

In Circe, the Shadow archetype is a manifestation of the dark and wounded side of Circe, who has been ostracized, reviled, and looked down upon due to her status as a witch. This mistreatment has led Circe to develop a terrifying dark side, which she believes is created by those around her who have hurt her. The roots of Circe's transformation stem from the mistreatment she received from the humans around her, including her father, Odysseus, and others. The hurt, hatred, and anger she harbored began to eat away at her soul, bringing out her monster side that was hard to contain. Circe initially wanted to protect herself but over time, the Shadow archetype within her grew stronger, turning her into a figure that brought fear to everyone. She realized that she had become something they all feared - a dark and terrifying existence born from the mistreatment she received.

The Shadow archetype in Circe is a manifestation of the mistreatment she received throughout her life, which has led to her becoming an alien figure that brings fear and incomprehension to others. Circe's dark magical powers, manipulative and cruel nature, rejection of society, shame and helplessness, internal conflict, transformation and acceptance, and feared power all contribute to her transformation into a monster that is beyond their control and understanding. In conclusion, Circe's transformation into a monster is a result of the mistreatment and oppression she has experienced from those around her. Despite her dark side, Circe remains a resilient character who continues to strive for acceptance and transformation, ultimately transforming the world around her.

Mother

In Circe, the archetype of Mother manifests in Circe's power, authority, and protective nature. She possesses extraordinary magical abilities that reflect her motherhood, demonstrating both authority and protectiveness. Circe's power is not only a powerful figure but also a mother who provides protection and security for those under her care. As a witch, Circe has often been the victim of mistreatment and alienation by humans around her. However, through the archetype of Mother, she decides to no longer accept the role of being constantly taken or used. Instead, she becomes the one who gives, blesses, and ensures the well-being of those in her care.

The Mother archetype in Circe encourages her to put aside self-interest and become a source of giving for others. She understands that her primary duty is to bestow love, protection, and support, rather than constantly expecting for herself. Circe's generous attitude is based on the Mother archetype, which shapes her into a person of love and responsibility. In Circe, the Mother archetype is manifested in her role as "mother" to the island and the creatures that live on it. She becomes a protector, provider, and guardian who ensures the safety and well-being of all those under her care. Circe's nurturing and maternal nature is evident in her interactions with characters like Telemachus. She provides protection and care for the animals on her island, even transforming some animals into humans to protect them. She also takes on the role of a guide and mentor, defending the weak and demonstrating resilience and strength.

Hero

Circe, a hero in the novel, is a character who bravely confronts various challenges and threats. She is confident in her abilities and is not afraid to face them. Circe's Hero archetype is revealed through her determination to face any challenge, even the six-headed Scylla, a monster feared by many. This transformation shows her resilience and courage, as she no longer hides or avoids but chooses to confront Scylla head-on. Throughout her life, Circe has faced oppression and mistreatment from humans, but she decides to no longer let fear dominate her. Her Hero Archetype awakens a fighting spirit, pushing her to find a way out, no matter the danger. Circe's courage, determination, and determination are manifestations of her Hero archetype, making her a person who is no longer willing to submit but is ready to take bold steps to achieve freedom and realize her destiny.

In Circe's actions to help Pasiphae, the wife of King Minos, she takes on a heroic role in providing help despite the unnatural birth. Her courage and determination to help Pasiphae demonstrate her strength and determination to act and help others in need. The Hero archetype is also depicted through Circe's determination to obtain revenge with her own hands. Previously, Circe had experienced mistreatment and oppression due to her status as a witch. However, at a certain point, she decided to no longer allow herself to be victimized. Circe's Hero Archetype takes over, and she realizes it is time for her to act and avenge all the mistreatment she has received. In conclusion, Circe's journey as a hero showcases her resilience, determination, and determination to face challenges and threats. Her heroic side is evident throughout her life and serves as a testament to her resilience and determination.

Anima/Animus

In Circe, Circe, a female character with magical powers, demonstrates her feminine side and spirituality by helping Pasiphae, the wife of King Minos, during an unnatural birth. Despite being considered unnatural by society, Circe bravely used her magical abilities and Anima's sensitivity to help Pasiphae. This demonstrates that feminine power can be a valuable resource in challenging situations. Circe's decision to help Pasiphae reflects a healthy integration of her Anima and Animus archetypes, demonstrating her inner strength and willingness to help others, even in unnatural situations. Despite the anima/animus archetype being less prominent, Circe's character shows an integration between her feminine and masculine sides throughout the story.

The Child

In Circe, the archetype of The Child is depicted in the sentence "I had come to face my father, the mighty sun god Helios. I was no longer the girl he had rejected, the child he had rejected." This statement describes Circe's transformation from a rejected child to an individual ready to confront her father, Helios. Circe has experienced feelings of rejection, neglect, and non-recognition by her biological father, Helios. However, through her life, she has grown and changed, becoming a strong person who dares to confront her father figure.

The Child archetype is the starting point of the protagonist's transformation, but through her experiences, Circe has passed that stage and is now ready to face the future with new confidence. She has transformed from a powerless figure to a strong individual, transcending her status as a "child." Circe now recognizes and accepts her abilities and authority, standing as a "goddess" in her own right and power. This transformation is an important turning point in the protagonist's journey, as she has passed the stage of vulnerability and dependence, transforming into an empowered and respected individual in her own right and ability. Circe's transformation shows that she has reached an important point in her psychological development, transcending her "child" status and positioning herself as a "goddess" with rights and power over herself.

The Self

In Circe, the protagonist, Circe, initially views herself as a "light-haired witch with wild magic," an isolated and alienated figure. However, through her journey and development, her archetype of The Self begins to transform, allowing her to discover and accept herself more

fully and autonomously. This process reflects an important psychological development in Circe, where she moves towards more complete integration and self-actualization as an individual. Circe's transformation allows her to become unique, unpredictable, and no longer subject to the control of others. This stage of individuation is where she is whole, autonomous, and no longer fragmented. This is a significant psychological achievement in Circe's journey. The statement "I was a goddess in my own right, a force to be reckoned with" illustrates the development of The Self archetype within Circe. She has become a strong, powerful, and respected figure, no longer subject to or limited by external constructs. Circe's description as a "goddess" and a "force to be reckoned with" reflects the development of The Self archetype within her. In Circe, this transformation becomes a significant turning point for the protagonist, as she finds her full, independent identity and is recognized as a force to be reckoned with. This is a powerful form of development of The Self archetype in her journey.

CONCLUSION

The study delves into the archetypes that manifest through the characters in the novel, highlighting the significance of archetypes as universal patterns that influence human behavior, thoughts, and emotions. The research employed a qualitative method with an archetypal literary criticism approach, analyzing dialogues, quotes, and narratives to identify and explain the archetypal meanings in the characters. The results of the analysis revealed several prominent archetypes in the novel, such as the Mother Goddess, Hero, and Witch archetypes. The main character, Circe, embodies the archetypes of the Mother Goddess, Sorceress, and Hero, reflecting themes of strength, independence, ambiguity of women's roles in Greek mythology, self-identity struggles, and overcoming challenges in her life journey. This research contributes to understanding the use of archetypes in contemporary literary works, specifically in Madeline Miller's "Circe," and sheds light on the implications for character representation and themes within the story. By exploring and interpreting the archetypes present in the characters, the study enhances the comprehension of how archetypes shape characters, themes, and narratives in literary works.

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