

ABSTRACT

NABASA, BABY. (2025). **Manolo Sanchez's Process Toward Self-Realization Through Relationship with Other Characters in Jorge Gutierrez's *The Book of Life***. Yogyakarta: Department of English Letters, Faculty of Letters, Universitas Sanata Dharma.

This study analyzes the psychological development of the main character of *The Book of Life*, Manolo Sanchez, by focusing on his journey toward self-realization that is shaped through his relationship with other characters. The film represents an inspiring narrative about conflict between internal motivation and external pressure, making it a suitable object for character-based interpretative study.

The objective of this study is to identify Manolo Sanchez's underlying values and the character traits driven by those values as revealed through his interactions with other characters and to examine the process of how these relationships shaped Manolo's journey toward self-realization. The research was guided by Robert McKee's theory of true character, Boggs and Petrie's eight methods of characterization, Carl Rogers' person-centered theory, Maksimenko and Serdiuk's concept of self-realization, supported by Villarejo's mise-en-scene and framing theory.

This research employs a qualitative content analysis with data in the form of scenes and dialogues displaying the relational dynamics between characters. The analysis splits into two main parts: (1) revealing character traits and underlying values they express through interpersonal relationships, and (2) analysis of Manolo's psychological development process towards self-realization through this relationship.

The findings of this study show that Manolo's underlying values consistently drive his character traits, which are revealed through his actions in various social interactions. He is portrayed as a compassionate, sincere, morally courageous, loyal and devoted, integrity-driven and responsible character. These character traits and values serve as the foundation for deeper psychological processes, where internal conflict, relational support, and autonomous decisions that align with his personal values become the key in achieving self-realization. The findings emphasize *The Book of Life* as not only portraying authentic character growth, but also highlighting how animated films represent complex psychological process through visual expression and relational dynamics.

Keywords: *characterization, dynamic relationships, process of growth, self-realization*

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Penelitian ini menganalisis perkembangan psikologis karakter utama dalam film *The Book of Life*, yaitu Manolo Sanchez, dengan fokus pada prosesnya menuju realisasi diri yang terbentuk melalui hubungan dengan karakter lain. Film ini merepresentasikan pergulatan antara dorongan internal dan tekanan eksternal, yang menjadikannya objek ideal untuk kajian psikologis-interpretatif berbasis karakter.

Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk mengidentifikasi nilai-nilai mendasar Manolo Sanchez dan sifat-sifat karakter yang didorong oleh nilai-nilai tersebut yang terungkap melalui interaksi dengan karakter lain, serta untuk menelusuri proses bagaimana hubungan-hubungan tersebut membentuk perjalanan Manolo menuju realisasi diri. Penelitian ini dipandu oleh teori *true character* oleh Robert McKee, *eight methods of characterization* oleh Boggs dan Petrie, *person-centered theory* oleh Carl Rogers, konsep *self-realization* oleh Maksimenko dan Serdiuk, kemudian dilengkapi oleh *mise-en-scene* dan teori *framing* oleh Villarejo.

Metode yang digunakan adalah analisis konten kualitatif dengan data berupa adegan dan dialog yang menampilkan dinamika relasional antar tokoh. Analisis dibagi ke dalam dua bagian utama: (1) pengungkapan sifat dan nilai karakter melalui hubungan interpersonal, serta (2) analisis proses perkembangan psikologis Manolo menuju realisasi diri melalui hubungan tersebut.

Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa nilai-nilai mendasar Manolo secara konsisten mendorong sifat-sifat karakternya, yang terungkap melalui tindakannya dalam berbagai interaksi sosial. Dia digambarkan sebagai sosok yang penuh kasih sayang, jujur, berani secara moral, setia, dan dedikatif, serta memiliki integritas yang tinggi dan bertanggung jawab. Sifat-sifat ini berfungsi sebagai fondasi bagi proses psikologis yang lebih dalam, dimana konflik internal, dukungan relasional, dan keputusan otonom yang selaras dengan nilai pribadi menjadi faktor kunci dalam pencapaian realisasi diri. Temuan ini menegaskan bahwa *The Book of Life* tidak hanya menampilkan pertumbuhan karakter yang autentik, tetapi juga menyoroti bagaimana film animasi dapat merepresentasikan proses psikologis yang kompleks melalui ekspresi visual dan dinamika relasional.

Kata kunci: *characterization, dynamic relationships, process of growth, self-realization*