THE CHARACTERISTICS OF PHILIP NOBLE ANALYSIS
ON THE NOVEL “THE DEAD FATHERS CLUB”

A Paper
Submitted to the Faculty of Adab and Humanities
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for the Degree of Strata One (S1)

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This paper has been defended before the Examination Committee of Adab and Humanities Faculty on August 27, 2010. It has been accepted as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Strata One (S1).

Jakarta, August 27, 2010

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ABSTRACT


This research discusses Matt Haig’s literary work entitled The Dead Fathers Club, which becomes a modern style of writing compared to the William Shakespeare’s Hamlet. It comes with the analysis of characteristics and character types of the main character as the theoretical framework of the research. The objective of the research is to find out characteristics of Philip Noble and to categorize his character types. The writer as the research instrument does a comprehensive reading and understanding by marking evidences within the analysis unit and presenting them in a descriptive qualitative analysis method, which is describing all data that found in brief explanation-writing style.

After conducting the research, the result shows that the author described psychologically about his main character with characteristics such as temperamental, imaginative, lonely, weak, obsessed, lack of confidence, introvert, and brave. The analysis of Philip Noble’s character types shows that Haig presented him as protagonist, round and dynamic character.

By those characteristics analysis and character types, the writer concludes that a sudden absence of a father to the eleven-year old Philip consequences several changes in both his personality and social life. This research also strengthens the most common type of the main character in literary work that came in protagonist, round, and dynamic one.
DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this paper is my own work and that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, it contains no material previously published or written by another person, nor material, which to a substantial extent has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma of the University of other Institute of higher learning except where due acknowledgement has been made in the text.

Jakarta, August 2010

Hanafi Harris
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بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

All praises just be to Allah SWT, the almighty, the lord of the universe, who has given the writer guidance and strength until he could submit this paper. Peace and salutation be upon to the great messenger, our prophet Muhammad SAW, and his families, relatives and all of his followers.

On this occasion, in this short of this paper’s acknowledgement, the writer is eager to express his gratitude to his family particularly to his beloved parents, Mr. Choirul Anam and Mrs. Nila Nuraini, who always give their prayer, never-ending pure love, support, affection, and advices all the time.

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Finally, the writer hopes this paper will be useful for some literary study in advance and it can gives a lot of benefit to the student of English Letters Department particularly who wants to have a future research. The writer realizes that this paper is far from being perfect. Therefore, it is really a pleasure for him to have any constructive suggestion and critic. May Allah bless us. Amin.

Ciputat, August 2010

Hanafi Harris
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CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Research

Novel as one of literary works, which created by human being, mirrors their own life, this is because of several elements that make the wholeness of the novel itself, they are able to represent human’s realities. There are two important aspects in understanding a novel; they are intrinsic and extrinsic elements\(^1\). The intrinsic elements are the analysis of the literature itself without looking to the relation with the extern aspects. They are plot, character, setting, theme, and point of view, which are connect each other to build a novel. The extrinsic elements are the analysis of the literature work itself by looking to the relation with the outside aspects such as psychology, sociology, religious, and philosophy.

In this paper, the writer decides to discuss one of those intrinsic elements, which is characteristics of the main character that is absolutely plays an important rule within a novel, since the character represents human being in a literary work. The number of character within a novel may vary; it can be just one character or more and the character who drives the story often called as a main character.

The characteristics that will be discussed in this research belong to Philip Noble, because he is the main character who dominated the story. Matt Haig through his published novel entitled *the Dead Fathers Club*, which is also

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translated into Indonesian by the writer of this paper himself, introduces about an eleven-year-old British boy named Philip Noble who experiences such hard times in his life after his father’s car accident claims his father’s life. Philip is soon getting into troubles when his father appeared in a ghost shape and told him that his uncle named Alan who has to be responsible for his father’s death. The ghost even introduces him to the Dead Fathers Club, the club whose members were all murdered, gathers outside the Castle and Falcon, the only one local pub belongs to Philip’s family.

When Philip realizes that this Uncle Alan has a design on his mother and the family pub, Philip decides that he must do something to save his family. Unfortunately, as an eleven-year-old boy, Philip is having problem dealing with the term of revenge. On the other hand, he is also experiencing other daily problems for his age, such as a pretty girl, wayward friends, school bullies, and his own self-doubt.

From that brief synopsis, it will be an interesting point to have an analysis on this main character’s characteristics, to seek the author’s idea about how to present a struggle of a child to accept the loss of his father with all his heart and soul by characterizing his main character from a child’s perspective.

Therefore, the writer wants to analyze the characteristics of the Dead Fathers Club’s main character by giving an observation on Philip’s characteristics portrayed by the author in the novel.
B. Focus of the Research

To make this research both easier and more focus in writing, the writer limits the observation on the characteristics and the character types of Philip Noble, as the main character in Matt Haig’s *the Dead Fathers Club*.

C. Research Question

Based on the background and focus of the research above, the research questions proposed are:

1. What are the characteristics of Philip Noble in *the Dead Fathers Club*?
2. What types of character does Philip Noble have?

D. Objective of the Research

This research aims to know Philip Noble’s characteristics and his character types in *the Dead Fathers Club*.

E. Significance of the Research

As one of the requirements for the degree of Strata 1, the writer expects this research will give more information in understanding *the Dead Fathers Club*, especially the characteristics and the character types of Philip Noble as its main character, yet as a further reference for another literary work researches in advance particularly in understanding characteristics of the main character within a novel.
F. Research Methodology

1. Method of the Research

This research uses the qualitative method with an analytic descriptive writing. The writer analyzes the unit of analysis to find paragraphs that describe the characteristics and the character types of Philip Noble.

2. Technique of Data Analysis

Firstly, the writer reads the analysis unit and marks evidences found to seek the characteristics and to categorize the character types of Philip Noble in *the Dead Fathers Club*, then he tries to describe them in brief explanation.

3. Research Instrument

The instrument of the research is the writer himself by reading and understanding the analysis unit to identify paragraphs that will be used as data of the research.

4. Analysis Unit

The analysis unit used in this research is the novel entitled *the Dead Fathers Club* written by Matt Haig, printed by Vintage Books, London, in 2007. This three hundred and fourteen pages novel consists of eighty different sub-titles, which comes in juvenile style conversation, less punctuation, connect each other as a whole story.

5. Time and Place

The writer conducted the research in August 2010 and took place in English Letters Department, Faculty of Adab and Humanities, Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University Jakarta.
A. Definition of Novel

As this research uses one of literary work, called novel, it is necessary for the writer to dig a brief note about the novel itself. The writer quotes several definitions from several sources in understanding what the novel is.

The first source of the writer is the Oxford English dictionary, which states that novel is a fictitious prose narrative or tale of considerable length (now usually one long enough to fill one or more volumes), in which characters and actions representative of real life of past or present times are portrayed in a plot of more or less complexity².

It shows us that novel is just work of art that has a certain standard, from its length and thickness; the players who live and run the story or plot connect each other to represent the real life of humankind in any time. It can be mirrors the life of the author or someone else in the reality.

While Random House Webster’s college dictionary states that novel is a fictitious prose narrative of considerable length and complexity, portraying characters and usu. presenting a sequential organization of action and scenes³.

It is still equal to the first definition that novel is a human creativity in literary work, which consisted of several players, time and place completing with

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certain plot that connect each other to make a whole story readable to its reader comprehensively.

Ralph and Stanton gave note about novel, which stated that novel as a prose fiction of considerable length showing characters in action, and capable of greater complexity in both character and plot than the sort story; moreover, according to them a novel is a book length piece of imaginative fiction⁴.

There is no significant difference with the previous two major English dictionaries in describing about novel, which has to be consisted of certain thickness measured from the length of the story run by characters throughout certain plot, time, and place, but merely just an imitation of human life.

Even Cuddon added to its history that novel derived from Italian novella “tale, piece of news”, and now applied to a wide variety of writings whose only common attributes is that they are extended pieces of prose fiction. These seem to be fewer, and fewer rules, but it would probably be generally agreed that. In contemporary practice, a novel will be between 60-70,000 words and say 200,000⁵. He also gave an agreement that novel is a fictitious prose narrative of considerable length, portraying characters, action, and scenes representative of real life in a plot of more or less intricacy⁶.

Refers to this addition, novel becomes one of literary work that belongs to humankind, which has purpose to tell a story or spread the news to its reader.

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According to several definitions above, the writer notes several certain things about novel that it is an imaginative literary work; mirrors the real life in this world; it has certain length, it consists of characters, actions, plots, and scenes, which connect altogether in order to deliver ideas or themes of the author.

**B. Definition and Kinds of Character**

The writer lists several definitions about character as below:

1. A character is a personality invested with distinctive attributes and qualities, by a novelist or dramatist; also, the personality or ‘part’ assumed by an actor on the stage\(^7\).

2. A character is a person represented in a drama, story, etc \(^8\).

3. A character is the representation of a person in a narrative or dramatic work of art (such as a novel, play, or film)\(^9\).

4. A character is some one in a literary work who has some sort of identity (it need not be strong on), an identity which is made up by appearance, conversation, action, name, and (possibly) thoughts going in the head\(^10\).

5. A character is an imaginary person that lives in a literary work. Literary characters may be major or minor, static or dynamic\(^11\).

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\(^8\) Random House Webster’s College Dictionary, (Random House, Inc, USA, 2001), p.204


According to several definitions above, the writer notes certain things about character; it is an imaginative person by the author of a literary work who has certain attributes and qualities. In addition to development of the novel itself, it may be based upon real entities, contemporary, or historical that refers to human, animal, plant, or other entities that exist and build the story in a novel. Character as one of intrinsic elements of a novel plays a significant role; there is no story without character, so the existence of character is necessary.

The reader of the novel can notify the existence of this character through certain ways, such as through appearance, how many times the character appeared in the novel, by dialog or conversation made by the author for this character, series of actions, which mean all things a character does within the story.

According to Terry W. Ervin II in his article published on September 24 2006, beyond the standard definitions of protagonist as the main character in a literary work and antagonist as the main character or force that opposes the protagonist in a literary work, they are there are seven more common character types, which are:

1. Confidante is someone in whom the central character confides, thus revealing the main character’s personality, thoughts, and intentions. The confidante does not need to be a person.

2. Static character is a character that remains primarily the same throughout a story or novel. Events in the story do not alter a static character’s outlook, personality, motivation, perception, habits, etc.
3. Dynamic character is a character, which changes during the course of a story or novel. The change in outlook or character is permanent. Sometimes a dynamic character is called a developing character.

4. Flat character is a character who reveals only one, maybe two, personality traits in a story or novel, and the trait(s) do not change.

5. Round character is a well-developed character who demonstrates varied and sometimes contradictory traits. Round characters are usually dynamic (change in some way over the course of a story).

6. Foil character is a character that is used to enhance another character through contrast.

7. Stock character is a special kind of flat character who is instantly recognizable to most readers. Possible examples include the “ruthless businessman”, “shushing old librarian” or “dumb jock.” They are not the focus nor developed in the story.

Although the character types are listed separately, characters may be (and often are) a combination. A foil, for example, could also be a round, flat, or even a stock character. While most protagonists in novels are dynamic (change over the course of the novel) and round, they don’t have to be, especially if the novel is plot driven as opposed to character driven. It is not unheard of for a short story to feature a static protagonist.
Some character types are, by definition, opposite and cannot be considered. For example, one cannot have a character that is both flat and round, or a character that is both static and dynamic.\textsuperscript{12}

C. Definition and Methods of Characterization

Both major English dictionaries, the Oxford\textsuperscript{13} and Webster\textsuperscript{14} stated characterization as the creation of fictitious characters, as in a literary work.

Meanwhile the online wikipedia stated characterization as the process of conveying information about characters in narrative or dramatic works of art or everyday conversation. Characters may be presented by means of description, through their actions, speech, or thoughts.\textsuperscript{15}

It means that characterization is a process; it is a means for the reader to know how the characters play their role in a novel. Such as in a real life, when we first meet a real person or a character in a book, we form judgments about that person. We might say something about the person such as “He’s nice,” or “She’s friendly.” Those examples are character traits; they are words that we use to describe a person’s “character” or personality.

We try to figure out what a character in a book is look like by paying attention to the clues the author of the novel gives us. Terry states that characterization is an important element in almost every work of fiction, whether

\textsuperscript{14} Random House Webster’s College Dictionary, (Rondom House, Inc, USA, 2001), p. 204
\textsuperscript{15} http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Characterisation, retrieved on August 3\textsuperscript{rd} 2010.
it is a short story, a novel, or anywhere in between. When it comes to characterization, a writer has two options:

1. Direct characterization

   The writer makes direct statements about a character's personality and tells what the character is like.

2. Indirect characterization

   The writer reveals information about a character and his personality through that character's thoughts, words, and actions, along with how other characters respond to that character, including what they think and say about him.

   An alert writer might recognize that the two methods of characterization fall under the decision to “show” or to “tell”. Indirect characterization “shows” the reader. Direct characterization “tells” the reader.16

   Robert DiYanni added that characterization is the means by which writers present and reveal character, while in revealing the character in fiction itself, he proposed six major methods as the technique of characterization17, and they are:

   1. Narrative summary without judgment.
   2. Narrative description with implied or explicit judgment.
   3. Surface details of dress and physical appearance.
   4. Character’s actions – what they do
   5. Character’s speech – what they say (and how they say it)
   6. Character’s consciousness – what they think and feel.

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CHAPTER III

RESEARCH FINDINGS

In this chapter, the writer will present the data that consist of characteristics found only on main character in form of a table presentation continued by giving the analysis based on evidences that support the data. Then, the writer will complete the analysis with description of Philip’s character types.

The key player who becomes the most dominant character presented with conflicts and actions that shape the story is an eleven-year old child Philip Noble.

A. Data Description

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Corpus / Quotation</th>
<th>Page/Line</th>
</tr>
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</table>
| 1.  | Temperamental | And so I picked up my fork and started to eat and Mum smiled at Uncle Alan thinking he had got me to eat it and that made me so mad and Dads Ghost could see it made me so mad but Mum couldn't see it like my mood was a ghost. She couldn't see it and before I knew what was happening the plate of chilli was flying through Dads Ghost and crashing into the unit door and there was chilli sin carne all over the floor.
That turned the room into a photo. Mum and Uncle Alan and even Dads Ghost didn't move. They just stood or sat and made their mouths into an O. And I went out of the room and heard Mum say Philip! Come back!.
But I didn't come back. I went into my room and my Dads Ghost went too.

I had to get out and I left the stool and I went into the hall and then upstairs and I heard Mum follow. I went into the Living Room and I saw the PlayStation and I saw | 67/18-28    |
| | |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 135/1-10    |
the poker and I picked up the poker with its gold handle like a sword and I picked it up and I pulled out the PlayStation on the carpet and I smashed it SMASH!

I made the PlayStation open up and I saw all wires and the metal and I kept on smashing. SMASH! SMASH! SMASH!

I looked for Gertie and I said Gertie which is stupid because fish don’t speak fish. Then I saw something like a green bit of paper in the water and it was getting smaller and I felt very sick then and I looked at the heater and the heater said 120 not 82 and I dropped the lid and I thought of the Mollies melting and the five Guppies melting and Gertie still melting all her bones and her skin melting.

Dads Ghost came in the room and he said It was Uncle Alan. He turned up the heater.

I shouted No!

And I said in my head Hes dead hes dead hes dead Uncle Alan hes dead.

Mum came in and screamed and then Uncle Alan came in and it stayed in my head Hes dead hes dead hes dead.

I looked down the path to see if anyone was coming and there he was Dads Ghost. He was standing there in his red T shirt but his arms werent cold and he said Be careful Philip. You cant change whats happened.

He didnt care about Leah and that made me mad so I said IT WAS YOU IT WAS YOUR FAULT YOU DID IT YOU KILLED HIM IT WAS YOU.

2. Imaginative

She sighed and crinkled her nose again and made her eyes thin and she said Philip you have an exceptional imagination and that is a good thing to have it really is. But you must be able to separate the things that are real from the things that are not real.

She said Philip you have to try to ignore
these things because they are part of your imagination.

The eyes of the dead fish were looking at me and it made me feel weird and I thought I saw the mouth of the fish move and say Fishmonger but I closed my eyes hard shut and opened them and I know it was my imagination.

Mr. Fairviews face changed into a sheeps face for a second and he said Baaa Baaa and I closed my eyes hard and opened them again and he was back to normal and he said to the stairs Lambkin your friends here.

3. Lonely

And Ross and Gary downed the rest of their Tangos and said See you mate. I said See you. And they went and Carla went and I looked at Uncle Alan behind the bar and he went but after they had all gone the word stayed there in the cigarette smoke air Mate Mate Mate and I liked it.

But now when the bus arrives and brings everyone from Winthorpe Road and Yorke Drive like Dominic Weekly and Jordan Harper I am left on my own and not even Nigel will talk to me.

4. Weak

Another boy I didn’t know said to Dominic Smack him. I didn’t see what happened I just fell on the floor. My head was killing and it hurt so bad it was hurting outside my heat not just inside. Like the whole graveyard was part of my headache. I tried to get up but a foot went into me and pushed all the air out of me. Another foot kicked my bum and my face went into the ground into the grass and I said Dad! Help me Dad!
| 5. Obsessed | When I got into bed I read Mums book that I had kept under the bed since before Hadrians Wall and the book was Murder Most Foul by Horatio Wilson. It is a book of true murders and people who might have been killed. |
| Jordan Harper was in my History class and he was on the desk behind me whispering Skitso Skitso Skitso and then Helmet Helmet Helmet then Daddy? Daddy? Wheres my Daddy? He was flicking bits of rubber on me and making the Back Row laugh and Mrs Fell said Jordan is something funny? If somethings funny why dont you be kind enough and share it with the whole class? Im sure wed all like to hear it. |
| It was cold and the air was spitting rain so I went to the shelter near the Science Block but halfway I got grabbed on my back and it was Jordan Harper and Dominic Weekly and Jordan said Get his legs! Get his legs! Get him on the floor! Dominic put out his leg behind mine and pushed me over it in a Judo way and they were laughing and there were faces watching. They dragged me over the wet leaves over the concrete scraping my jacket and Jordan Harper was saying Post him! I was kicking my legs trying to get their hand off my ankles and there were no Teachers nowhere just Year Sevens and Year Eights and the black post in the shelter was getting near and the lines on both sides of me were faces of giants. Dominic and Jordan got me to the post and my jacket was up in my shoulders and my shirt was coming up. My bare back was scraping the ground and the wet grit was getting in and Agh! the post pushed in my balls and squashed them like fruit and they kept pulling my legs pushing the sicky pain like a punch up inside me. |
I stayed awake all night and I read it to see how I was going to kill Uncle Alan. I looked in it and there were lots of stories about different people.

They had their swords out and inside my head I was saying Go on kill him! Kill your Uncle!
And he did. He killed his Uncle and all the Kings men which were there to trap him. And in the end it was just him and his Mum and she was not cross with him because she knew the King was bad.

Uncle Alan said Ill have to sort the rest out later Carol. Ive got to get the questions done. He said it like a Pub Quiz was more important than my dead fish.
Dads Ghost said Tonight Philip. You can do it tonight.
I said Yes. Im going to.

6. Lack of confident
And then we stopped kissing and then she said You could be my boyfriend.
And I thought about having to kill Uncle Alan and I said I dont know.
And she said Youre meant to say yes. Its bad not to say yes.
And she looked a bit upset and stuck her lips out and I said Yes.
I thought it was weird that she liked me because most girls dont like me but she was different to most girls in Year Seven and most girls in all Years I think.

And it was only me and Nigel and Sad Sack left and Sad Sack was Andrew Kingsman who everyone called Sad Sack because he was like a sack full of sad things. And it was Jordans turn to pick and he was laughing and said to Mr. Rosen Its all right Sir Western can have them.
And then everyone started laughing at me and Sad Sack and Nigel Curtain and an
aeroplane went over the sky and I wanted to be in the aeroplane I didn't mind where it was going.

Ways I can kill Uncle Alan
1. Hammer on his head in his sleep. But I will need a big swing and I might miss.
2. Knife in his neck in his sleep. But the blood might go over Mum.
3. Use a pillow on his face in his sleep. But he is too strong and he might escape.
4. Push him in the River Trent which has a strong current and it will pull him to the bottom and he will DROWN in the BROWN water with his fishing rod. But I will need a very long run up and I might fall in and he always goes fishing with Mr Fairview and SLEEPY EYE TERRY!!
5. Wait for him to climb up a long ladder and push the ladder. But I have never seen him go up a ladder.
6. POISON. You can pour poison into someone's ear when they sleep and it kills them. But there are no poison shops any more. Weedkiller is poison but I don't know if you can pour it into ears.
7. Carrier bag over his head so he can't breathe. But he would have time to take it off and put it over my head.
8. The Garage is wood outside so I could set it on fire where he is the only one there. But. But. But.

I kept trying to speak but all the words were too far away like the yellow ducks in the Goose Fair in Nottingham that I tried to get with the long stick and could never get even when I could see them in front of me. Dad said Tell her Philip. Tell her you can't see her anymore. But her eyes were still the eyes behind the wheelie bins yesterday that could steal anything even my words and I looked at
<p>| 146/25-32 | Dads Ghost and she looked behind her to see who I was looking at. Then she looked back at me and my head was waving up and down and I still didn't have any words so I sighed and this made her frown. Then I closed my eyes and walked to the gate with my eyes still closed because I didn't want to see Leah's eyes or Dads Ghost's eyes and I hit the gate so I opened it and ran off and left Leah just standing there and Dads Ghost running with me all the way home. |
| 162/6-17 | 7. Introvert | I was going to tell her that Ray Goodwin tried to speak to her and I was going to tell her everything. But then I thought that Ray Goodwin was out of the No Time because he had passed more than one birthday and so he was forever in the Terrors. So even if she believed in Ray Goodwins ghost it was too late to help him escape the Terrors and get Revenge. She said Philip? Philip? Are you all right? Philip? I said Yes. And I thought if I told her she wouldn't believe me or she would feel sad for her Dads Ghost and I didn't want her to feel sad or to hate me so I stayed quiet. |
| 79/32 | And I didn't know what to say because I didn't listen to music since Dad died I just watched my fish and did my homework. I used to listen to Dads music which was Marvin Gaye but I remembered just in time and I said 50 Cent. |
| 4/1-3 | 8. Brave | You are meant to be frightened when you see a ghost but I was not frightened because it felt completely normal which is weird because I had never seen a ghost before. |</p>
<table>
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<th>Text</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5/7-9</td>
<td>He nodded to the door and so I shut it and then he said Don't be scared. I said I'm not.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/1-6</td>
<td>Dads Ghost flickered on and at first he looked like he was in too much pain to speak but then he said Philip don't be scared of me. I said I'm not.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38/20-32</td>
<td>And before I had time to say I don't have a phone he said Mr Rosens phone is right there by his bed. You can take it and phone from the toilets. You have to phone and tell her to stay with Renuka. I thought this was stupid because Mum wouldn't believe me anyway and I couldn't steal Mr Rosens phone but Dads Ghost said Mums life is in danger Philip. This is very important. And he said life like LIFE and I thought if it was true I could lose Mum as well and I preferred Dad when he was Dad not a ghost and I didn't want Mum to be a ghost so I pulled back my covers very quietly and tip toed to the place where Dads Ghost was pointing and I picked up the phone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42/17-25</td>
<td>The quiet was screaming and I got to the door and I pressed down the handle and held my breath like I was going underwater. I opened the door and closed it but not all the way and Dads Ghost went through me and in front and pointed at the floor where the keys were. Mr Rosen was snoring and I bent and didn't breathe and my hand went low and touched the carpet and then I moved my hand like a SPIDER and touched cold metal and picked them up in a tight fist clink and I stood up and started to walk out still dark underwater.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
And Dads Ghost was saying Philip no! Dont jump! Philip! Dont jump! And my body was saying Philip no! Dont jump! Philip! Dont jump! But there is a different voice that is louder than the voice of ghosts and the voice of bodies and that voice was the voice I heard when I put my foot onto the air and fell into the water.

B. Characteristics Analysis

Through this chapter, the writer will analyze the characteristics of the main character Philip Noble by using evidences the writer quoted from the text in the novel to support the research.

Philip Noble is an eleven-year old British boy, whose father was killed in a car accident, appears as a bloodstained ghost at his own funeral and introduces Philip to the Dead Fathers Club; the club whose members were all murdered, gathers outside the Castle and Falcon, the local pub that Philip’s family owns and lives above. Philip learns that the person responsible for his father’s death is his Uncle Alan. When Philip realizes that Uncle Alan has designs on his mom and the family pub, Philip decides that something must be done. But avenging his father's death is a much bigger job than he anticipated, especially when he is caught up by the usual distractions of childhood—a pretty girl, wayward friends, school bullies, and his own self-doubt. In understanding the character of Philip, we can see from his characteristics as below:
1. Temperamental

As an eleven-year old child whose father was taken away from his life, Philip Noble has no figure anymore to follow, especially in gaining the feel of being protected with responsibility and love. The presence of a father figure in a family is necessary, considering of his important role toward the other family members, which is a man with responsibility as the main leader of the family, a man who is being responsible to the safety of the family members in term of security, economic, and moral values.

As soon as Philip’s father died, there is no leader anymore in his nuclear family, which consists of Philip himself and his mother. However, Philip realizes that eventually he has to be the one who will replace his father’s role, becomes the leader to the rest of his family member and properties. To the eleven-year old, being the leader of the family is too much bigger role than he has thought before, because there is another man in his family lineage named Alan who is Philip’s uncle, he comes to the family and Philip’s life.

After the appearance of his father’s ghost, which told him that this Uncle Alan is the one who responsible to his father’s death, Philip feels that this Uncle Alan will take his father’s role within the family. He starts to rule not just the family business, but also Philip’s life, which suddenly brings temperamental characteristic to the eleven-year old as represented in Philip’s action as follow:

And so I picked up my fork and started to eat and Mum smiled at Uncle Alan thinking he had got me to eat it and that made me so mad and Dads Ghost could see it made me so mad but Mum couldnt see it like my mood was a ghost. She couldnt see it and before I knew what
was happening the plate of chilli was flying through Dads Ghost and crashing into the unit door and there was chilli sin carne all over the floor.

That turned the room into a photo. Mum and Uncle Alan and even Dads Ghost didn’t move. They just stood or sat and made their mouths into an O. And I went out of the room and heard Mum say Philip! Come back!

But I didn’t come back. I went into my room and my Dads Ghost went too.

We can analyze from the statement above that Philip has a temperamental characteristic. He failed to well behave at the dinner instead of showing his anger toward his uncle, which represented by throwing his plate to the door just after Uncle Alan asked him to eat his dinner. As a child who has bunch of hatred toward his own uncle, every single word and even other simple things come from him, such as protection from people who smashed his family pub, advices he gave him, Philip cannot accept them all nicely but definitely lose his patience and his obedience as a normally children do to their parents.

In other line, we can find the characteristic of Philip, which showed his anger. When Uncle Alan announced to the whole pub that he would like to marry Philip’s mother as soon as possible, Philip failed to control his patience. He hates every single word Uncle Alan said to him, he starts to get out of the pub and heads to the living room to wreck Uncle Alan’s gift as showed in the following lines:

I had to get out and I left the stool and I went into the hall and then upstairs and I heard Mum follow. I went into the Living Room and I saw the PlayStation and I saw the poker and I picked up the poker with

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its gold handle like a sword and I picked it up and I pulled out the PlayStation on the carpet and I smashed it SMASH!
I made the PlayStation open up and I saw all wires and the metal and I kept on smashing. SMASH! SMASH! SMASH!19

The evidence above shows us that Philip, once again, loses his patience. No matter how precious gift he has, considering a PlayStation is a nice game to have for a child at his age, Philip continues on smashing it, which reflected his anger also by the presence of capital letter writing style when he smashed his toy.

Another lines proved that Philip is a temperamental character appear in this statement:

I looked for Gertie and I said Gertie which is stupid because fish don’t speak fish. Then I saw something like a green bit of paper in the water and it was getting smaller and I felt very sick then and I looked at the heater and the heater said 120 not 82 and I dropped the lid and I thought of the Mollies melting and the five Guppies melting and Gertie still melting all her bones and her skin melting.
Dads Ghost came in the room and he said It was Uncle Alan. He turned up the heater.
I shouted No!
And I said in my head Hes dead hes dead hes dead Uncle Alan hes dead.
Mum came in and screamed and then Uncle Alan came in and it stayed in my head Hes dead hes dead hes dead.20

When Philip find all his beloved fish melted he starts to lose control of his emotion, in addition to his anger is the information given by his father’s ghost that Uncle Alan is the man behind all that melted fish. Philip directly believes to what

19 Matt Haig, p.135
20 Ibid, p.174
his father’s ghost said and has a truly anger to kill Uncle Alan to avenge both his fish and his father’s death.

Entering the final chapter of this novel, Philip is still showing his temperamental character, but this time his anger is intended for his own father’s ghost, as we could find out from the following statement:

*I looked down the path to see if anyone was coming and there he was Dads Ghost. He was standing there in his red T shirt but his arms weren't cold and he said Be careful Philip. You cant change what's happened.*

*He didn’t care about Leah and that made me mad so I said IT WAS YOU IT WAS YOUR FAULT YOU DID IT YOU KILLED HIM IT WAS YOU.*

Philip thinks that his father’s ghost ignored Leah, who is Philip’s girlfriend. He only thought about himself, about how to be able to get out of the terror of the death, so this ghost is only care about Philip, not his girlfriend. The ghost does not want Philip to die, because Philip is the only one who can see him and avenge his death, and Leah has no meaning at all.

The author of this novel presents the temperamental characteristic of his main character by showing it in all capital words writing style to strengthen the intention of Philip being mad with his father’s ghost.

2. Imaginative

Another characteristic found through main character beside temperamental is imaginative one. In general, characters at Philip’s age have this imaginative characteristic; they are able to imagine anything beyond reality. In this novel, the

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21 Matt Haig, p.286
The author describes Philip as the character presented with imaginative characteristic in the following statement:

\[
\text{She sighed and crinkled her nose again and made her eyes thin and she said Philip you have an exceptional imagination and that is a good thing to have it really is. But you must be able to separate the things that are real from the things that are not real.}^{22}
\]

\[
\text{She said Philip you have to try to ignore these things because they are part of your imagination.}^{23}
\]

When Philip said to his teacher and counselor named Mrs. Fell that he had met his father’s ghost, even he could be able to have conversation with the ghost, through the teacher’s physical description on the text, which showed rather disbelieve, she directly confirmed the reader that Philip had an extraordinary imagination. It means different with other children at his age. She added that through this unusual imagination, Philip could not define the real things and the other way round.

The next evidence proved that Philip has an imaginative characteristic is described in the following lines:

\[
\text{The eyes of the dead fish were looking at me and it made me feel weird and I thought I saw the mouth of the fish move and say Fishmonger but I closed my eyes hard shut and opened them and I know it was my imagination.}^{24}
\]

Based on the lines above, the writer of the novel also states directly from the point of view of his main character, Philip said he admitted that sometime he

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22 \text{Matt Haig, p.55}
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23 \text{Ibid, p.56}
\]

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24 \text{Ibid, p.74}
\]
made some imaginative things from everything he saw. To this proof, he imagines that the dead fish come to alive once more time with its eyes starred to him while its mouth said “Fishmonger”.

In another occasion, when Philip visited Leah’s house, he met Leah’s father named Mr. Fairview who was being described as a man in full of faith to his religion. He started to believe in his faith more than before; this happened just after his wife’s death. He talked too much about being a good shepherd, which meant a good Christian. As an eleven-year old child, Philip even define shepherd, which is a religion term, as the real shepherd who look after amount of sheep. In fact, after he joins such long conversation with Mr. Fairview while waiting for Leah, he spontaneously imagines him as a sheep with its voice, as we could see in the following statement:

> Mr. Fairviews face changed into a sheeps face for a second and he said Baaa Baaa and I closed my eyes hard and opened them again and he was back to normal and he said to the stairs Lambkin your friends here.\(^{25}\)

From those evidences above, the writer sure that imaginative is a part of Philip characteristics. Philip, in certain occasion, has already aware of his imagination, but sometime it was quite difficult for him to define the things that are real from the things that are not real.

\(^{25}\) Matt Haig, p.86
3. Lonely

Soon after his father died, Philip has sort of peculiarities according to his classmates. It starts with Philip behavior, which is weird that he speaks to nobody; most of his friends have seen him talked alone. Therefore, Philip soon has no friend to play with. Most of his friends assume him as a freak by talking himself; he does unusual things; such as broke the window, screamed out in his sleep, and stole the mini bus when they all had tour to Hadrian’s Wall.

In one occasion, Philip gets his chance to play with his classmates. Ross and Gary who are Carla’s twin son, Carla is the barmaid at Philip’s pub. Therefore, Philip sometime has the opportunity to play with them, as we can see in the statement below:

And Ross and Gary downed the rest of their Tangos and said See you mate.
I said See you.
And they went and Carla went and I looked at Uncle Alan behind the bar and he went but after they had all gone the word stayed there in the cigarette smoke air Mate Mate Mate and I liked it.26

From that statement, we can assume that Philip is lonely and he really wants to have friend around him. When the twins give a farewell with the term of mate, Philip shows his excitement of being a friend to them by keep repeating the word of “mate” three times on his mind to show his feeling.

In other description, the writer of this novel draws Philip’s lonely characteristic in his main character statement as follows:

26 Matt Haig, p.84
But now when the bus arrives and brings everyone from Winthorpe Road and Yorke Drive like Dominic Weekly and Jordan Harper I am left on my own and not even Nigel will talk to me.  

According to the statement above, the writer tries to show the reader through his main character’s dialog that Philip’s classmates are ignoring him. Nobody wants to greet even talk to him.

4. Weak

As a student with several sorts of peculiarities among the others, some of Philip’s classmates often make fun of him. Philip is being a target for unpleasant treatments, both physically and psychologically. We can see those treatments in the following statement:

Another boy I didn’t know said to Dominic Smack him.  
I didn’t see what happened I just fell on the floor.  
My head was killing and it hurt so bad it was hurting outside my heat not just inside. Like the whole graveyard was part of my headache.  
I tried to get up but a foot went into me and pushed all the air out of me. Another foot kicked my bum and my face went into the ground into the grass and I said Dad! Help me Dad!  

From the statement above, Philip is being main target of physical treatment by some of his classmates, and that will be another method in drawing Philip’s weakness. He cannot fight back his classmates instead of looking for backup to his father’s ghost.

27 Matt Haig, p.70  
28 Ibid, p.143
Another unpleasant physical treatment that Philip received is drawn in the next statement below:

*It was cold and the air was spitting rain so I went to the shelter near the Science Block but halfway I got grabbed on my back and it was Jordan Harper and Dominic Weekly and Jordan said Get his legs! Get his legs! Get him on the floor!*

*Dominic put out his leg behind mine and pushed me over it in a Judo way and they were laughing and there were faces watching.*

*They dragged me over the wet leaves over the concrete scraping my jacket and Jordan Harper was saying Post him!*

*I was kicking my legs trying to get their hand off my ankles and there were no Teachers nowhere just Year Sevens and Year Eights and the black post in the shelter was getting near and the lines on both sides of me were faces of giants.*

*Dominic and Jordan got me to the post and my jacket was up in my shoulders and my shirt was coming up. My bare back was scraping the ground and the wet grit was getting in and Agh! the post pushed in my balls and squashed them like fruit and they kept pulling my legs pushing the sicky pain like a punch up inside me.*

It definitely explains that some of his classmates, who gathered outside the classroom in numbers, were intentionally want to hurt him by smacking, dragging, and kicking him.

Another unpleasant psychological treatment given by his classmates is depicted in the following evidence:

*Jordan Harper was in my History class and he was on the desk behind me whispering Skitso Skitso Skitso and then Helmet Helmet Helmet then Daddy? Daddy? Wheres my Daddy?*

*He was flicking bits of rubber on me and making the Back Row laugh and Mrs Fell said Jordan is something funny? If somethings funny why dont you be kind enough and share it with the whole class? Im sure wed all like to hear it.*

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29 Matt Haig, p.188
30 Ibid, p.189
31 Ibid, p.187
Philip’s classmate named Jordan Harper never leaves him alone. In any chance, he tries to disturb Philip in any method, including psychological treatment even in the classroom when the teacher was giving her presentation by mocking him with ugly nickname “skitso” or “helmet” and another action such as reminding and asking him about the presence of Philip’s father. Moreover, he will do anything that made Philip become upset such as flicking bits of rubber on Philip’s body on purpose just for fun.

Based on both physical and psychological treatments above, the writer assumes that weak becomes one of Philip’s characteristic. He failed to show his strength and struggle to defend his dignity in front of his classmates instead of letting himself to be their object of fun.

5. Obsessed

Since the first appearance of Philip father’s ghost after his own funeral, the ghost never stop convinced but put the idea of hatred on Philip’s mind toward his Uncle Alan by saying all necessary bad things of this Uncle Alan. It says that Alan has already sabotaged his car’s brake, he boosted the temperature of Philip’s aquarium up so all his fish melted, and he tried to take over the family pub. However, the most foul of him that he wanted Philip’s mother to become his wife, eventually replacing him as the leader of the family, and he absolutely would control everything for his own sake. This is what Philip called him as “the new King of the Castle”.

Unfortunately, those efforts come in Philip’s mind unfiltered. As the result, Philip becomes obsessed to get rid of his Uncle Alan by any of means. The following lines draw that obsession:

> When I got into bed I read Mums book that I had kept under the bed since before Hadrians Wall and the book was Murder Most Foul by Horatio Wilson. It is a book of true murders and people who might have been killed.

> I stayed awake all night and I read it to see how I was going to kill Uncle Alan. I looked in it and there were lots of stories about different people.32

Philip is trying to have sort of methods in killing his Uncle Alan by reading the book entitled Murder Most Foul written by Horatio Wilson that he found in his parents’ office. He stays up and read the book all night in order to get a perfect way in killing Uncle Alan.

The writer concludes that Philip is being obsessed by the ghost’s request, which is killing his Uncle Alan. That idea can make Philip spent all his night without sleep ungrudgingly just to compile some arts of murder.

Another lines traced by the writer, that Philip is heavily obsessed to eliminate his own uncle are:

> They had their swords out and inside my head I was saying Go on kill him! Kill your Uncle!

> And he did. He killed his Uncle and all the Kings men which were there to trap him. And in the end it was just him and his Mum and she was not cross with him because she knew the King was bad.33

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32 Matt Haig, p.93
33 Ibid, p.170
When Philip cleverly borrowed a movie from DVD shop nearby the neighborhood just to watch his uncle’s facial expression closely to a murderer story of a king set in Italy entitled The Murder of Gonzago, he absolutely sure that he would be able to reveal that Uncle Alan was the man who did responsible to his father’s death.

Soon as the movie showed that the murdered king’s only son, named Honorarius, fought in sword-combat mode against the new king who was his own uncle, named Duke Fortimus, Philip feels that he suddenly become that son with a sword ready to revenge his father’s death. Philip shows his enthusiasm by yelling to support the action of the only son of the late Gonzago; he is deeply obsessed to kill the new king, which means the new king of his Castle and Falcon Pub, his Uncle Alan.

The next evidence found which shows the main character’s obsession is traced on the following statement:

Uncle Alan said Ill have to sort the rest out later Carol. Ive got to get the questions done.
He said it like a Pub Quiz was more important than my dead fish.
Dads Ghost said Tonight Philip. You can do it tonight.
I said Yes. Im going to.34

It happened when the ghost told Philip that Uncle Alan was the man who turned up the heater on Philip’s fish tank until all its living things were dead. Instead of being fully responsible to the melted fish, Uncle Alan tried to walk away to finish the Pub Quiz. Philip is definitely sure that Uncle Alan has no

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34 Matt Haig, p.175
intention to help him sort all dead fish out of the tank even the Pub Quiz is more important than those pathetic-dead fish.

When the ghost finally found Philip’s weakness in that circumstance, the ghost started to agitate him with its main purpose, which was killing Uncle Alan, and proposed him that the perfect time to avenge its death was at that night, it was the night right after the fish incident. It seemed that the obsession Philip had all the time forced him to act with no option left but saying his agreement to the ghost’s persuasion.

Some of Philip’s efforts, which depicted in the novel, prove that this main character has an obsession characteristic; the term of vengeance has become his obsession applied by his willingness to kill his own uncle in any manner possible.

6. Lack of Confident

As an eleven-year old student, Philip deals with some problems at his age. Pretty girls for instance, most commonly they may attract other male students to maintain relationship with them. As for Philip who thinks too much about his father’s demand the presence of a pretty girl can be some of obstruction in reaching his objective, as depicted in the following evidence:

*And then we stopped kissing and then she said You could be my boyfriend.*
*And I thought about having to kill Uncle Alan and I said I dont know.*
*And she said Youre meant to say yes. Its bad not to say yes.*

*And she looked a bit upset and stuck her lips out and I said Yes.*
I thought it was weird that she liked me because most girls don’t like me but she was different to most girls in Year Seven and most girls in all Years I think.  

Based on the paragraph above, Philip’s senior classmate named Leah wanted to be his girlfriend. Instead of giving an agreement to the proposal she offered immediately, Philip hardly has to think it first because he has to consider his father’s demand as most important thing to do. Philip was not truly sure to accept the offer, but after Leah showed her upset against his lack of confident answer, eventually he agreed to be her boyfriend.

In brief analysis, Philip is having lack of confident about himself; he does not believe that he can be a boyfriend to a girl whose grade is a level higher above him. In addition, he thinks that most girls in his school do not like him especially after he did series of weird things when they had trip to Hadrian’s Wall.

The author of this novel draws another Philip’s lack of confident through the rugby game when they had sport exercise at school. The writer has given the evidence as stated as follows:

And it was only me and Nigel and Sad Sack left and Sad Sack was Andrew Kingsman who everyone called Sad Sack because he was like a sack full of sad things. And it was Jordans turn to pick and he was laughing and said to Mr. Rosen Its all right Sir Western can have them.

And then everyone started laughing at me and Sad Sack and Nigel Curtain and an aeroplane went over the sky and I wanted to be in the aeroplane I didn’t mind where it was going.

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35 Matt Haig, p.75-76
36 Ibid, p.106
Philip thought of being onboard as the plane took him away anywhere is better than being a joke to other students. He has no confidence at all to get in the game considering of both team leaders who did not want to pick him as one of their team members, they underestimated his ability in playing rugby.

Furthermore, Philip needs several alternatives in realizing his father’s demand. Unfortunately, as there is no enough confidence about his own ability, his set of plan is just became a list on his mind, it never came to reality as shown in the following evidence:

Ways I can kill Uncle Alan
1. Hammer on his head in his sleep. But I will need a big swing and I might miss.
2. Knife in his neck in his sleep. But the blood might go over Mum.
3. Use a pillow on his face in his sleep. But he is too strong and he might escape.
4. Push him in the River Trent which has a strong current and it will pull him to the bottom and he will DROWN in the BROWN water with his fishing rod. But I will need a very long run up and I might fall in and he always goes fishing with Mr Fairview and SLEEPY EYE TERRY!!
5. Wait for him to climb up a long ladder and push the ladder. But I have never seen him go up a ladder.
6. POISON. You can pour poison into someones ear when they sleep and it kills them. But there are no poison shops any more. Weedkiller is poison but I dont know if you can pour it into ears.
7. Carrier bag over his head so he cant breathe. But he would have time to take it off and put it over my head.
8. The Garage is wood outside so I could set it on fire where he is the only one there. But. But. But.37

37 Matt Haig, p.122
Philip is thinking too much rather than realizing the list he had made. On every single chance he has planned, there is his greater consideration that eventually reduced his confidence by kept saying the “but” word.

Finally, the lack of confident that depicted from characteristic of Philip is shown in the next evidence as follows:

*I kept trying to speak but all the words were too far away like the yellow ducks in the Goose Fair in Nottingham that I tried to get with the long stick and could never get even when I could see them in front of me.*

*Dad said Tell her Philip. Tell her you cant see her anymore. But her eyes were still the eyes behind the wheelie bins yesterday that could steal anything even my words and I looked at Dads Ghost and she looked behind her to see who I was looking at.*

*Then she looked back at me and my head was waving up and down and I still didnt have any words so I sighed and this made her frown. Then I closed my eyes and walked to the gate with my eyes still closed because I didnt want to see Leahs eyes or Dads Ghosts eyes and I hit the gate so I opened it and ran off and left Leah just standing there and Dads Ghost running with me all the way home.*

After couple of weeks since Philip becomes Leah’s boyfriend, his father’s ghost starts complaining. The ghost reminds Philip that his main objective is killing Uncle Alan and asks him to be more focus on that purpose, instead of wasting the time by maintaining such a relationship with her. The longer Philip stayed close to her, the bigger influence he will received, which eventually may distract him in completing the ghost’s demand.

On the other hand, Philip actually gets benefit from his relationship, because Leah is an extraordinary girl that most of boys at school are afraid of her. Her

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38 Matt Haig, p.164
tough characteristic and her tall body made them to think twice if they want to hurt Philip anymore. Nobody can be able to touch him when and wherever Philip stays next to her.

Therefore, when the ghost wants him to break his relationship, Philip has no confidence to finish her. He just closes his eyes and run away from his girlfriend and his father’s ghost.

7. Introvert

An introvert is a person who is energized by being alone and whose energy is drained by being around other people. Introverts are more concerned with the inner world of the mind. They enjoy thinking, exploring their thoughts and feelings. They often avoid social situations because being around people drains their energy, even if they have good social skills.39

There are three ways of deciding someone as an introvert:

a. Introverts always gain the energy with alone time and lose it in large social settings.

b. Introverts are far more likely to think before they talk.

c. Introverts prefer to have in-depth conversations with only one or two people at a time.

According to the brief explanation above, let us see how far that Philip can be classified as an introverted child in the following lines:

I was going to tell her that Ray Goodwin tried to speak to her and I was going to tell her everything. But then I thought that Ray Goodwin was out of the No Time because he had passed more than one birthday and so he was forever in the Terrors. So even if she believed in Ray Goodwin’s ghost it was too late to help him escape the Terrors and get Revenge.

She said Philip? Philip? Are you all right? Philip?
I said Yes.
And I thought if I told her she wouldn’t believe me or she would feel sad for her Dad’s Ghost and I didn’t want her to feel sad or to hate me so I stayed quiet.⁴⁰

From the lines above, Philip firstly seems that he wants to give all information he has to his counselor who was also his teacher, Mrs. Fell. Instead of saying the truth, Philip decides to keep quiet, as there was too much of thought inside his mind.

As noticed before that an introverted person is always thinking the whole thing before deciding to say it and Philip can be the one who has the same characteristic. He likes to put all words only on his mind better than to talk it directly, eventually he does not want to say the truth at all.

The other characteristics of introverts that they are looking for a quiet-peaceful place to get their mood back better than socializing with the others. The following paragraph may be some evidence to support the explanation:

And I didn’t know what to say because I didn’t listen to music since Dad died I just watched my fish and did my homework. I used to listen to Dad’s music which was Marvin Gaye but I remembered just in time and I said 50 Cent.⁴¹

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⁴⁰ Matt Haig, p.162
⁴¹ Ibid, p.79
From the paragraph above, the author shows that after the death of his father, Philip tries to find the peaceful mind by watching his collection of fish or did his homework. However, in fact, before his father died, he also gains the energy from listening to the music. There is no statement found that he likes to socialize with his friend instead of finding the peaceful state in his own chamber whenever he has sort of problems.

8. Brave

It is a common judgment that male is depicted of having brave characteristic and the other sex conversely. To seek Philip’s brave characteristic, the following lines can be some evidences, they are:

*You are meant to be frightened when you see a ghost but I was not frightened because it felt completely normal which is weird because I had never seen a ghost before.*

42 Matt Haig, p.4

And,

*He nodded to the door and so I shut it and then he said Don't be scared.*

*I said Im not.*

43 Ibid, p.5

And,

*Dads Ghost flickered on and at first he looked like he was in too much pain to speak but then he said Philip dont be scared of me.*

*I said Im not.*

44 Ibid, p.10
The three evidences above directly inform the reader that Philip is a brave character dealing with the term of ghost. He can be fearless of ghost just because he does not know about the ugly shape, the worst smell, even the scary voice of wicked ghost. His father’s ghost is the first ghost he met and it came in his real father shape, so it is not surprising that Philip can act as normal although he needs couple of time to accept completely that the ghost who appeared in front of him is not his real father.

The ghost himself repeatedly says to Philip not to be afraid of him because he comes to his son surely in a nice shape as a human body. Even his worst appearance is when he comes silent and shows his painful face only, a little bit bloody on his head, but still with his human shape; a father shape. As quoted from the third evidence above, Philip certainly does not afraid of his father’s ghost.

The author of the novel depicts another Philip’s brave characteristic by the following lines:

> And before I had time to say I don’t have a phone he said Mr Rosens phone is right there by his bed. You can take it and phone from the toilets. You have to phone and tell her to stay with Renuka.

> I thought this was stupid because Mum wouldn’t believe me anyway and I couldn’t steal Mr Rosens phone but Dads Ghost said Mums life is in danger Philip. This is very important.

> And he said life like LIFE and I thought if it was true I could lose Mum as well and I preferred Dad when he was Dad not a ghost and I didn’t want Mum to be a ghost so I pulled back my covers very quietly and tip toed to the place where Dads Ghost was pointing and I picked up the phone.\(^{45}\)

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\(^{45}\) Matt Haig, p.38
Through the paragraph above, the fearless of the main character implied as Philip get all his strength to steal his teacher’s phone in order to make an emergency phone call. Although at the first time he has no guts at all, but the ghost’s word is too much powerful than his fear so finally he did it.

It requires bunch of courage to do such forbidden thing such as stealing something, which we actually have no right of it. However, in the name of safety of another person’s life, especially someone special to our life, most commonly we will do anything possible at all cost. Philip has already proved it by stealing the phone belongs to his teacher, something that he never done before just to make sure about his mother’s safety.

After stealing the phone, the next attempt to save his mother’s life is stealing the minibus key and it is going to be another higher level to do because as an eleven-year old student, Philip has to deal with some series of stealing mission. The next level implied in this statement:

\begin{quote}
The quiet was screaming and I got to the door and I pressed down the handle and held my breath like I was going underwater. I opened the door and closed it but not all the way and Dads Ghost went through me and in front and pointed at the floor where the keys were. Mr Rosen was snoring and I bent and didn’t breathe and my hand went low and touched the carpet and then I moved my hand like a SPIDER and touched cold metal and picked them up in a tight fist clink and I stood up and started to walk out still dark underwater.\textsuperscript{46}
\end{quote}

It proves that Philip gathers all his strength and tries so hard to eliminate his fear of stealing the minibus key. Philip realizes that being a brave person is the

\textsuperscript{46} Matt Haig, p.42
only one way out to complete his series of stealing mission, from the cellular, the minibus key, and drives the minibus out of Hadrian’s Wall.

Philip is not being brave in stealing things only; he is being a fearless person in positive manner as well, like the following paragraph:

And Dad’s Ghost was saying Philip no! Don’t jump! Philip! Don’t jump!
And my body was saying Philip no! Don’t jump! Philip! Don’t jump!
But there is a different voice that is louder than the voice of ghosts and the voice of bodies and that voice was the voice I heard when I put my foot onto the air and fell into the water.  

According to the evidence above, Philip determines to save Leah no matter the consequence he will take. In the name of love, Philip once again proves that he is a brave character who has no fear at all that saving someone’s life by jumping into waterfall is a dangerous yet a heroic thing to do.

C. Character Types of Philip Noble

Philip Noble as the main character on this novel came to represent several common character types proposed by Terry W. Ervin II, they are as follow:

1. Philip Noble as protagonist character

The Encyclopedia Americana stated that Protagonist is the main character in the story or a real event. The protagonist experiences conflict caused by antagonist. However, the concept of antagonist, which considers

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47 Matt Haig, p.287
antagonist as a wicked character, is not true because antagonist is a person who actively opposes somebody or something\textsuperscript{48}.

According to the story, Philip is the main character of the novel. He took almost all parts in the story. Since the story told about his deliberation of his own conscious about should he murder his uncle or not and commit the crime in the end, his presence never ended on every chapter. Furthermore, he experienced conflicts caused by antagonist, which was his own Uncle Alan, who did several things that upset him.

The beginning of the novel tells us that as a main character, the author of the novel portrayed him as a boy whose father was killed in a car accident, but the idea of hamlet came into the author’s mind that this main character has to deal with the term of revenge. He gives him judgment to hate his own uncle through the appearance of his father’s ghost who told him about the real purpose of his uncle toward his family behind nice behavior.

In the middle of the novel, the author keep explore on Philip’s effort to realize the ghost’s demand by showing some real action in killing Uncle Alan such as poisoning him, put the chemical substance in his bath salts, and burning his garage.

By the end of the story, Philip remains as the character with the biggest part; even this one would become the most significant part as the reader could see the conclusion of the story, which is Philip’s final decision about his conflicts. The whole story that told us about Philip’s conflicts in his

life caused by his Uncle Alan made him classified as the protagonist character.

2. Philip Noble as dynamic and round character

According to Judith A. Stanford, dynamic character is a character who changes in some significant way during the course of the work\(^{49}\). It experiences a basic change in character through the events of the story. This change is internal and may be sudden, but the events of the plot should make it seem inevitable\(^{50}\).

While a round character is a major character in a work of fiction that encounters conflict and is changed by it. It tends to be more fully developed and described than flat characters. It is a good sign of a round character if it seems as real to the reader as people they know in real life.

Philip is categorized as both dynamic and round character as his changeable characteristic after several actions through the plot he experienced and sometimes shows contradictory traits such as Philip is having lack of confident every time he tried to kill Uncle Alan but sometimes he is brave enough to show his anger in front of him. He has no fear at all to jump and dive into the river just to save Leah despite of his weakness that he cannot do just one press up.

Usually dynamic or round character represents a fully realistic character, as for Philip, he represents a character of an eleven-year old boy


\(^{50}\) Jane Vetter, *A Scholarly Paper (Seminar) on American Studies - Literature, November 15th 2005*
who has only a mother as his single parent. Philip learns something, undergone something, or made changes that represented his internal struggles and overcoming them.

As the story tells about Philip’s deliberation of his own conscious about should he murdered his uncle, that eventually committed the crime or not, the author of the novel in the beginning of his story describes Philip as a temperamental child. He has amount of hatred for his uncle thus he does not trust him anymore and of course an obsession to kill him because of the appearance of his father in a ghost shape who told him bad things about Uncle Alan.

Another description about Philip is his high imagination as he can see the unreal thing such as ghost, but the fact is that he cannot differentiate between the real and the unreal things. Thus, it influences his social life as an eleven-year old child, which describes as a lonely, weak, and lack of confidence among the other children at his age.

By the end of the story, Philip learns something through the events of the plot. He admits that there are things that true, which described in the following evidence:

I thought What is right and what is wrong? I tried to think all the things I knew definitely and there were only six things I knew definitely and they were:
- Dad died on the bridge near Kelham
- Three men came and smashed the Pub
- My fish melted
- Mr. Fairvies died in the fire at the Garage
- Uncle Alan saved my life
Me and Uncle Alan and Sleepy Eye Terry saved Leah's life.
And I thought about the melting fish. I thought it might not have been Uncle Alan. It might have been an accident. Mum might have knocked it when she was dusting and I blamed him like Emperor Nero blamed the Christians.\(^{51}\)

The author tries to show the reader that Philip has significant changes of his characteristic. From a child who filled with bunch of hatred toward his uncle and tried to kill him in any manner possible, such as poisoned his drink, replacing his bath salt with kind of chemical substance, and burning his garage down, so becomes a child who looks things more careful and reasonable than ever.

Among series of actions he had through the plot such as his murder attempts on his uncle, the relationship among his friends and teachers, there are two scenes of action, which influence his personality. The first one is when he intentionally burned the garage down that killed Mr. Fairview as Leah and Dane’s father instead of his Uncle Alan; from that time, he felt that Mr. Fairview spirit always encourages him to tell the truth and advices him not to believe in his father’s ghost anymore. The second one is when Uncle Alan and his friend named Terry saved him and Leah altogether in a terrible disaster from being drifted into the deep river.

Philip realizes that Uncle Alan is trying to show his affection and responsibility as a father figure for Philip’s family. All this time Philip is too much influenced by the ghost’s words. In fact, there is no such father’s ghost

\(^{51}\) Matt Haig, p.302-303
who suffered the terror that could not rest in peace before his son did the
revenge, but it is just Philip’s imagination as an expression of longing for his
father.

Philip starts to change his opinion about all things that happened to
him. He begins to doubt ghost’s words and trusts the living instead of the
dead, which proved by his wishes that depicted from the following
statement:

I held his hand and watched the tube going into his mouth and
the tube going into his blood.
I said You can’t die Uncle Alan. You’ve got to live. If you live I’ll
make it up to you. It will be great and we can be like a family and
everything and we can have a nice Christmas.
Dads Ghost said inside my head Two minutes Philip. Two
minutes to stop the Terrors.
I said Go away.
Dads Ghost said You are a fool Philip. You are a fool.
I said Go away.
Dads Ghost said I must rest. I can’t stay in pain for ever.
I said Go away! 52

Through the statement above, Philip wishes his Uncle Alan are going
better soon, so he can proves him that he wants to improve his behavior.
Philip chooses to believe that the living is the only one who can shows him
the reality of this life by ignoring the ghost’s words and eventually he has to
accept all realities happened in his life by letting the dead go for good so he
can move on his life normally.

52 Matt Haig, p.312
A. CONCLUSION

*The Dead Fathers Club* is a novel written by Matt Haig, a young British writer, born in 1975 in Sheffield, United Kingdom. It is about the Noble’s family who lives in Newark, a place where the author of this novel grew up. Haig describes the Noble as a nuclear family who run a Pub named Castle and Falcon, one of their members is the eleven-year old son, Philip Noble.

As the main character who builds a story, Philip tends to be the one who was being talked very much within the story. He exists in every single chapter of the novel from its beginning to the end of the story. The writer wants to show the reader about this eleven-year old deliberation of his own conscious that should he murder his uncle to revenge his father death or not, as the story began with the death of Philip’s father in a car accident who appears in front of him in a blood-stained ghost just few hours after his funeral and told him that Alan murdered him by breaking his car’s brakes.

As the only child of the Noble, Philip starts to lose a figure of a father. Meanwhile, the presence of Alan as Brian’s brother within the Noble is getting more intense every day because Brian did not leave anything for the rest of family but the only one Pub that suffered financial loss. Alan’s movement on the Pub and Philip’s mother seems to be a threat for Philip that influences his social life.
The author describes Philip personality with sort of characteristics, which are temperamental, imaginative, lonely, weak, obsessed, lack of confident, introvert, brave. Being temperamental, obsessed, and brave as for his hatred and deep willingness to kill his uncle; being lonely and imaginative as for longing his father’s presence and affection by creating a world that only he can see as the consequence; being weak and lack of confident as for his status as an orphan among his classmates. Finally being introvert as his attempt to protect himself from any disruption he may have from society.

The writer believes that the author of this novel is trying to deliver about the struggle of an eleven-year old child to let his father rest in peace for good. The idea about how to overcome and to accept the death of a father figure with all heart and soul through the eye of adolescence’s perspective is quite well portrayed by the ending of the story that Philip makes a promise not to trust the dead anymore but tries to compromise with the living.

However, Haig’s decision in restructuring Shakespeare’s Hamlet into a modern style with different point of view, of course, and its ending, which brings hope and optimism that people in this world are highly recommended to receive something that may happen on them with joy or pride, thus may becomes another addition particularly to an adolescence literary works.
B. SUGGESTION

As for closing remarks, the writer suggests that in order to get a comprehensive analysis in understanding this novel, the reader should be able to have another different point of view instead of main character discussion, such as the other supporting characters that can be another choice as a subject in analyzing characteristics of a character within this novel.

Moreover, it is not just merely characteristic analysis method in understanding this novel’s character but the reader may take a psychological analysis that will be a proper approach to get deeper analysis on characters within the story. Thus, the reader can get more information and other advantages after analyzing this novel especially through psychological point of view of a child.

Finally, the writer hopes that this research will be useful for future improvement of literary studies, particularly to the Adab and Humanities Faculty of Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University Jakarta.
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