

## PERSONALITY CHANGE OF THE MAIN CHARACTER IN JOKER 2019 MOVIE SCRIPT

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### ABSTRACT

This research analyzed the movie script of the 2019 Joker movie, which was written by Todd Philips and Scott Silver. The main topic in this research was personality changes in the main character of the movie. There were two objectives of this research. First, to determine the personality changes that occur in the main character. Second, to find out the causal factor of personality changes. This research used descriptive qualitative research. The data were obtained from the main characters in the Joker movie and other sources related to the formulation of the problem. Data were analyzed from the attitudes, behaviors, and events experienced by Arthur Fleck using the theory of Elizabeth Bergner Hurlock. According to the findings of this study, personality changes in Arthur Fleck were caused by three factors. The first is the Physical damage experienced, the second is environmental factors and the third is important people. The crimes committed by Arthur Fleck were unjustifiable, but his actions are supported by those who surround him.

**Keyword:** psychological, behaviors, film studies

### INTRODUCTION

A movie script is considered a literary work. The script is considered a literary work because it resembles drama. Before performing a scene in a film, an actor will use the script as a guide for competing acting on the small screen. This is also supported by Giannett's (1987:265) asserted that movie scripts are uncommon and literally autonomous.

There are benefits and drawbacks to watching movies, just as there are to reading a script for a film. If you're an art lover, you should be able to recognize the difference between the two and make an informed decision about which film to recommend to children and teenagers. Sometimes a movie will present a moving image for us to learn how to behave when positive and negative choices come up, and we can take that image as a lesson, but only from the intention of the movie and not as an example to follow.

Movies can also make someone relax, and when we watch a movie as if we

are the main character, we sometimes can't tell the difference between the real world and the virtual world. When someone becomes addicted to a movie, he will feel hypnotized. According to Astruc (1971:11), a filmmaker/writer writes with his camera in the same way that a writer writes with his pen.

According to Roberts and Jacobs (1987:119), practically in fiction: character in literature, the mind that controls thought, speech, and behavior is extended verbally in humans. The researcher captures some of the character's interactions and circumstances through language, action, and commentary. The characters in the movie screenplay are written according to their own personalities. The writing of the movie script connected to the character has been carefully chosen so that the main character can assume the role and play it to look genuine.

There is also a psychological genre in the movie script; psychology is a science that studies psychology and human behavior

(Sobur, 2016:53). This movie, directed by Todd Phillips and starring Joaquin Phoenix, also employs the psychological genre. This movie, which was released in 2019, tells the story of someone who has a mental illness and needs to see a psychologist. There are interesting things that will be discussed, the main character in the film "JOKER" is someone who has talent in the world of joker comedy. The main character in this film is a clown who fantasizes about having a stand-up comedy stage where he can entertain everyone. Become a clown to entertain people but the world is not fine because of the situation joker turns into a killer. This movie told about a good person but his environment turned him into a murderer. Changes in a person's personality due to illness are more dominant to become people who quickly change because of the pressure of the conditions experienced into trauma to interfere with their mental health. There are many controversies in the Joker film, and many people become very antagonistic because of their surroundings. Personality changes caused by mental stress or illness can be treated, even if they are not fully recovered. A person who is mentally stressed can visit a psychiatrist to relax, discuss his illness, and receive treatment. Aside from depression, genetic factors can cause this mental disorder.

Psychology is the study of a person's behavior and thoughts, which means learning about a person's mentality and characteristics of that person although psychology has a different science from literary works. Psychology and literature can complement each other because literature is imaginative and can be directly related to psychology. Which can produce an amazing literary work, the differences that exist in literature and psychology are only limited to being real and imaginative. Rene Wellek and Austin Warren in Theory of Literature state that By 'literary psychology', we mean the psychological study of writers as types and as individuals or the study of the creative process or the study of psychological types and laws existing in works finally, the effect of literature on its

readers.

With human psychology, we can understand a person's personality through thoughts and actions; learning literary study, specifically literary psychology is similar to this. Literary psychology is the scientific study of the psychological aspects of literary characters. The spiritual, emotional, and mental activities of fictional characters manifest in literary works.

According to Carver and Scheier (1996:17), personality is a dynamic organization within the person from the psychological system that creates the characteristics of that person's patterns of behavior thoughts, and feelings.

To describe the development of the main character's personality, several theories of personality development are needed. Hurlock (1976:124) explains that personality change requires effort from the person himself, which usually comes from some revision in thoughts or feelings related to self-concept In Personality Development Hurlock also mentioned that several conditions are responsible for personality changes that are:

1. Physical damage,
2. Environment,
3. Important people,
4. Changes in social pressure,
5. The role of change,
6. Strong motivation,
7. Changes in self-concept and,
8. Psychotherapy.

In normal people, there is usually more than one cause of personality change these causes may or may not be interrelated. This means that everyone has different reasons or causes for personality changes, some conditions are not related to changes in a person's personality.

The researcher chose this title because the researcher focuses on personality change,

and a person's personality can change as a result of something traumatic in his life. However, the subject chosen by the researcher to conduct this research was a movie script, so the researcher wanted to know the factors causing a person's personality changes. Furthermore, many viewers discussed how the film was played and, in turn, how the film script was written. This is a successful piece of writing because the audience discusses the personality changes that occur to the main character in the Joker 2019 film.

## METHODS

In this research, the researcher used qualitative descriptive research. This research was conducted by researcher who aimed to describe how a person experiences mental problems with personality changes that occur in the main character in the Joker 2019 movie script. The researcher also aimed to analyze the occurrence of personality changes in a movie script.

Sources of data were collected from the script of the movie entitled joker 2019 by Todd Philip. Joker movie 2019 was published in 2019 in the United States by Warner Bros. The Joker movie is 122 minutes long. Data were taken from phrases, words, actions, and dialogue between characters that showed personality changes as well as a quote from a text that claims that the main character undergoes a personality change in a movie script.

The researcher has several steps in collecting data to make this research more specific. First, read the joker movie script. Second, marking words. Then, Identify and classify data.

After collecting the data, the researcher analyzed the data qualitatively. The analytical technique used by the researcher was to answer the problem formulation of the main character Joker 2019 in the movie script.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### 1. Personality Change of the Main Character

According to Elizabeth Hurlock (1976:108), states that personality changes are changes or variations of a person's personality patterns that can change in some fields and persist in others. Furthermore, change is not always for the better; it can also be for the worse. Like the experiences listed below, the main character may have when his personality gradually changes for the better or worse.

*Joker* : "Is it just me, or is it getting crazier out there?"(Despite the laughter, there's a real pain in his eyes. Something broken in him. Looks like he hasn't slept in days).

*Social worker* : "It is certainly tense, people are upset, they are struggling. Looking for work. The garbage strike seems like it is been going on forever. These are tough time".

In this conversation, the Joker is getting advice from a social worker. Joker asked the social worker questions about the world and about himself. Joker chuckles, but his amusement only serves to mask the misery he is experiencing. What is meant by laughing in this dialogue is not because he feels something humorous, but because it is a disease that Joker feels when he is under strain, which causes him to laugh out loud.

The city's situation is so dire that Joker, a clown who works for a corporation, is rocking with a man playing the piano while holding a sign that reads, "Everything Must Go!" in front of Kenny's Music store. A gang of mischievous 15-year-old boys came to see Joker while he was at work. Joker tried to ignore them, but one of the kids knocked over the board he was holding.

*Kid 1* : "Suck my dick, clown"

(The kids laugh. Joker doesn't say anything. \Just bends over to pick up

*the sign—Another kid kicks him in the ass--).*

*Kid 2 : “Whoopss...”*

From the dialogue above, when Joker was being harassed by the teenagers, a man actually played the piano very loudly. Joker tried to chase the teenagers while shouting for help to the people around him, however, no one helped him all of them ignored Joker's screams and in the narrow street Joker was beaten using a board by several teenagers and several other children waited while holding a board which they took from the Joker. This crime in Gotham city with people ignoring each other even teenagers who dare to disturb their elders is a bad attitude because there is no mutual respect, the teenagers even brutally beat Joker with bruises. Joker just gave up when he was beaten by the teenagers.

*Woman on bus : (turns back to Joker; already annoyed) “Can you please stop bothering my kid?”*

*Joker : “I won't bothering her, I was...”*

*Woman on bus :(interrupts) “Just stop!”*

*Woman on bus :“You think that's funny?”*

Shortly after that, Joker burst out laughing. He shook his head while trying to cover his mouth; the laughter briefly stopped before intensifying. His tears demonstrated that his laughter was extremely painful for him as his laughter broke. The passengers on the bus were all fixed on Joker, and the young girl appeared to be about to start crying once more.

Joker can only pull out a small card from his pocket and hand it to someone "Please excuse my laughter. My ailment is ". It is a medical disorder that causes sudden, frequent, uncontrollable laughter that is not in line with how you feel. (More on back.) People who have had a brain injury or have certain neurological diseases may experience it. But the mother instantly flung the card to

the Joker without even reading it. This demonstrates that even when the Joker feels trapped, he can laugh uncontrollably when he is in an uncomfortable situation.

*Randal : “I heard about the beat down you took. Fucking savages”.*

*Joker : “It was just a bunch of kids. I should have left it alone”. Randal : “It's crazy out there and it's only getting worse”.*

*Joker : (nods) “My mother says that the people nowadays Lack Emphaty”.*

*Randal :“What's empathy?”*

*Joker :“Kind of. But different”.*

*Randal :(give a gun)... “take it. I got a few. You gotta protect yourself out there, buddy. Too many wackos”.*

The dialogue up top explains the boy's harshness; Arthur can do nothing except put up with it and continue working as normal. When Arthur gets back to work, his friend, who has learned that he is being bullied, lends him a gun so he may defend himself against those who would do him harm. Joker, however, declined the present from Randal because it was against the law to bring a gun to work, but Randal persisted on handing the gun to Arthur. Despite the awful event that has occurred to Arthur, his supervisors have asked him to discuss the board that the joker brought while performing at the Kenni music store.

## 2. Causal Factor of Personality Change

In the development of personality, Hurlock also stated that several conditions that causal personality changes, namely (1) physical damage, (2) environment, (3) important people, (4) change in social pressure, (5) the role of change, (6 ) strong

motivation, (7) change in self-concept, and (8) psychotherapy. Of the eight factors that cause personality changes, researcher found four causes for Joker movie script that the researcher is currently researching, namely (1) physical damage, (2) environment, and (3) important people.

**a. Physical damage.**

In this study, researcher found physical damage to the character of Joker and this is one factor in the personality changes that are being experienced by the main character of the Joker. Joker has a medical condition that can cause him to laugh excessively, despite his attempts to control it. He wants to be a stand-up comedian who can make everyone laugh, but in reality, Joker turns into a killer, which many people find appealing.

*Hospital Doctor* : “What’s so funny?”

*Joker* : “Just thinking of this joke”.

*Hospital Doctor* : “Do you want to tell it to me?”

*Joker* : “No”.

*Hospital Doctor* : “Because you don’t think I’ll get it?”

*Joker* : “Because it’s personal, it’s between me and him”.

Even though Joker has killed numerous people, he still laughs and feels no remorse; nonetheless, because of his physical damage, Joker sometimes commits mistakes, including murder, because he cannot think straight. Joker murder was just a joke, it was Joker statement in the dialogue above when he was talking to the hospital doctor.

*Joker* : “Yeah, I was wondering if you could ask the doctor to increase the dosage on my medications? Nothing seems to make a difference”.

*Social Worker* : (looking over his

*record) “Do you know which ones you’d like increased?” (Shakes his head, no)*

*Social Worker* : “Have you been sleeping”

*Joker* : (lying) “Some”. (She glances at his file again).

*Social Worker* : “Arthur, you’re on seven different medications. Surely they must be doing something”. (He finally stands up. Zips up his faded red sweatshirt. Looks at her--)

*Joker* : “I just don’t wanna feel so bad anymore”.

The dialogue shown above is between the Joker and a social professional who has been addressing the Joker's mental health for some time. The social worker declines Joker's request to add his medicine dose during this violent altercation because the clown currently takes seven different medications. Joker wanted to up the dose of the seven different medications so he could feel calm and be able to control his laughter because he was starting to experience no benefit from them. Social workers did not respond well to the joker's request for this.

*Joker* : (trying to stop himself from laughing) “ -- good evening, hello.” (deep breath; trying to stop laughing) “Good to be here”. (keeps cracking up)

“I, I hated school as a kid. But my mother would always say,--“ (bad imitation of his mom still laughing)

“You should enjoy it. One day you’ll have to work for a living.”(laughs)

“No I won’t, Ma. I’m gonna be a

comedian!" (Dead silence. Except for Joker, who's still cracking up). (where joker was going to do a stand-up in front of the crowd, he couldn't control his laughter. joker was under pressure when he was about to start his stand-up).

Sophie : "What the hell was that? You can't just walk into my apartment like that".

(He is taken aback by her anger--)

Joker : "No, wait,-- Sophie, we can get through this, that's why I'm here".

Sophie : "What are you talking about? What do you think this is?"

Joker : "I don't know. I mean I've never been with a woman like that but, this feels like a beginning to me".

Sophie : "Arthur, I was just being nice to you. I felt sorry for you. I have a boyfriend".

Joker : "You what? What? What kind of woman are you? Who does that?"

(Some of the other mothers turn toward them--).

(And Sophie slaps him hard across the face-- Then turns and walks away).

(Close on joker he begins to laugh--)

Sofie is a young woman who has a daughter and lives nearby Joker. Joker suffers from a mental condition and frequently struggles to tell what is real from what is not. When they exit the elevator together and crack quick jokes, Joker feels incredibly close to Sofia, much like Sofie does. In fact, Joker once followed Sofia to Sofie's son's school. Furthermore, despite the fact that Sofie was the first person invited to a Joker stand-up event and that Sofie always felt by her side

whenever Joker's mother entered the hospital inpatient room, Joker and Sofie have also watched stand-up comedy together. Every encounter Joker has is really a delusion, and anything he imagines about Sofie is not true. Sofie was upset that Joker's unexpected visit caught her off guard because she had experienced an odd feeling when he first approached her. Additionally, the irate Joker made humiliating comments to knock Sophie to the ground in front of her child.

## b. Important People

When Joker, who had been intrigued by the letters his mother had been sending to Thomas Wayne, finally opened one and discovered something remarkable, he went to visit his mother and demanded an explanation. Penny Fleck, the mother of the Joker, claimed that her son was Thomas Wayne. Joker, who was aware of this was naturally astonished because Joker believed he had no children. Joker visited Thomas Wayne's home and met his kid with a lot of enthusiasm. Of course, Joker's magic display mesmerized the youngster. When I haven't had a chance to speak, a man interrupts and chastises Joker. Joker explains his intentions and introduces his mother, but the response he receives is not as lovely as he had hoped. A young man claimed that the mother of the Joker was ill and suffering from a mental illness.

Joker: (shouts after her). "I'm not yelling! I'm just, excited. How can any of this be real!? How can Thomas Wayne be my father?"

Mom : (shouts back from behind the door). "I'm not talking to you until you calm down".

(Joker sits for a minute then gets up and goes to her bathroom door. Talks to his mother from behind the closed door).

Joker :(lowers his voice; trying to sound calm). "Okay. How's this, Mom?"

*Better? Will you please talk to me?"*

*(Joker leans in closer to the door. Leaning against it with just his head--)*

The Joker, who had read the letter his mother had written before going to the hospital, went to find out the truth. He hurried to the hospital and found out that his mother, Penny, had adopted him, and that he had been violent since he was a child. Furious, the Joker immediately transformed into a fairie and went to the hospital where he spoke to his mother before killing her with a hospital pillow until she passed away.

*Joker : "What's my real name?"*

*(Her whole body is shaking, overwhelmed with emotion).*

*Joker : "C'mon, Ma, I know I was adopted. What's my name? Who am I really?" (She looks back him, struggles to speak--)*

*Mom : "H-h-happ—"*

*Joker :(interrupting, snaps at her)*

*Joker : "Happy?! I'm not happy. I haven't been happy for one minute of my entire fucking life".*

*(He reaches behind her, and grabs one of her pillows--)*

What Joker did was the result of his mother's behavior trying to hide what was real about Joker's life or the real identity of Joker, who knew this and became very enraged, as can be seen from the conversation above showing Joker killing his mother with a pillow until his mother could not breathe and died.

*Mom : "I never heard him crying. Not once. He's always been such a happy little boy".*

*Dr. Stoner : "Penny, your son was found tied to a radiator in your filthy apartment, malnourished, with multiple bruises across his body and severe trauma to his head". (Joker looks up from the file when he hears/reads this, turns, and looks at penny's reaction-- he's now in the interview room with them, living what he's reading on the page). (He sees his mother lean forward in her chair, glaring at Dr.Stoner--)*

*Mom : "That's not true. My apartment wasn't filthy. I keep a clean house". (Joker just stares at his mother. Dr. Stoner looks at Penny, not sure how to respond to that).*

*Dr. Stoner : "And what do you have to say about your son?" (Angle on a penny, thinking it over, taking a drag off her cigarette).*

*Mom : "I'm just glad I got to know him".*

*(Joker just keeps staring at her as she exhales--).*

*(Joker back in the stairwell looks up from the file, looks like maybe there's cigarette smoke drifting in front of his face--)*

From the dialogue above, Dr. Stoner was speaking to the mother of the Joker while holding the same document that read, "Perish," because the Joker had witnessed his mother torturing him as a child. Another bitter fact is that the Joker killed his mother after becoming enraged and going to the hospital where she was receiving treatment. The family environment (parents) of a child who has been exposed to violence since they were young and was raised by his mother who has mental disorders makes the Joker grow up under mental pressure that can make the Joker

turn evil. This is an example of how the environment plays a crucial role. The mother is the most crucial figure in a child's existence, but in this Joker movie or script, it is the mother who makes the character suffer from mental illnesses, and the character's biological parents consent to the adoption of the character.

### c. Environment

Joker had an opportunity to go on the Murray Franklin show after the tragedy, which he truly appreciated, and he accepted. While the Joker was getting ready and doing his makeup, his two buddies Gery and Randall arrived at his home. When they did, the Joker shut the door and got the scissors out of his pocket that he had been carrying with him. After talking with Randall Joker for a bit, she immediately brutally killed him with scissors.

*Randall* : “Yeah, what’s with the clown face then ?”

*Joker* : “My mom died”.

*Randall* : (nodding). “Yeah, we heard. That’s why we’re here. Figured you might wanna go out, get a drink or something?”

*Gary* : “We don’t wanna bother you. Randal just thought we should come and pay our respects”.

*Joker* : “I’m gonna be on TV tonight. Can you believe it?” (Gary does not answer. Does not move because of fear)

*Joker* : “It’s okay, Gary. You can go”.

Randall's friends Gery and Randall were brutally murdered by Joker after they attempted to cheer him up. This led to their deaths because Randall's arrival at Joker's house was, of course, not only amusing but also meant to ensure that Joker let the police know that the gun was offered by Randal. Gery was standing at the end of Joker's room

when he saw him and tried to open the door, but due to his short stature, he had to ask Joker for help after that Joker opened the door to his house and let him go. Despite Randal trying to fight Joker after being stabbed with scissors to restrain him and slamming Randal head against the wall of his house after blood splattered everywhere and gasping for breath as a result of killing joker

Joker wiped his bloodied face after killing his own pal and returned to makeup. With his good clothing on and a painted face, Joker left for the performance. He took the elevator up to the room. He met the host Murray before the event began. Murray made some recommendations to the Joker, and the Joker also asked Murray to identify him as the Joker.

*Murray Franklin* : “Couple rules though,-- No cussing, no off-color material, we do a clean show, okay? You’ll be on after Dr. Sally, someone will come and get you good?”

*Joker* : “Hey Murray,-- one small thing? When you bring me out, can you introduce me as —The Joker?”

*Gene Ufland* : “What? You don’t want to use your real name?”

*Joker* : “Honestly, I don’t even know what my real name is”.

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*Joker : "Have you seen what it's like out there, Murray? Do you ever actually leave the studio? Everybody just yells and screams at each other. Nobody's civil anymore. Nobody thinks about what it's like to be the other guy. Do you think men like Thomas Wayne, men at ease, ever think about what it's like to be a guy like me? To be anybody but themselves. They don't. They think we'll all just sit there and take it like good little boys. That we won't werewolf and go wild. Well, this is for all of you out there".*

*Murray : "You don't know the first thing about me. Look what happened because of what you did, Arthur, and what it led to. There are riots out there. Two policemen are in critical condition, someone was killed today".*

*Joker : " How about another joke, Murray? What do you get when you cross a mentally-ill loner with a system that abandons him and treats him like trash".*

*Joker :(pulls Randall's gun). " I'll tell you to get it. You get what you fucking deserve.*

It is evident from the discussion above that Murray Franklin makes Joker feel like his existence is a joke. Joker tells the audience that if he were to fall on the ground, people would ignore him and even step over him, but when he actually killed the people who bothered him, he was accused by others who believed that those individuals were morally upright. He abruptly shot Murray in the head more than twice with a gun because he was enraged and desperate. The audience shouted as they witnessed the disaster, and he enjoys dancing in the studio.

In this study, the previous researcher had a goal where an accurate and comprehensive description of personality continuity and change throughout the ages is the basis on which developmental theories come into play. On personality change, this study, informs the theory of age development and provides direction toward the future to stay healthy. The difference from this study is that personality change in this study aims to tell someone how a person can experience personality changes either through traits conditions or the environment.

## CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

### Conclusion

Based on the personality changes that occurred in the main character Joker 2019 by Todds Philips, researcher found things that made the Joker experience personality changes that were supported by several factors physical damage, the environment, and important people. In this study, personality changes occur in the main character of this Joker. All of his personalities have their own characteristics, appearance, actions, and behavior. Judging from his appearance Joker is a cheerful friendly and humorous clown who wants to make everyone happy he actually finds a fact that makes him very disappointed it turns out that he is only an adopted child by his mother.

While the factors of personality change itself are psychological damage factors where Joker experiences hallucinations and Joker cannot distinguish what is reality and what is not. In addition to psychological damage, there are also other factors such as important people and the environment where this has a very big influence Joker who receives bullying from teenagers and the community who ignores him of the very bad state of Gotham city and his mother Penny Fleck who lied to him saying that the Joker has a father, namely Thomas Wayne Joker, who was looking for your truth, was very surprised because the mother he had cared for had the heart to lie to him. The lie that his mother did to Joker made the Joker a drastic change and did not hesitate to commit murder openly. This ruined city of Gotham also supports Joker acting as a hero and that makes him happy he dances like nothing is wrong and says life is comedy.

### **Suggestion**

Researcher has suggestions for readers to understand more about literary works related to psychology because there is a lot of knowledge about psychology that readers can

learn from personality changes or disorders in mental health. By studying psychology, we can also understand each other better because every human being is of course different. The main character of the Joker has something that readers can take. The changes in the Joker's main character are physical damage, the environment, and important people.

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