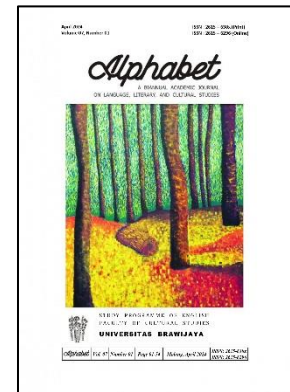


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Perceiving the Character Development of Dickon Sowerby in Burnett's *The Secret Garden* based on Watson's Behaviorist Theory

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Abstract

This study delves into the character development of Dickon Sowerby, a child character in Frances Hodgson Burnett's novel, *The Secret Garden*. As a supporting character to Mary Lennox and Colin Craven, the study explores Dickon's characterization using Watson's behaviorist theory to analyze observable behavior and environment in children's developmental processes. The analysis draws from dialogue and narration related to Dickon's character, examining his behavior towards family, neighbors, and nature's wild creatures. Additionally, the study looks at the influence of Dickon's home, consisting of parents and siblings, as well as the neighborhood's moorland, which serves as the heath.

Keywords: Behaviorist approach; characterization; character development of children; environment; observable behavior.

Character is an essential element in a story because it is the subject that drives the plot and causes the shifting of settings. In Burnett's *The Secret Garden* novel, the characters show dynamic movements throughout the story. As readers, we experience a lively journey throughout the fictive world that Burnett created because of the characters. Therefore, among all the elements in the novel, we chose a character to discuss in this study. We have discussed one specific character in *The Secret Garden* named Dickon Sowerby because he is the supporting character of the main characters, Mary Lennox and Colin Craven. His role leads to the change of Mary's and Colin's physical and behavioral conditions. With his help, Colin, who has been crippled since he was born, can walk. Also,

Mary who always snide to everyone becomes friendlier because of Dickon. Knowing that he alone can have a major impact on their transformations and character development made us curious about the way he has been raised by his surroundings. Therefore, we aim this study to discuss the character development of Dickon Sowerby.

Even though *The Secret Garden* is a fictive story, the characters within it can be considered realistic, as stated by Forster (2002), if the author knows everything about the characters they create, and the values that the author delivers through the characters are explicable to the readers (Forster, 2002). Not only explicable, but the character of Dickon also portrays

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the characteristics of human beings in real life. Therefore, his characterization was analyzed using a branch of psychological approaches named behaviorism by John B. Watson. Watson's behaviorism theory focuses on the stimulus-response relationship as in this analysis of Dickon Sowerby, the stimulus is his environment, both the people and the places, and the response is Dickon's behavior towards others. Watson (2005) believes that the best way to understand someone's behavior and personality is by investigating some events that happened in their past. For that reason, understanding Dickon's upbringing since his early life stage, both his behavior towards others and his circumstances, helped us to know something that has influenced his character development until the present time.

As this study discusses a supporting character in *The Secret Garden*, other studies have discussed some aspects of *The Secret Garden* by relating to various issues using different approaches. Some researchers have focused their studies on the main characters, Mary and Colin (Bertzfield, 2020; de Chumaceiro, 2003; Hayes, 2017; Parsons, 2002; Rosmarie, 2019; Thomas, 2016; Wessels, 2016). Furthermore, Bertzfield (2020) discussed the correlation between the nature and nurture of children in the early developmental process by using an escapism perspective (Bertzfield, 2020). Mary Lennox is one of the objects of analysis in her article. Meanwhile, de Chumaceiro (2003) has discussed the parenting process of Mary and Colin from a psychosocial perspective. She has discovered that both lack the role of mother. The two articles above have discussed the developmental stage of Mary and Colin. Apart from their families, their character development is significantly affected by the supporting character. Therefore, a further discussion about Dickon Sowerby has been done in this study.

Still related to Mary and Colin, Parsons (2002) and Hayes (2017) have discussed each of their characterizations from the perspectives of gender studies. However, both critics have different standpoints from each other. Parsons (2002) believes that Mary's personality is differ-

ent from other women in the patriarchal society, which is empowering because it leads her to encounter the main setting, the garden, and the other main character, Colin Craven (Parsons, 2002). On the contrary, when Colin appears in the story, Hayes (2017) believes that the male character overshadows Mary's significance in the story (Hayes, 2017). The significance of each of the main characters has been discussed in the two previous studies. Yet, their significance cannot be separated from the role of the supporting character. Therefore, this study aims to particularly discuss the supporting character, Dickon Sowerby.

Additionally, other critics have discussed Mary's characterization by relating to her cultural background. From the perspective of cultural polarities, Wessels (2016) stated that the Indian environment negatively affects Mary's spiritual, psychological, and physical condition (Wessels, 2016). According to him, Mary's bad upbringing is caused by the fact that she has been raised in India since she was born. Thus, her characterization positively develops after moving to England. Corresponding to Wessels' criticism, Rosmarie (2019) has discussed Mary's characterization by relating it to racial issues. Mary feels offended that Martha assumes her having dark skin (Rosmarie, 2019). *The Secret Garden* was published in the early twentieth century, in which, as stated by Wolpert (2019), British colonialism was still happening in some parts of Asia, including India (Wolpert, 2019). Thus, the author has implied some racial issues in the novel, which are significant to discuss. Those two criticisms focus on the racial issues that interfere with Mary's characterization. Since her characterization cannot be separated from the role of the supporting character, a further analysis regarding Dickon has been done in this study.

In addition to articles that have discussed the development of the characters, Thomas (2016) stated that *The Secret Garden* illustrates how someone's perspectives towards life affect the way they live. Therefore, having a positive perspective towards something can improve someone's life (Thomas, 2016). Using the *Cognitive Behavioral Therapy* (CBT) method, he has

viewed the children's lives in bad and good conditions. He has also analyzed the transition process between those conditions by focusing on three queries: (1) how they change; (2) why they change; and (3) who/what causes their changes. In his article, Thomas focuses on three characters, Mr. Archibald Craven, Colin Craven, and Mary Lennox. Therefore, further criticism of another character named Dickon Sowerby is necessary because he, as a supporting character towards Mary and Colin, is significant to the story. His role leads to Mary's and Colin's physical and behavioral transformations. Colin and Mary, who are always rude to everyone, become friendlier because of Dickon. Also, Dickon helps Colin to train his legs so he can walk even though he has been crippled since he was born.

Following those previous studies, other criticisms have been made regarding the main setting in *The Secret Garden*. Relating to gender and English cultural identities, Morris (1995) has discussed the central character, Mary Lennox, as a representative of feminine nature who is linked to the English walled garden (Morris, 1995). The garden is so-called the secret garden because it is hidden behind the wall with one locked door as the entrance, whose key has been buried and later found by Mary. Following Morris' criticism, Tynan (2022) explained that the secret garden represents death and grief as well as future-oriented growth and change. Through the activity of gardening, Mary and Colin represent their way to overcome the feeling of loss of parents by re-cultivating the plants in the garden (Tynan, 2002). Those two articles prove that the garden has a significant impact on the character development of Mary and Colin. However, the garden was found dead by Mary in the beginning, and without Dickon's help, the garden would not have come alive again.

Some previous studies have discussed *The Secret Garden* in general. From the perspectives of postcolonial criticism, Toth (2003) discussed the parent-child and master-servant relationships during British imperialism that are implied in the story. Meanwhile, Jenkins (2016) has discussed the correlation between gender

identification and the abjection of female characters (Jenkins, 2016). Another study has been done by Gasperini (2020) regarding the Victorian and Edwardian medical discourse about child nutrition and healthy child physicality that is implied in the story (Gasperini, 2020). Similar to Gasperini's study, Putri (2022) has also brought up a health issue in her study. Using a theory of eco-criticism, she has discussed the healing concept being presented in *The Secret Garden*. Those four studies have analyzed the whole story of *The Secret Garden* by relating to different perspectives. Correspondingly, further discussion about one particular element in the story, which has not been done yet by other critics, is needed. Thus, this study aims to discuss the supporting characters in the story.

Not only the story itself, but some critics have also related *The Secret Garden* to its extrinsic aspect. Focusing on the readers, Nikolajeva (2013) has discussed the way the readers view the story from the perspective of cognitive criticism. Meanwhile, focusing more on the author, Stiles (2015) has discussed Burnett's personal belief towards Christian sciences and the "New Thought" movement that is implied in the story. Furthermore, *The Secret Garden* has also been discussed from linguistic perspectives. Cahyani and Budiati (2022) have discussed the pragmatic issues and maximum violations in the story. Meanwhile, Sumardi and Said (2021) have analyzed the percentage of adverbial and adjective clauses in the entire text of the story. Then, Ma'shumah and Sajarwa (2022) analyzed the untranslatable cultural terms in the Indonesian-translated version of the novel. All those criticisms regarding the extrinsic and linguistic aspects of the story are necessary because they indicate some things can be learned from the novel. However, the story mainly tells about the characters' journey. Thus, this study aims to discuss a character that supports the development of the main characters.

To sum up, many critics have discussed *The Secret Garden* using different approaches. Most of them focus on the characters of Mary and Colin. Some critics have also discussed the setting, the author, and the story itself by relating

to both literature and linguistic perspectives. All those criticisms are necessary and valuable to give readers new points of view while reading the story. Since *The Secret Garden* is categorized as classic literature, a huge number of criticisms have been made regarding this novel. Therefore, the abundant number of journals and articles that have been published by other researchers cannot be taken entirely as a reference to this study. Only some articles, that have the closest relevance to this study, have been taken as references, in which they have been categorized based on the similarity of their topic of discussion.

Another thing to note is that not a single criticism has discussed the characterization of Dickon Sowerby. While talking about the supporting element of the developmental process of Mary Lennox and Colin Craven, some critics have only mentioned the secret garden, whose role is as the main setting where the transformation progress of the main characters mostly happens. They have not mentioned that, apart from the garden, a character named Dickon also greatly impacts their changes, with his positive thoughts, energy, and attitude. Therefore, there is one gap in those criticisms, which is the discussion regarding the character development of Dickon. No critic has discussed Dickon's relationship with his family, the way his surroundings affect him, and some factors that positively impact his character development. Since Dickon is the supporting character of the main characters, Mary Lennox and Colin Craven, it is important to analyze his characterization by looking at his surroundings hence we can get insights about what is missing from the other characters', Mary and Colin, upbringing. Therefore, in this study, his character development has been discussed by using Watson's behaviorist theory.

METHOD

This study used a branch of psychological approaches named behaviorism, which was developed by John B. Watson, to analyze the character development of Dickon Sowerby in *The Secret Garden*. Watson's (2005) behaviorist

theory focuses on someone's behavior and environment rather than their mind and emotions. In his experiment, he examined the conditioned or unconditioned stimuli that triggered his experimental object to see their response. By "stimuli", Watson meant anything that influenced his experimental object. It related closely to the environment, which he considered not only a place but could also be a person or thing. Then, Watson observed the behavior of the object after receiving the given stimuli. He named the behavior that happened following the stimuli as a "response".

There are many behaviorist theories and other psychological approaches that are applicable to discuss children's character development. However, we decided to use Watson's (2005) behaviorist theory because, unlike other psychological approaches, he claimed that behaviorism does not focus on the neurosis and sub-consciousness of someone. An interpretation regarding someone's psychological condition, including their emotion and how their mind reacts to certain events, did not fit in this study because the characters in *The Secret Garden* did not convey a lot of this information. Compared to other behaviorist theories, Watson's theory fits the best in this study because, as Watson (2005) stated, his theory focuses on someone's observable behavior, including actions and utterances, along with the environment involved with them. That information was provided in the novel.

There were two aspects that we analyzed regarding Dickon's character development. The first one was his behavior toward his family, which consisted of parents and siblings, his behavior towards nature and animals, and his behavior towards neighbors. The second one was the environment that influenced his behavior, which consisted of his home and the moorland in the neighborhood. Discussing Dickon's characterization by using Watson's behaviorist theory, we have considered the acceptance of the usage of psychological approaches in literary works. A psychological approach can help literary critics analyze the characters in a story on one condition that the characters must resemble human beings (Daiches, 1956;

Hardjana, 1985; Wellek & Warren, 1942). Corresponding with that statement, Daiches (1964) also stated in his book about literary criticism that poetry can be an art of imitation, and the characters within it may represent humans in an actual world, either in a better, worse, or the same version. By “poetry”, he meant a general term that refers to any literary works, such as poetry, prose, and drama (Daiches, 1956).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Secret Garden is one of Frances Hodgson Burnett’s novels, in which the characters resemble human beings. In this study, one of the characters, named Dickon Sowerby, was discussed using Watson’s behaviorist theory. Discussing his character development, we focused on two particular aspects: the observable behavior of Dickon Sowerby and the environment where he lived. Watson (2005) believes that observing someone’s behavior and relating it to their environment is enough to follow their character development.

Observable Behavior

The first observable behavior of Dickon was his relationship with his family. Dickon had a good relationship with his parents and siblings. In the matter of parents, the story emphasizes the characterization of Dickon’s mother throughout the plot. He was described as a young boy who opened up and was helpful to his mother. When Dickon did not go playing on the moor, he spent his time “...planting or tending [some crops] for his mother.” Sometimes, when Mrs. Sowerby “...found a moment to spare, she liked to go out and talk to him. She could sit upon the low rough wall and look on and hear stories of the day. She loved this time.” (Burnett, 1911). His habit of cultivating crops to help fulfill his family’s needs later developed to be his willingness to help Mary and Colin re-cultivating the secret garden. Being the central setting in the story, the garden was found dead by Mary in the beginning. Without Dickon’s help, the garden would not have come alive again because Mary and Colin knew

nothing about planting, and it was Dickon who taught them about everything.

Besides having a positive attitude to his mother, Dickon also interacted well with his siblings. He had eleven siblings and played with them a lot both at home and outside. Martha, Dickon’s sister, says, “They tumble about on [the] moor [and] play there all day [and] mother says [the] air of [the] moor fattens [them].” (Burnett, 1911). Even though Dickon was not as wealthy as Mary and Colin, he had a happy childhood life because his basic needs as a child—playing and having some friends to play with—were fulfilled. Socializing is a basic human need, and the first place one can socialize is within their home. Dickon had a good start to fulfill this need—he played with his siblings, communicated and interacted well with them, and opened up to his parents—thus, he found it easy to do this outside his home. Mary said that “...Dickon did not speak to her as if they had never seen each other before but as if he knew her quite well.” (Burnett, 1911). The reason was that he found socializing with a wider society easier than Colin and Mary because they had never even socialized well with any person within their homes.

The second piece of evidence was Dickon’s relationship with other people outside his family. Dickon got along with the people in the neighborhood. A gardener in Colin’s mansion, Ben, said, “Everybody knows him. Dickon’s [wandering] about everywhere.” (Burnett, 1911). The butcher who helped get the plant seeds, the wrestler who showed him some workout techniques to teach Colin, Mr. Roach and Ben who worked as a gardener in Colin’s place, and others knew and liked Dickon. As a result of being known as a trustworthy and strong boy, Colin’s father and doctor trusted him to bring Colin outside—who had never been outside or anywhere else but his chamber. Moreover, Colin who barely liked anyone did not mind and felt excited to see Dickon. He told Mary, “...there’s one boy I believe I shouldn’t mind. It’s that boy who knows where the foxes live. [It is] Dickon.”

From the previous evidence, we can learn that not only honest and friendly to people, but Dickon was also known as a strong boy. Burnett created a significant contrast between his condition and Colin', who was known as a weak, limp, and sour boy. The difference between their physical and emotional conditions was caused by the way each of their environment had conditioned them from an early age. In his behaviorist theory, Watson (2005) believes that exercising can make someone grow as a healthy person, not only in the external part of their body but also in the internal organs because every part of the body is connected. Dickon had trained his body well by doing various outdoor activities.

Furthermore, physical health influences mental stability. Children who often get sick and feel weak tend not to be happy. One way to build a healthy condition for children, both mentally and physically, is by letting them be active and not being overprotective of them. Even though Colin was presented as a limp and weak boy at the beginning of the story, his invalid condition was not because he was born in that condition. Yet, it was because he had been conditioned that way by the people who raised him—his nurses, his servants, his doctor, and even his father. They did not intentionally make Colin to be an invalid person, but they had never trusted his capability since he was born. As a result, it ironically caused Colin to be as invalid as they had imagined since the beginning. However, this problem was solved once Dickon brought him to the garden. He successfully made Colin's physical and emotional conditions better after inviting him to do some activities in nature.

The last observable behavior of Dickon was his interaction with animals and nature. Dickon liked to spend his time amidst nature and cared about animals. Martha said, "Dickon[,] he doesn't mind [the] wet. He goes out just [the] same as if [the] sun was [shining]. ...He found a half-drowned young crow another time [and] he brought it home, too, [and] tamed it." (Burnett, 1911). His interest in exploring nature made him grow up to be a brave, curious, and

strong child. Having a lot of experience in nature, Dickon learned much about many kinds of plants. He spends his daily life in the moorland nearby by exploring the landscape, playing with the animals there, and learning about plants that grow in the wild nature, which gives him the knowledge to tend the secret garden. Mary said, "He was very strong and clever with his knife and knew how to cut the dry and dead wood away and could tell when an unpromising bough or twig had still green life in it." (Burnett, 1911).

Not only with plants, but Dickon also befriended animals. He could understand and communicate with them, and vice versa. However, it was not a part of magic, but it was because he had been getting along with animals for a long time. When Mary and Colin were wondering about such an ability that he had, Dickon answered that "...anything will understand [you], ...but you have to be friends for sure." (Burnett, 1911). Dickon's insights about plants and animals were the very thing that astonished Mary and Colin. Little did Mary and Colin know about the outside world, particularly nature. They spent more than half of their childhood life at home; even Colin had only spent his life inside his chamber before going out for the first time with Dickon and Mary. It was stated in the story that, "...[it] was this mention of Dickon which made Mary decide to go out, though she was not aware of it." (Burnett, 1911).

Dickon was the role model for them. He inspired them, taught them how to cultivate the garden and tame animals, introduced them to his pets, and encouraged Colin to exercise his body, particularly his legs so that he could walk. He made Colin get up from his wheelchair and sit on the ground, digging the dirt and planting the seeds. He even made Colin able to stand, walk, and run—something that neither anyone nor Colin himself believed he could do, but he did it because of Dickon. He assured Colin that, "...when [you] stop [being] afraid [you will] stand on [them], [and you will] stop [being] afraid in a bit." (Burnett, 1911). Later, as soon as Mary's and Colin's physical condition got better, their emotional condition started getting

better too. Mary was no longer entitled as a sour, spoiled, and queer girl; and Colin was no longer sad, pessimistic, had tantrums, hated his dead mother, and scared of the moor wind and air.

Environment

In *The Secret Garden*, Dickon is described as a healthy young lad, both mentally and physically. Dickon was raised by his parents, along with his other siblings. They were not rich, but each of the members of the family could keep a warm relationship with each other. Dickon's home, along with the people who lived there, was the first environment that affected his character development. The first person who played a significant role in raising Dickon was his mother, Susan Sowerby. The story tells a lot about his mother and her role in taking care of the family. Susan was depicted as a supportive and caring mother to her children. She showed her love and care by preparing meals for her children, giving them the freedom to interact with the outside world, and trusting them enough so that they were not afraid to open up to her. Getting limited money from her husband, Susan always managed to feed the whole family. Martha, Dickon's sister, told Mary, "There [was] twelve of us [and] my father only gets sixteen shilling a week. I can tell you my mother [has] put to it to get porridge for [them] all." (Burnett, 1911).

The way Susan appreciated what she got, even if it was a small number of things, and used it to serve her family as well as possible, made her children learn from her how to appreciate things. Martha, Dickon's sister who worked as a servant in Misselthwaite Manor, always told Mary how excited Dickon and her other siblings would be about eating every food that Mary refused to eat. Mary liked to hear everything about Dickon's family, especially about the mother and Dickon. Moreover, the advice she got regarding the food made her less complain and appreciate the meal she was served more. Not only Martha, but Dickon also learned the same thing from his mother. Being as generous as his mother, Dickon always shared the meal that he brought to the garden

with Mary and Colin. Dickon never brought fancy meals—his family could not afford them—to the garden, but Mary and Colin always thought that everything that was made by Dickon's mother tasted delicious and fresh.

Not being generous to her children only, Susan also treated other children as if they were her children. By the moment Susan knew about the secret garden—because Mary, Colin, and Dickon decided to tell her—, she initiatively wanted to help them. Knowing that children tend to be hungry after playing, she prepared meals for them and asked Dickon, "...[to] take a pail [of] good new milk [and she will] bake [them] a crusty cottage loaf or some buns [with] currants in [them], same as you children like." (Burnett, 1911). Having lost the role of mother at an early age, such a caring attitude meant a lot for Mary and Colin. They excitedly ate the simple meal that Dickon's mother prepared for them like a starving little creature. Mary and Colin felt as if they were loved and cared for by their mother, which was something they had never felt before. In the story, Susan became the mother figure to children, which was validated by her friend: "I never had any children myself, and she [has] had twelve, and there never [were] healthier or better ones. I'd always take Susan Sowerby's advice about children myself. She's what you might call healthy-minded if you understand me." (Burnett, 1911).

Furthermore, Susan always gave her children the freedom to explore and enjoy themselves playing alone or with friends. She believed that "[The] more they laugh [the] better for [them all]. Good healthy child [laughing is] better than pills any day [of the] year." (Burnett, 1911). Not only give her children freedom, but Susan also lets them have some privacy. Meanwhile, once Dickon was invited by Mary to the garden, he spent most of his days playing and tending some plants in the garden. As the secret garden was meant to be known only by Mary, Colin, and Dickon, Dickon had to be secretive about it. He told his mother that he needed to do something that he could not tell anyone about yet, but he promised it was neither harmful nor bad. Trusting his son, Susan said, "Eh, lad, [you] can have all [the] secrets

[you] like. I've [known] thee twelve years]." (Burnett, 1911).

The way Dickon was raised by his mother affected the way he behaved, viewed his life, and developed his character. Unlike Mary and Colin, Dickon did not lack the mother's role while growing up. Susan Sowerby, Dickon's mother, was a good-tempered woman. She gave him the chance to explore things beyond his home and trusted him enough for something he did. Such an attitude created a positive connection between the mother and children in return. Dickon's character developed well because he had the space to learn many new things, do a lot of activities that helped make his body stronger, meet a lot of people in the neighborhood, and most important thing, explore his passion and interest towards animals and nature. Moreover, Dickon always made Susan the first person to share with. It was because of the trust that she gave him. It made him feel secure to open up to her.

The second person from his family who had a significant role in influencing Dickon's character development was his siblings. Besides having a supportive mother, Dickon also had supportive and friendly siblings. He played a lot and had so much fun with them, which playing was the thing children enjoyed the most. Even though his family was not wealthy, Dickon never felt pathetic because children did not think about wealth. They are mostly about playing, being cared for, loved, and supported. Moreover, Dickon never felt lonely because the siblings were fond of each other. Mary said, "The children seemed to tumble about and amuse themselves like a litter of rough, good-natured collie puppies." (Burnett, 1911).

The positive interaction he had with his siblings had influenced him while interacting with other people outside his home, especially with his coeval friends, Mary and Colin. Unfortunately, this was one of the things that Mary and Colin lacked in their life. Colin was the only child, while Mary had some siblings who used to bully her. She told Dickon, "...about Basil and his brothers and sisters in India and of how she had hated them and of their calling her

'Miss Mary Quite Contrary.'" (Burnett, 1911). That very calling left a hurtful memory to Mary even after moving to England. However, her perspectives towards siblinghood gradually changed to be more positive after she was introduced to Dickon's siblings. It was the harmony that his siblings maintained to keep in their relationship that astonished Mary.

The second environment that affected Dickon's character development was the moorland, which was the heath located in the neighborhood. As a child, he tended to be more curious, adventurous, and active. Nature provides all the needs to embrace those feelings. Dickon lived by the moorland. This natural environment facilitated him to explore and discover many new things he might not be able to find at home. Dickon said, "I've lived on [the] moor with [the animals] so long. I've watched [birds] break shell [and] come out [and] fledge [and] learn to fly [and] begin to sing, till I think I'm one of [them]." (Burnett, 1911). When Dickon said that he imagined himself as one of the birds, he felt as if he was part of the flock; as if he was the part of nature itself. This condition awakened the free-spirited emotion that Dickon had, which later influenced Mary and Colin to feel the same way towards nature and animals.

Additionally, the fresh air of the moorland also conditioned Dickon's body to be stronger and healthier. Dickon always seemed strong, healthy, and fresh that it wondered Mary one day and made her ask if Dickon had ever caught the flu because of too much going out in nature. He said, "I never ketched cold since I was born. ...Mother says I've sniffed up too much fresh air for twelve years to ever get to sniffin' with cold. I'm as tough as a white-thorn knobstick." (Burnett, 1911). Therefore, as well as his home, the natural environment also played a significant role in Dickon's character development. The main setting in *The Secret Garden* is the garden itself, which was found dead in the beginning. The garden would not mean as much without Dickon's role. Having been familiar with nature from an early age, Dickon became the main character in cultivating the secret garden, which later became the

main place for the development of the other children characters.

In the secret garden, Dickon teaches Colin how to plant seeds inside the ground, water them, and wait for them to grow. Mary and Colin have never spent their time outside, so it excites them to do new things outside. Besides the fresh air that they get, seeing the seeds that they plant together grow also boosts their happiness. They find happiness day by day from the garden and bring this positive energy to the people inside the house, whom they used to be snide to in the past.

Overall, the positive traits of Dickon mesmerized Mary and Colin when they met each other because he brought them such joy they had never experienced before. He took a significant role in changing their past negative thoughts and behaviors towards the better ones. His significance as the supporting role model was as important as the garden itself. However, since this study has focused on discussing the character development of Dickon Sowerby, a further study regarding the influence of Dickon Sowerby on other characters' development is suggested for future researchers.

CONCLUSION

In summary, this study has discussed Dickon's character development. We used two aspects to discuss his character development by connecting to Watson's behaviorist approach. Those are observable behavior and environment. Those two aspects are enough to completely analyze Dickon's character development because his characterization is explicitly described throughout the story. The first aspect, observable behavior, refers to Dickon's activities and utterances shown in his or others' dialogue about him. The second aspect, environment, refers to the setting of place and society in the story that impact Dickon's character development.

The first aspect we discussed was the observable behavior of Dickon Sowerby. Starting from his life at home, Dickon often did activities with his family. Dickon grew to be an active

and cheerful boy. He brought that spirit while interacting with people in the neighborhood and his friends, Mary and Colin. He befriended a butcher, wrestler, and others. Thus, many people knew him. Some called Dickon the moorland boy because he spent his time a lot on the moor. He cared about plants and animals. His mother understood Dickon's interest and did not limit him to practice. Thus, he opened up to his mother and never told a single lie. From the perspective of behaviorism, we concluded that Dickon's behavior has shown a constant positive development. It started from a good relationship he could keep with family, and continued with positive actions he did to others as the range of interaction got wider.

Another aspect we have discussed regarding Dickon's character development is his environment. The first place where children can develop their character is at home. Dickon came from a low-income family with many members within it. However, Dickon did not miss one important thing: a mother's role. In contrast to Mary, who was neglected by her mother when she was in India, and Colin, whose mother passed away when he was born, Dickon had a mother who cared about her family. It is a common belief that a mother is the children's first teacher, especially regarding values and attitude. Secondly, Dickon had siblings who were fond of each other. There were twelve children at home, including Dickon, and they played a lot together. His need to socialize with people was fulfilled before he knew the outside world. The third environment was the moor. Nature is the best place for someone to grow and find their self-value after family. It facilitates someone to explore. Encountering wild animals and plants stimulated Dickon's curiosity, bravery, and problem-solving ability.

Finally, Dickon could expose his positive values once he met Mary and Colin. The transformations that happened to them because of Dickon were significant. For example, Colin could walk for the first time in his life because Dickon kept encouraging him to try. Starting from assuring Colin not to be scared, Dickon involved him in some activities in the garden so that Colin could exercise his body more often.

He even asked his wrestler friend some workout techniques to teach Colin later. He sincerely wanted Colin to be a happy and strong boy instead of always being pessimistic and thinking of his death. Furthermore, Dickon could make Mary turn from a rude and fretful girl to a cheerful and polite girl. Nevertheless, this study aimed to mainly discuss the character development of Dickon Sowerby. Therefore, a deeper analysis regarding the impacts he brings to the other characters is suggested for future researchers.

SUGGESTION

The character development of Dickon Sowerby has been discussed in this article because he has a significant impact on the main characters, namely Mary and Colin. A lot of critics have discussed Mary's and Colin's character development, including their journey and transformation along the story. Yet, no critic has discussed Dickon. Thus, we put forward his characterization to analyze and focus on his character development. From our analysis, we suggest future researchers learn from the developmental process of Dickon Sowerby to see what happens, what he does, and what he has during his childhood that Mary and Colin are missing in their developmental process. In addition, future researchers can specifically explore the influence of Dickon's character on other characters' development. Moreover, future researchers can also investigate the long-term effects of environmental factors on children's growth and well-being in literature and real-life contexts.

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