

# An Analysis of Characters and Settings in “The Capital of the World” by Ernest Hemingway

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## Abstract

*Literature is both a language form of art and an instrument for human expression. British and American literatures are two examples of famous literature in the world. The aim of this study is to analyze intrinsic element specifically the characters and settings in an American Literature by Ernest Hemingway, a short story entitled "The Capital of the World." Characters are carefully evaluated and classified into five various types based on their role, function, complexity, development, and character reflection. The qualitative descriptive method is used in this study, with a concentration on narrative descriptions rather than numerical analysis. Reading, categorizing, and analyzing intrinsic elements, with a focus on characters and settings, is required for data collection. This research provided some significant findings, such as the types of characters and story settings. Characters have been classified into ten different classifications based on the five categorizations mentioned in the study, and settings were divided into two categories, such as setting of places and setting of time.*

**Keywords:** American literature, short story, intrinsic elements, characters, settings

## Abstrak

*Sastra merupakan bentuk bahasa seni sekaligus instrumen untuk ekspresi manusia. Sastra Inggris dan Amerika merupakan dua contoh sastra yang terkenal di dunia. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menganalisis elemen intrinsik khususnya karakter dan latar dalam sebuah Sastra Amerika karya dari Ernest Hemingway, sebuah cerita pendek berjudul "The Capital of the World." Karakter dievaluasi secara cermat dan diklasifikasikan ke dalam lima jenis berdasarkan peran, fungsi, kompleksitas, pengembangan, dan refleksi karakternya. Metode deskriptif kualitatif digunakan dalam penelitian ini, dengan konsentrasi pada deskripsi naratif daripada analisis numerik. Membaca, mengkategorikan, dan menganalisis elemen intrinsik, dengan fokus pada karakter dan latar, diperlukan untuk pengumpulan data. Penelitian ini memberikan beberapa temuan penting, seperti jenis karakter dan latar cerita. Karakter telah diklasifikasikan ke dalam sepuluh klasifikasi berbeda berdasarkan lima kategorisasi yang disebutkan dalam penelitian ini, dan latar dibagi menjadi dua kategori, seperti latar tempat dan latar waktu.*

**Kata kunci:** Karya sastra Amerika, cerita pendek, unsure intrinsik, karakter, latar

## I. INTRODUCTION

Literature serves as a linguistic kind of art as well as a means of human expression. Literature, according to Perrine in Yulidar (2014), is a form of art which includes writing and provides enjoyment and enlightenment. As stated by Subhan (2006, p.20), literature has two purposes: to teach and to entertain. Literature is classified based on language, national origin, historical time, genre, and topic. British and American literatures are the examples of well-known literature. These regions' literature has grown into some of the most well-known in the world. Both of these works of literature introduce the world to numerous great literary figures and literary works. American Literature includes figures that had an important and significant effect on twentieth-century literature, such as F. Scott Fitzgerald and Ernest Hemingway.

The term "literature" is usually associated with works ranging from creative writing to specialized scientific or technical works, but it also includes literary works such as poetry, drama, and novels. Literary works come in many forms and one of them is short stories. A short story is a narrative that can be finished in one sitting, usually lasting between half and two hours, which is difficult to accomplish when compared to

a novel. A short story, according to Heri (2019) in Rahayu et al (2021), is a work that is written and describes human life in a certain region and time period. According to Limbong (2018), short stories are literary works within the style of fictional prose with a word count ranging from 750 to 10,000 words.

Literary works are composed of many different components, including both intrinsic and extrinsic elements. As defined by Nurgiyantoro (2010: 23) in his book "Theory of Fictional Studies", intrinsic elements are the components that comprise the literary work itself. Short stories, like novels, have characteristics such as plot, theme, setting, point of view, character and characterization, and symbol. This research will be focused on analyzing the intrinsic elements of a literary work. The researcher will concentrate on examining the characters and settings of Ernest Hemingway's short story entitled "The Capital of the World."

Short story "The Capital of the World" was published during the Spanish Civil War in 1936 and is about a young waiter named Paco who desires to succeed as a matador. Paco works at the Pension Luarca, a hotel which accommodates several bullfighting figures, including three matadors, two picadors, and a middle-aged but talented banderillero. The story informs the reader about each of the matadors' shortcomings and failures, one is a coward, one is chronically ill, and one was famous but later lost his fame. Hemingway concludes this story by stating that Paco passed too soon for him to have lost any of his desires, goals, or dreams.

## II. METHODS

In this study, the qualitative descriptive method is used. Qualitative research employs qualitative techniques that do not rely on statistical analysis procedures or other numerical metrics. (Moleong, 2010). The goal of qualitative research is to describe an object and information gathered is in the form of words rather than numbers. Data was gathered from primary sources in the form of a short story entitled "The Capital of the World." According to Widoyoko (2012:33), data collection in research is aimed to obtain data, explanations, facts, and reliable information. So the goal of data collection is to find the data and obtain explanations and information about the investigation. Reading, categorizing, and evaluating the intrinsic elements, specifically the characters and settings, were used to examine the data. In order to deepen the understanding of the data, the researcher went through an organized way of searching and categorizing it.

## III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 1. Characters

The term "character" is employed to denote the individual or performer within a narrative. Characters play a pivotal role in literary works, as they drive the plot forward through their actions and dialogues. According to Kenney in Ananda (2023), character is an important feature since character is created by the writer and serves as a means to introduce the reader to diverse human characteristics. Characters are the people shown in a narrative or drama, and readers consider them to have certain moral, intellectual, and emotional characteristics according to what they say, the way they express themselves, and what they do (Abrams, 1999: 33). Nurgiyantoro (2010) categorizes characters into various types:

1. Based on their role, such as main characters and supporting characters
2. Based on their function, like protagonists and antagonists
3. Based on their complexity, including simple and round characters
4. Based on character development, including static and evolving characters
5. Based on character reflection, such as typical and neutral characters.

Characters in a story do a variety of significant actions. They need to push the plot ahead and make it more fascinating. The author of this study will provide additional analysis and explanations regarding the characters in Ernest Hemingway's short story "The Capital of the World" based on all of the above definitions. The analysis will be offered in the following discussions:

#### a. Main Characters

The main character is the character who appears the most frequently in the story and has the most effect over the other characters. Every character in a story has an equal chance of being the main character, whether or not they are the protagonist or antagonist. The main character in "The Capital of the World" is

a boy named "Paco", he is a young country boy who is working as a waiter at the Pension Luarca and who has dreams of becoming a matador.

**b. Supporting Characters**

Supporting characters, on the other hand, are people in a story who aren't the major focus, such as those who are not the one the plot centers around, but they still interact with or attract the interest of the main characters. In "The capital of the World" the supporting characters can be conclude as follow:

1. Paco's Sisters: Two older sisters of Paco who also work as waitresses in Luarca.
2. Enrique: A boy who is older than Paco and works as the dishwasher at Luarca.
3. The Cowardly Matador: The coward was incredibly fearless and remarkably skilled, and he still possessed many of his successful habits. He was overjoyed and laughed often, both with and without provocation. This matador had an educated, attractive face and carried out himself well.
4. The Sick Matador: Matador who kept his illness hidden and was careful not to show it. Before being ill, he had been an extremely positive and an amazing bullfighter, and he had headlines that indicated he had beaten other bullfighters in his debut in Madrid.
5. The Famous Matador: A short yet dignified matador. He was a skilled and a very famous matador, but his style had grown outdated. His uniqueness was the fact that he was short, that he could barely look over the bull's withers, and he had never been able to capture the public's interest.
6. Ignacio: The tall waiter who has an attitude, he advocates in worker unity and in reconstructing Spain to eliminate priests and bulls.
7. The Middle Aged Waiter: A fifty-year-old guy acts as an ear for Ignacio, arguing against his revolutionary arguments by declaring that he is happy with what he does and his nation.
8. The Priests: The regular clients at the Luarca.

**c. Protagonists and Antagonists**

Protagonist is the key figure in a story and is frequently referred to as the main character. A protagonist is the character who pursues the Story Goal. The antagonist is the character who represents the opposing side that the protagonist must deal with. The antagonist is the bad guy who brings terrible imagery to the reader, and this character always has conflict or the protagonist's interest and viewpoint. Based on the description above, the author defines that Paco is the protagonist of "The Capital of the World" and Enrique is the main antagonist because his game causes Paco to lose his life.

**d. Simple Characters and Round Characters**

Simple characters are the characters that have straightforward qualities and behaviors, and they frequently serve specific roles in the plot. This character is straightforward and remains the same throughout the novel. Meanwhile round characters are given deep personality characteristics and frequently seen as a conflicted individual. In the analyzed story, simple characters include Paco's sisters, Ignacio, the middle-aged server, and The Priests of Luarca. They are considered as the simple characters because their personalities remain unchanged throughout the entire story, and Hemingway did not provide a lot of information regarding their identity and personality in the story. Round characters, on the other hand, include The Cowardly Matador, The Sick Matador, and The Famous Matador. It is clear from the story that Hemingway addressed their identity, personality, and experiences in great detail and length. He portrayed their appearance and habits.

**e. Static Characters and Evolving Characters**

A static character is one whose personality doesn't change over time, they don't change or evolve. Paco is the static character within the short story. His personality traits are simple and consistent throughout the story. From the beginning to the finish of the entire story, Paco remains the same young boy who is full of ambition and desires of becoming a matador. Meanwhile, evolving characters change throughout. They develop a new personality or gain an entirely new viewpoint on life. The Cowardly Matador, The Sick Matador, and The Famous Matador are examples of evolving characters in this study. In the story, they are explained to go through numerous transformations and experience many problems during the day they become a matador until they arrive at Luarca. Even though their previous lives as a matador were not discussed in detail, Hemingway created a comparison of their past and present lives.

#### f. Typical Characters and Neutral characters.

A typical character is anyone in the story who does not have many distinctive features and mainly represents a specific role or job. A neutral character, on the opposite hand, is a part of the story itself. They're like fictional characters who only exist in the story's fiction. Their role is important to the plot, yet they represent nothing in the real world. Paco, Enrique, and The Three Matadors are typical characters in the story. Paco and Enrique serve as young boys who desire to prove themselves and pursue their dreams in the city. The three Matadors each represent a different job as the bullfighters and someone Paco aspires to be when he grows up. While Paco's Sisters, Ignacio, The Middle Aged Waiter, and The Priests are the story's neutral characters. Their presence was primarily to provide additional interaction for Paco in the setting of the story, rather than to represent specific real-world persons or ideas.

### 2. Settings

Setting, according to Birkerts (1993:53-54), refers to both the location of what takes place and the period of time at which they occur. Setting is something that surrounds and impacts the characters and their actions. According to Kenny in Rosidin (2008), setting factors are categorized into four categories: The real physical location, the characters' occupations and models of day-to-day life, the time of action, which is related to when the activity takes place, and characters' religious, moral, intellectual, social, and emotional environments. In the story "The Capital of the World" the setting isn't completely described, Hemingway prioritizes character interactions over detailed descriptions of the settings, concentrating on the individual story, but some of the information from the story can mainly show that the setting is focused on the location and time. The settings will be shown and explained below:

#### 1. Setting of places

##### a. Madrid

The story takes place in Madrid, Spain. Madrid, being the capital, represents potential and ambition, mirroring the characters' goals. The story concentrates on the individual story in Madrid's atmosphere. The city location complicates the characters' experiences, allowing them to explore topics such as ambition and identity.

##### b. Pension Luarca

Most of the story takes place at a pension named Luarca. The places where Paco and another characters works, it could be seen from the provided sentence below:

1. **"this time there were three full matadors living at the Luarca as well as two very good picadors, and one excellent banderillero"**
2. **"There were from eight to a dozen other people who lived at the Luarca and ate in the dining room "**
3. **"bullfighters stayed at the Luarca until their last pesetas were gone"**

##### c. Dining room

Dining room in the pension of Luarca is another setting of place where most of the actions in the story happening, it can be notice from the sentence, such as:

1. **"Down in the dining room the tallest of the waiters, who was overdue at the meeting"**
2. **"Down in the dining room the picador sat looking at the priests."**

#### 2. Setting of time:

##### a. Evening

The setting of time in the story was not described clearly, but based on some sentences we can conclude that mostly the story happened around evening. It can be notice from:

1. **"He loved his work which, done under bright lights, with clean linen, the wearing of evening clothes, and abundant food in the kitchen, seemed romantically beautiful."**
2. **"Of the picadors one was a thin, hawk-faced, gray-haired man, lightly built but with legs and arms like iron, who always wore cattlemen's boots under his trousers, drank too much every evening and gazed amorously at any woman in the pension."**
3. **"On this evening everyone had left the dining room except the hawk-faced picador who drank too much"**

#### IV. CONCLUSION

Based on the previous discussions, we can conclude that the purpose of this study was to carefully investigate the intrinsic elements, specifically the characters and settings, in Ernest Hemingway's short story "The Capital of the World." Using the qualitative descriptive method, narrative descriptions were prioritized over numerical analysis, highlighting the numerous qualitative features of the characters and locations through the procedure of reading, categorizing, and analyzing the intrinsic elements. Significant findings obtained from the study, especially related to character classification and the analysis of story settings.

Characters in the story were classified into ten separate categories based on the five types outlined in the study, producing some important results. The characters are divided into the following categories, including; main, supporting, protagonists, antagonists, simple, round characters, static, evolving, typical, and neutral characters. Furthermore, the settings were divided into two major categories which are the setting of places and the setting of time, in which the setting of place taking place mostly in Madrid, Luarca, and the dining room, while the setting of time taking place mostly during the evening. Overall, this research contributes to a deeper comprehension of the literary elements in "The Capital of the World," offering insight into the characters' portrayal as well as the contextual significance of settings in the story.

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