

# THE APPLICATION OF VLADIMIR PROPP'S CHARACTER THEORY TOWARDS MALEFICENT CHARACTER

### <sup>1</sup>Muhamad Fauzan Setyawan, <sup>2</sup>Aslamiyati

<sup>1</sup>Universitas Al Azhar, <sup>2</sup>Universitas Al Azhar <sup>1</sup>fauzansetiawan62@gmail.com, <sup>2</sup>aslamiaty29@gmail.com

### Abstract

Disney has always succeeded in making several films among its audiences, both animated film and live-action film. One of Disney's most successful film was Maleficent, released in 2014, based on the Disney classic animated princess film, Sleeping Beauty (1959). Despite being adapted from Disney's animated classic, Sleeping Beauty, the story of Maleficent, however, is different from what is told from the animated one. This research intends to study the characteristics of the main character in the film Maleficent through Vladimir Propp's theory. Researchers believe that the character in each Disney film have their own powers that make each film produced great success in influencing the audience's interests.

Keywords: characters; Disney; film; Maleficent

### A. Introduction

It is no doubt that Disney obviously has made several successful movies among the audiences either animated or a live-action movie. One of the movies from Disney that bring successfulness is *Maleficent* which was release in 2014, adapted from Disney classical animated princess's movie *Sleeping Beauty* (1959). Though adapted from an old classical animated Disney princess's movie *Sleeping Beauty*, the story of *Maleficent*, however, differs from what has been told from the animated one. If the movie *Sleeping Beauty* focuses more on the princess itself, Aurora where she got cursed by Maleficent and must find her true love kiss to break the curse, the movie *Maleficent* Revolves on Maleficent herself where it is telling about her past life. In fact, Maleficent herself is given an origin story in the movie and a great deal of emotional context for being sour towards human (Bohen, 2020).

Together, we, the researcher, intends to study further and to analyze deeper on to breaking down the character Maleficent on the movie itself. The study will be focusing on Maleficent past life from where she was only a normal fairy until she is then betrayed by her first lover and becomes a complete evil and a threat to mankind's life, when presumably she is not, using Vladimir Propp Character's theory. "Propp, of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, was a Russian structuralist which means that he aimed to discover universal patterns that are present within all texts. He became famous for his analysis of Russian folk fairytales. He came up with a list of 31 narratives function divided into 4 spheres of action and a list of 7 types of characters that consistently appear in media texts." (Narrative Theory: Vladimir Propp, n.d.). Moreover, within this research, not only that the researcher will analyze and discuss the character Maleficent on Maleficent movie using Vladimir Propp Theory of Character, the researcher will also break down the types of the supporting characters on the Movie Maleficent within the applications of Vladimir Propp Seven Spheres of Action. "Propp argued that stories are character driven and that plots develop from the decisions and actions of characters and how they function in a story. He claimed characters could be classified into certain roles that progress a story, which in a way



these classified roles are called Seven Spheres of Actions that includes: The Villain, The Donor, The Helper, The Princess, The False Hero, The Dispatcher, and The Hero". (Narrative techniques, n.d.). Furthermore, within Propp's Seven Spheres of Actions Theory he eventually ended up with a conclusion in which that there were thirty-one generics 'narratemes' called thirty-one functions of Dramatic Personae (character) which later will also be discussed, though not all folk tales including Maleficent consists all of the thirty-one functions. "Some of the most common Western narrative structures are derived from traditional form like folktales, fairy tales, and myth" (Krake, 2016) Vladimir Propp explains further on his book The Morphology of the Folktale, Propp's theory of folktale narrative structure breaks a story down into 31 distinct sections or functions, and 7 different character types operating within these functions. (Krake, 2016). "These do not necessarily to be seven distinct characters. Rather, they are seven different patterns, and Propp's Morphology is not going to be a direct map to every story, it is seen as a guidebook, suggestion, and character's function" (Krake, 2016). Additionally, the purpose of this study is to enlighten and give a new insight towards the readers about the breaking down and the function of the characters Maleficent herself. This research is also meant to study and analyzed the character Maleficent and focuses on the types of the supporting character that appears on the Maleficent movie within the Seven Spheres of Actions theory that is one popularized by Vladimir Propp as well as the thirty-one narrative functions shown in the movie Maleficent.

### B. Methodology

For this research, the researcher tends to use qualitative method of research to strengthen its theories of the research, which the researcher will examine the research material thoroughly from the movie Maleficent to gain enough information and later is going to be analyzed, and as stated, Qualitative research method may be used by the researcher as a focus for participant response either through discussion or creation and may use literary text as a data source (Given, 2008). Furthermore, within qualitative research, the researcher will resonate on collecting the data source on the purpose, and the outcome by accumulating enough material information from writings, essays, journals, and other sources. The method itself begins by the researcher watching the movie *Maleficent* (2014) which later the character Maleficent depicted on the movie further analyzed using Propp's theory of folktale narrative structure which meant to break down a character's theory within these function as stated by the theory of Vladimir Propp. Then, after collecting enough resources from the movie Maleficent which later the character Maleficent itself will be analyzed, the researcher examines thoroughly other supporting character existed in the movie Maleficent to be further analyzed using Vladimir Propp's Seven Sphere of Action Theory, and eventually the thirty-one generics 'narratemes' functions of Dramatic Personae (character). Lastly, both researchers will also be watching the movie Sleeping Beauty (1959), to give a further discussion regarding the comparison between the character Maleficent itself from the movie Maleficent (2014) and Sleeping Beauty (1959).

The members of this research will include within these roles: group leader, member, and editor. The group leader is in charge for the responsibility on managing and assigning roles to the members. The member's role is responsible doing the research towards the given sources for the literature review discussed on this research and writing it down on the paper. The editor's role is to double check the paper and to edit the writings on misspelled grammars, and vocabularies into a complete paragraph. The researchers have chosen to use the theory of characters popularized by Vladimir Propp as the method in order to analyze the data and the statements given.

## C. Results and Discussions

# 1. Seven Sphere of Actions

Morphology of the Folktale is a book by Vladimir Propp that was released back in 1928, in this book he tried to identify a so-called "grammar of narrative". Propp attempted to find a similar deep structure underlying any number of stories. "In his study, Propp completely ignored the historical and social context of the tales he examined. He worked with a body of Russian folktales, which he believed all possessed the same structure of 'narrative functions' (possible actions)." (The Narratologist, 2014). Propp doesn't spend too much time on possible character types, because to him, they are more vessels for actions, mechanisms to distribute the function around the story. Nonetheless, he identifies seven-character types, or "spheres of action"

Character Role	Sphere of Action
The Villain	An evil character that creates struggles for the hero
The Dispatcher	Any character who illustrates the need for the hero's quest and sends the hero off
The Helper	A typically magical entity that comes to help the hero in their quest
The Prize (The Princess)	(Typically, a princess) – the hero deserves her throughout the story but is unable to marry her as a consequence of some evil or injustice, perhaps the work of the villain. The hero's journey is often ended when he marries the princess, which constitutes the villain's defeat
The Donor	A character that prepares the hero or gives the hero some magical object, sometimes after testing them
The Hero	The character who reacts to the dispatcher and donor characters, that's the villain, resolves any lacking wronghoods, and weds the princess
The False Hero	A figure who takes credit for the hero's actions or tries to marry the princess

Table 1: Seven Spheres of Actions described by Vladimir Propp (Jones, 2017)

# 2. Thirty-one Narrative Functions

According to Propp, despite the differences in shape and identity the of characters/landscapes/obstacles, stories still have the same building blocks. In his Russian fairytales, Propp compiled a list of thirty-one possible functions. (The Narratologist, n.d.). "In the corpus of Russian fairytales, there wasn't necessary that one story contained all of the thirty-one functions, rather, in order to make a plot, choosing between the thirty-one functions from the list and put them in chronological order is the way to do it." (The Narratologist, n.d.). In 1928, Propp said that all stories follow a narrative structure. To show his theory he broke down fairy tales into sections, and these sections reveal a sequence of narratives which nearly all film follows to this day. He said that after the initial situation is established, the tale takes a sequence of thirty-one functions. (Sampson, 2015).

"Not all stories contained every function, and they don't necessarily happen in the same order in the stories, but Propp found that the 31 functions are a large part of how we recognize and resonate the stories". Moreover, from Propp's statements, "In abstract terms a set of thirty-one recurring plot devices that he found in stories and called 'functions." (Jones, 2017).



Literary Studies Conference

Table 2: Thirty-one Narrative Functions by Vladimir Propp (Jones, 2017).

THE THIRTY-ONE FUNCTIONS			
1 <sup>st</sup> Sphere: Introduction			
	Functions 1 to 7 introduce the situation and the main characters, setting the		
	scene, for the subsequent adventure		
1.	(Absentation): Someone goes missing		
2.	(Interdiction): Hero is warned		
3.	Violation of interdiction		
4.	(Reconnaissance): Villain seeks something		
- <del>1</del> . 5.			
6.			
7.	(Complicity): Unwitting helping of the enemy		
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sphere: The Body of the Story			
The main story starts here and extends to the departure of the hero on the			
Q	main quest (Villainy and lack): The need is identified		
8. 9.	(Mediation): Hero discovers the lack		
10.	(Counteraction): Hero chooses positive action		
11.	(Departure): Hero leave on mission		
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sphere: The Donor Sequence			
In the third set of functions, the hero goes in search of a solution, gaining the			
magical agent from the Donor. Note that this in itself may be a complete			
10	story.		
12.	(Testing): Hero is challenged to prove heroic qualities		
13.	(Reaction): Hero responds to test		
14.			
15.			
16.			
17.			
18.	(Victory): Villain is defeated		
19. ( <b>Resolution</b> ): Initial misfortune or lack is resolved			
4 <sup>th</sup> Sphere: The Hero's Return			
In the final (and often optional) phase of the storyline, the hero returns home,			
hopefully uneventfully and to a hero's welcome, although this may not be the			
	case		
20.	(Return): Hero sets out for home		
21.	(Pursuit): Hero is chased		
22.	( <b>Rescue</b> ): Pursuit ends		
23.	(Arrival): Hero arrives unrecognized		
24.	(Claim): False hero makes unfounded claims		
25.	(Task): Difficult task proposed to the hero		
26.	(Solution): Task is resolved		
27.	( <b>Recognition</b> ): Hero is recognized		
28.	(Exposure): False hero is exposed		
29.	(Transfiguration): Hero is given a new appearance		
30.	( <b>Punishment</b> ): Villain is punished		
31.	(Wedding): Hero Marries and ascends the throne		



### 3. Seven Sphere of Action as seen in the movie Maleficent (2014)

Vladimir Propp was a literary critic and researcher who proposed every narrative structure should include a certain sort of character. Many filmmakers have been inspired by his idea in the creation of effective storyline. Propp also claimed that all fairy tales had the same specific narrative structure.

To follow its rule of Vladimir Propp's theory, a story or a folktale has to have what is called Seven Sphere of Actions which contains of seven different types of character in order to make the plot, and below are mentioned the Seven different Sphere of Actions which occur on the movie Maleficent (2014).

### a. Hero

A Hero is a character who is given the missions or quest that is frequently tough but also achievably by the individual. The hero in this case refers to Maleficent, since she had previously put a curse on Princess Aurora as a form of revenge against King Stefan, attempted to reverse the curse due to her developing passion for Aurora.

### b. Villain

A Villain is a character who causes disturbance or problems for his/her own sake. For instance, King Stefan who has lofty intentions to become the kingdom's next ruler. In order to obtain the throne, he cuts the wings of Maleficent and brings them to the kingdom as proof that he had slain Maleficent, which is a need for obtaining the throne.

### c. Donor

A Donor is a character who gives a unique ability on the Hero or who can aid the hero in carrying out his duties. Diaval, a human who was spared by Maleficent and the one who helps her in order to regain her wings, is the Donor in the Maleficent movie. Diaval also assists Maleficent in uncovering King Stefan's plans and assisting her in protecting and rescuing Aurora from her own curse.

#### d. Helper

Helper is a character who helps the Hero in carrying out his duties. Diaval, Maleficent's assistant in the film, is a human who was saved by her and transformed into a crow to accompany and assist Maleficent. Diaval helps Maleficent in breaking the curse by shifting inti various animals to protect Aurora.

#### e. Princess

Princess is often a "reward" for the Hero or heroes who try to save Princess like a classic scenario. The princess in Maleficent movie would be Aurora. Aurora, who was cursed by Maleficent as a form of revenge for King Stefan, eventually develops feelings for her and makes her feel as if Aurora is her own child. As a result, she seeks to break the curse she placed on Aurora in order for her to always be with her.

#### f. False Hero

Character that has traitors and are selfish are considered False Hero. In the Maleficent movie, King Stefan is a False Hero since he betrayed Maleficent in order to gain the crown. He manipulates Maleficent by pretending to love her. He also lied to the king by claiming that he killed Maleficent by bringing her wings to the kingdom.



### g. Dispatcher

Dispatcher is a character that Hero sends on their quest. Maleficent is the Dispatcher in this movie because her senses that her curse has begun when Aurora sticks her finger into the sewing needle. Maleficent also attempted to lift the curse she had place on Aurora at the moment.

### 4. Seven Sphere of Action as seen in the movie Sleeping Beauty (1959)

On the other hand, as for the classic animated Disney movie Sleeping Beauty that inspires its newest version of the movie Maleficent that was released back in 2014, within Vladimir Propp's theory it is also showing Seven signs of Sphere of Action that helps creates the plot. However, this movie is an exception because unlike Propp's theory that each story contains of Seven Sphere of Actions, Sleeping Beauty (1959) only contains 6 Sphere of Action in the movie, and each Sphere of Action that occur on the movie Sleeping Beauty (1959) are as listed below

### a. Hero

The hero character as seen in the movie Sleeping Beauty (1959) is Prince Phillip. He was the one who was sent by the dispatcher and the donor in the movie on a quest to rescue Princess Aurora from her curse. He was also the one who defeated the villain in the movie and in the end marries the Princess.

### b. Villain

The villain in the movie Sleeping Beauty (1959) is the evil fairy Maleficent. She is considerable as villain as she curses King Stefan's daughter Princess Aurora for a revenge which she was hoping that she would be dead on her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday because she was not invited during the welcoming party of Princess Aurora birth party. She is also the one who creates trouble for the hero character, Prince Phillip, preventing him to to save Princess Aurora from the curse.

#### c. Donor

A donor character is the one who gives the hero some magical objects and unique abilities in order to help them in their quest, and in this movie, the donor is classified to the three good fairies Flora, Fauna, and Merryweather as the 3 of them were the one who gives Prince Phillip, the hero, powers of a magical sword and shield to defeat Maleficent.

### d. Helper

In this movie, the classification for helper that suits the most is also the 3 good fairies Flora, Fauna, and Merryweather as the 3 of them were a magical creatures exist in order to help the hero, Prince Phillip on his quest to rescue Princess Aurora from her curse.

### e. Princess

The Princess or the 'reward' classification on this movie is obviously Princess Aurora herself. Aurora is a Princess, daughter of King Stefan which Maleficent put a curse on to later become sleeping beauty on her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday. In this case, Princess Aurora is the reward for the hero, Prince Phillip, which



eventually made him on a quest to rescue her, and later made a happy ending by marrying her which also constitutes the villain's defeat.

### f. False Hero

As for the classification for false hero in the movie Sleeping Beauty (1959), there is no clear explanation on which character classify as the false hero in this movie. This also made exception that the movie Sleeping Beauty is different as it only has 6 Sphere of Action without the classification of false hero on it

### g. Dispatcher

And as for the last classification, the dispatcher in the movie Sleeping Beauty (1959), is Prince Phillip himself. Prince Phillip fell in love with Princess Aurora the first time he saw her in the forest, and when the time he knew that she was cursed by Maleficent he is the one that has the urge to save Princess Aurora and that it made him the one that sent himself to a quest to rescue Princess Aurora from her curse. He also does this in which he wanted to implemented his goals to obtain his reward which is to marry Princess Aurora.

### 5. Thirty-One Narrative Functions as Seen in the Movie Maleficent (2014)

Referring to the theory, the 17 functions of character found in the animated film Maleficent can be explained as below.

#### a. Absentation Function

The absentation in the film is highlighted by the departure of Princess Aurora when she was a baby who is carried to the forest by the fairies at night in order to avert Maleficent's curse. This absentation can be seen in the following quote:

"Secretly, he entrusted the safety of the child to the magic pixies, who would take her to a remote hideaway for 16 years and a day."

#### b. Interdiction Function

The interdiction function is present in this story when the magical creature, Balthazar, warns Maleficent to be watchful of a human kid who visits the wonderful forest kingdom, Moors.

#### c. Violation of Interdiction Function

In the Maleficent movie, the function of violation was shown by Maleficent's act of disobeying Balthazar's warn. Maleficent continues to command the boy to come out from his hiding place and return the stolen goods to her. Here is a snippet of Maleficent's words:

"T'm not afraid. Besides, I have never seen a human up close. Come out! It's not right to steal, but we don't kill people for it. Come out this instant!"

d. Reconnaissance Function



The reconnaissance function can be seen when Stefan has a huge ambition to become a king. That night, King Henry ordered his guards to kill Maleficent and avenge him. If one of his guards can slay and bring body parts of Maleficent to King Henry, the royal throne will be rewarded and marry his daughter. Stefan then goes to the Moors to spy on Maleficent, which he wants to kill her to gain the royal throne.

### e. Trickery Function

The trickery function in the animated film Maleficent is performed by Stefan against Maleficent. Stefan, motivated by his ambition, goes to the Moors to mislead maleficent. Stefan informs Maleficent that King Henry will continue to pursue until he manages to kill her. Hence, Stefan came to inform and soothe Maleficent. Stefan then offered Maleficent a drink, which put her to sleep. Here is a trick done by Stefan to Maleficent:

"Maleficent, I've come to warn you. They mean to kill you. King Henry will stop at nothing. Please, you have to trust me. You thirsty?"

### f. Complicity Function

Stefan, who arrived to the Moors, deceived Maleficent. Maleficent, however, who has fallen love with Stefan, dissolve in his deception and takes Stefan's drink, causing her to fall asleep. When Stefan believes Maleficent is genuinely asleep, he takes action to kill her. Stefan, on the other hand, merely cut Maleficent's wings and brought them to the kingdom as proof that he had slain Maleficent. This can be proved by the following quotation:

"What is this? I have avenged you, sire. She is vanquished? You have done well, my son. What others feared to do. You will be rewarded."

### g. Villainy and Lack Function

This function is shown by Stefan who has huge ambition to become a king. In order to obtain the throne, he fooled Maleficent into sleeping and cut off her wings which were then brought them to the kingdom.

### h. Meditation Function

The meditation function in this film is shown by Maleficent character. She finds out that her wings were cut off by Stefan and also, he betrayed by marrying the royal princess. Hence, she looks for a way to take revenge on Stefan.

#### *i.* Counteraction Function

In the Maleficent animated film, the counteraction function is demonstrated by the Maleficent character. Maleficent discovers that Stefan cut her wings in order to gain the royal throne, and she is wounded since Stefan betrayal her by marrying the royal princess. As a result, Maleficent intends to take revenge on Stefan. She deliberately attended the kingdom's celebration of the birth of King Stefan's



daughter, Aurora, and intended to get revenge on him by cursing Princess Aurora. However, gradually, as her watched the growth of Princess Aurora raised by the fairies in the forest, she began to feel love for Aurora. Hence, she felt terrible and tried to break the curse she gave earlier. This function can be seen through the quotation below:

"I revoke the curse. Let it be no more"

### j. Departure Function

The departure function is experienced by the main character in the animated film Maleficent. Maleficent, who has affections for Aurora, then seeks to break the curse she gave before. Unfortunately, she was unable to do so since there is no power on earth capable of breaking the curse. At the time of Aurora's 16<sup>th</sup> birthday, she will stick her finger on the spindle of a spinning wheel and become a sleeping princess. Maleficent, assisted by Diaval, went to the kingdom to halt Aurora in order to prevent the curse from happening.

"Come on Diaval! Faster, Diaval, faster! She will prick her finger on the spindle of a spinning wheel and fall into a sleep like death."

### k. Struggle Function

The struggle function that appears in the story is highlighted through the main character. Maleficent plans to return to the Moors after successfully enter the kingdom and save Aurora. However, when she was about to leave the kingdom, King Stefan's guards prevented her from leaving, forcing Maleficent and King Stefan to battle each other.

"Get back! Hold it steady! Hold the line! How does it feel? To be a fairy creature without wings in a world where you don't belong? Kill her!"

### *l.* Branding Function

In the battle between King Stefan and Maleficent, Aurora attempts to help Maleficent. She finds a big glass case with wings that move as though they want to be freed. Aurora tries to free the wings by smashing down the glass case. The wings were finally return to their owner, Maleficent.

#### m. Victory Function

Aurora's achievement in releasing Maleficent's wings resulted in Maleficent's victory. When the wings return, Maleficent tries to beat King Stefan by flying him up to the royal balcony. King Stefan, who does not want to lose, tries to rise up and pushes Maleficent. King Stefan, however, fell and dead.

#### n. Resolution Function

The resolution function in the animated film Maleficent is shown by the end of the curse. Maleficent broke the curse with her true love kiss. This comes as a result of Maleficent's natural affection for Princess Aurora, which is powerful enough to break the curse she placed previously.



### o. Return Function

Maleficent and Aurora decided to return to the wonderful forest, Moors, after defeating King Stefan in battle.

### p. Recognition Function

Maleficent, a fairy who had become an evil fairy, is now recognized as a savior of life in the Moors. The situation of the Moors, which had been subjected to darkness, has finally returned to normal.

### q. Transfiguration Function

The transfiguration function in the Maleficent animated film can be seen where Aurora will be crowned the queen of the Moors, Maleficent wears a black robe and looks more elegant.

### 6. Thirty-One Narrative Functions as Seen in the Movie Sleeping Beauty (1959)

In the Disney classic film Sleeping Beauty (1959) researcher found 13-character functions from Propp's Narrative Function which are described below.

### a. Absentation Function

The absentation in this film is shown when the cursed baby Aurora is carried away into the forest by three good fairies. The three fairies devise a plan to preserve Aurora so that she does not prick her finger in the spinning wheel on her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday. This is also done to avoid the wicked fairy, Maleficent. This can be seen through the quote:

"So the king and his queen watched with heavy hearts as their most precious possession, their only child, disappeared into the night."

#### b. Reconnaissance Function

The reconnaissance function appeared in the film Sleeping Beauty (1959) when Maleficent discovers that the curse she bestowed on the Princess Aurora has not to be fulfilled. She instructed all of her guards to find the girl, but no one could find. She decided to send one of her loyal guards, the crow, to find the whereabouts of Princess Aurora. This can be proved through the quotation:

"My pet, you are my last hope. Circle far and wide, search for a maid of sixteen with hair of sunshine gold and lips red as the rose. Go, and do not fail me."

#### c. Villainy and Lack Function

In this film, the villainy function is defined by a curse bestowed by the wicked fairy, Maleficent on the Princess Aurora. Maleficent, discovers that she has not received an invitation from the kingdom to celebrate the birth of Princess Aurora. As a result, she also gave the princess a gift, but it was in the form of a curse. Here is a quote when Maleficent cursed Princess Aurora:

"Listen well, all of you. The Princess shall indeed grow in grace and beauty,



beloved by all who know her. But... Before the sun sets on her sixteenth birthday, She shall prick her finger on the spindle of a spinning wheel... and die."

### d. Meditation Function

The meditation function in this film is seen when Prince Philip, who comes to the forest to meet Princess Aurora, instead finds Maleficent and imprisoned in the forbidden mountain. Prince Philip is surrounded by brackets, and Maleficent shows Princess Aurora sleeping like death. Maleficent claimed that Prince Philip would only be free only after decades.

"Behold, King Stefan's castle, and in yonder topmost tower, dreaming of her true love, the princess Aurora. But see the gracious whim of fate. Why, 'tis the selfsame peasant maid, who won the heart of our noble prince but yesterday. She is indeed most wondrous fair. Gold of sunshine in her hair, lips that shame the red, red rose. In ageless sleep she finds repose. The years roll by, but a hundred years to a steadfast heart are 'bout a day. And now, the gates of the dungeon part, and the prince is free to go his way. Off he rides on his noble steed ...

a valiant figure, straight and tall, to wake his love with love's first kiss, and prove that true love conquers all."

### e. Counteraction Function

The counteraction function is highlighted by Prince Philip. Prince Philip who has been imprisoned by Maleficent in Forbidden Mountain, attempts to free himself in order to save Princess Aurora. This was successfully done by Prince Philip with the help of three good fairies who broke the chain and doorlock with their magic wand, allowing the prince to escape and save the princess.

### f. Departure Function

Departure function in this film is shown after Prince Philip was able to free himself with the help of the three good fairies. He immediately left the Forbidden Mountain to save Princess Aurora, who had been cursed. He hurried of sneaking with the three good fairies to avoid Maleficent's guards.

### g. Acquisition Function

In the film Sleeping Beauty, the acquisition function is experienced by Prince Philip. Prince Philip, who is about to leave Forbidden Mountain, is given a special sword by the fairy to face wicked enemies on his way to the castle.

"Wait, Prince Philip. The road to true love may be barred by still many more dangers, which you alone will have to face.

So arm thyself with this enchanted shield of virtue and this mighty sword of truth. For these weapons of righteousness will triumph over evil."

#### h. Guidance Function

Prince Philip rushed out of Forbidden Mountain, where Maleficent had imprisoned him. He continued his journey to the castle to save the princess with the weapons he gained from the three good fairies.



### i. Struggle Function

The struggle function in the Disney Classic film Sleeping Beauty was shown by Prince Philip. Prince Philip and the three good fairies continue their journey from Forbidden Mountain to the castle. As they try to leave the tower, they are accosted by Maleficent's guards, who try to stop their journey. Besides, Prince Philip faced Maleficent at the castle gate and they battled.

### j. Victory Function

Prince Philip fights Maleficent's guards and cuts off the throny tree branches that are obstructing his way to the castle using the weapons given to him by the three good fairies. He also used the sword of truth to defeat Maleficent, and the prince won the battle.

### k. Resolution Function

The resolution function in this film is shown by the success of Prince Philip in breaking the curse given to Princess Aurora. Prince Philip raced to the princess's whereabouts after defeating the guards and killed Maleficent. By giving love's first kiss, he was able to break the curse and save Princess Aurora.

### l. Transfiguration Function

In this film, the transfiguration function is highlighted by changes in the prince's costume, which make him appear more handsome and charming.

### m. Wedding Function

At the end of the Disney classic film Sleeping Beauty, Prince Philip marries the princess after facing all difficulties to slay the wicked fairy, Maleficent, and break the curse set on the Princess.

### 7. Maleficent character comparison from the movie Maleficent (2014) and Sleeping Beauty (1959)

Maleficent, as a fairy, is known to have an evil character in the Disney classic Sleeping Beauty since she cursed Princess Aurora when she was a baby. Princess Aurora is cursed by Maleficent, who turns into a sleeping Princess om her  $16^{th}$  birthday, and the curse will only be lifted when Aurora receives her true love kiss. However, in the movie Maleficent (2014), depicts the story of a formerly good fairy character who becomes evil. In this movie, Maleficent is a fairy who is friendly to all the creatures who live in the magical forest and eventually rises to become a wise leader. After meeting Stefan, a human boy living in a kingdom, she believes that she has found happiness. She was a kind fairy until she was betrayed by Stefan, at which point she became evil and cursed Stefan's daughter, Princess Aurora

Despite its movie that was adapted from Disney animated classic movie Sleeping Beauty, the movie Maleficent that was released back in 2014 has a new way of line up in telling the story to the audiences and has a new built of plot from its Sleeping Beauty fairy tales. In fact, Maleficent movie was told by the narrative to the audiences that the movie is given a new lime up that focusses on her story and not Aurora as in the Sleeping Beauty movie, but they are also sticking to the premise of the main storyline in the original. These actions from Disney to change their animated movies completely change in the live action version would be a reason to change their mechanism in a higher profit because some says a live action movie would be amusing at best, while some say it would be disastrously at worst. According to Propp's character theory, the character Maleficent from the movie Maleficent (2014) is seen to be classified in a 2 different category from Propp's Seven different Sphere of Action. In this case, the first classification of the character Maleficent in the movie Maleficent (2014) is that she is the Hero as seen in the movie. Though in the movie she is the one who cursed Princess Aurora that it seems like she is the Villain the movie, at the end, she is the one who rescued the Princess and lifted the curse from Aurora, and Maleficent is also the one who defeated the Villain, in this case King Stefan with the help of Diaval, the Donor and the Helper and made a happy ending on her own. On her second classification on the movie. In this case, Maleficent is the one who cursed Princess Aurora to be a sleeping beauty on her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday. However, Maleficent herself is also the one who sends herself to a quest which meant to rescue Princess Aurora to prevent her from the curse as well as lifting the curse from her.

Literary Studies Conf

On the other hand, the character Maleficent from the movie Sleeping Beauty (1959) has a different classification according to Propp's theory from the movie Maleficent (2014). If the character Maleficent in the movie Maleficent (2014) is presumed to be the Villain which in the end she is not, the character Maleficent in the movie Sleeping Beauty (1959) is the actual Villain that curse Princess Aurora which she was hoping that she would be dead on her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday. The curse, however, was weakened by the Helper which in this case are the three good fairies that protected Princess Aurora, Flora, Fauna, and Merryweather, that it would just made Princess Aurora a sleeping beauty on her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday and only true love kiss can lift the curse by Princess Philip which in this case he is the Hero. Not only that, Maleficent is also the evil character that creates trouble for the Hero, Prince Philip preventing him to save Princess Aurora from the curse.

### **D.** Conclusion

From the theory of Seven Sphere of Action and Thirty-one Narrative Functions by Vladimir Propp the researcher are able to summed up that the researcher found out seven sphere of actions and fifteen different functions of narrative as for the movie Maleficent (2014), as well as six sphere of actions and thirteen narrative functions as for the movie Sleeping Beauty (1959) which later both of the movie are being compared by the researcher in terms of its sphere of actions and the narrative functions. Although the movie live-action Maleficent (2014) and Sleeping Beauty (1959) has a totally different plot, it is still following the origin premise of the animated one as it is both produced by the same company, Walt Disney Studios. There are differences of Sphere of Actions and Narrative Functions in which Maleficent have but Sleeping Beauty do not. For example, the movie Sleeping Beauty only has 6 Sphere of Actions without the classification of False Hero unlike Maleficent. Although different, they are still connected somehow.

#### E. Acknowledgement

First and foremost, praises and thanks to the God, the Almighty Allah SWT, as for his showers of blessings to help us carry on with this research to be completed successfully on time.

We wish to show our appreciation to our beloved parents for their love, prayers, caring, and sacrifices and who has given their prayers to us that we are able to finish this research with a great success.

We would also like to show our sincere gratitude to our lecturer in our English Language and Culture Study Program as well as our research supervisor for this paper, Sir Thafan Muwaffaq of Universitas Al Azhar Indonesia for giving us the opportunity on joining the 9<sup>th</sup> LSC Conference and providing us an extremely invaluable guidance on the progress of this research. With his help, he has taught us the methodology and the missing point of this research and made this research as clearly as



possible. It was the best and great privilege as well as an honor to be working under his guidance. We are very grateful for what he has offered us, and his patience and kindness on his guidance towards this paper is also much appreciated.

It is all also thanks to our colleagues, and friends as well as all our lecturer in Faculty of Humanities English Language and Culture Study Program of Universitas Al Azhar Indonesia that has helped us on brainstorming new ideas throughout the process of this research.

It is also a great honor for Universitas Al Azhar Indonesia as for their big help from the team they are able to help us with the payment which is a requirement for a certificate from the conference for us.

### F. References

- Abrams, M. H. (1999). Character and Characterization. In H. &. Heinie, A Glossary of Literary Terms (p. 33). United States of America: Earl McPeek.
- Adilaksamana. (n.d.). *Vladimir Propp Character theory and narrative structure*. Retrieved from academia.edu:

 $https://www.academia.edu/36435188/Vladimir\_Propp\_Character\_theory\_and\_narrative\_structure?email\_work\_card=view-paper.$ 

- Alteration of Maleficent from "Sleeping Beauty" into "Maleficent" Movie. Makassar: Alauddin State Islamic University of Makassar.
- Bohen, K. P. (2021, May 25). 5 Ways Maleficent is Different from Sleeping Beeauty (& 5 Ways It's the Same). Screen Rant. https://screenrant.com/maleficent- sleeping-beauty-different-same/.

Given, L, M. (2008). Literature in Qualitative Research. Sage Research Methods.

https://methods.sagepub.com/reference/sage-encyc-qualitative-research- methods. Halidasia, N. (2016). *The Character*.

Jones, C. (2017, September 2017). *Getting Better at D&D By Using Propp's 31 Functions*. Nerds on Earth. https://nerdsonearth.com/2017/09.

Krake, K. (2016, August 12). Studying Character and Narrative Structure: The Morphology of the Folktale. Three Pillar Authors. https://www.threepillarauthors.com/morphology/.

- Lello, L. (n.d.). *What is a Live-Action Movie?* How To Produce Movies. https://howtoproducemovies.com/what-is-live-action-movie/
- Narrative techniques (n.d.). BBC. https://www.bbc.co.uk/
- Narrative Theory: Vladimir Propp (2016, September 12). mollynewmana2media. https://mollynewmana2media.wordpress.com/
- Sampson, R. (2015, February 15). Debate: Propp's Character Conventions In Modern Film. Film Inquiry. https://www.filminquiry.com/

The Narratologist. (2014, June 24). *Literary Theory: "Morphology of the Folktale" (1928) by Vladimir Propp.* The Narratologist. http://www.thenarratologist.com/