

**THE COMPARISON OF MAIN CHARACTER AND PLOT  
IN THE *SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS (1937)*  
AND *SNOW WHITE AND THE HUNTSMAN (2012)* MOVIE  
(COMPARATIVE LITERATURE APPROACH)**

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**Abstract**

This paper discusses two different Snow White movies, namely, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs (1937)* and *Snow White and the Huntsman (2012)*. The title of this paper is The Comparison Of Main Character And Plot In The *Snow White And The Seven Dwarfs (1937)* And *Snow White And The Huntsman (2012)* Movie (Comparative Literature Approach). The purpose of the study is to describe the similarities and differences in the storyline and the representation of the main characters in both movies. The method used is Descriptive Qualitative with a comparative literature theory approach. The results of the study show that in the animated movie, Snow White relies on the help of others in the story, while in the live action film, the character of Snow White is depicted as a strong woman and is able to change the story herself.

Keywords: Snow White, Comparative, Movie

## INTRODUCTION

The Snow White fairy tale has long been a favorite among children and teenagers around the world, often read as a bedtime story. Originating in Germany, the story was written in the early 19th century by Jacob Grimm and Wilhelm Grimm under the original title *Schneewittchen*. First published in 1812, it is part of the famous collection "Grimms' Fairy Tales" or "Grimm's Household Tales".

The modern adaptation of the fairy tale was done by Disney, who released the animated musical *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* in 1937. The movie was a pioneering step in the animated film industry, introducing new techniques and becoming one of the highest-grossing films in North America at the time. The film's success not only solidified Disney's position as a giant in the entertainment media but also paved the way for the long-term development of animated films.

In 2012, Universal Pictures re-adapted the fairy tale with *Snow White and the Huntsman*, turning the classic story into a live-action film that was a box office success. Although the film switched from animation to live-action, the essence of Snow White's story was maintained, with certain elements added and removed to suit the contemporary era.

This article will discuss a comparison between two important adaptations of the Snow White fairy tale: Disney's animated movie *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* (1937) and the live-action film *Snow White and the Huntsman* (2012). This study aims to identify the differences and similarities in the storyline and the depiction of the main characters in the two films, providing insight into the evolution and interpretation of the Snow White story over time using comparative literary theory. According to Posnett (2018) states that comparative literature is a general view that focuses on the idea that literature has passed through the initial, peak and degeneration stages.

## METHOD

Hikmawati (2017) states that the descriptive approach referred to is research that aims to collect information about the state of a phenomenon at the time the research is carried out without the intention of making general conclusions or generalizations. Then, Sutopo (2021) explains that the definition of qualitative approach research is an effort to describe and describe phenomena, events, social activities, attitudes, religion, beliefs, perceptions and thoughts of individuals and groups.. Therefore, combining qualitative and descriptive methods is highly suitable, as qualitative data can be promptly integrated with literature reviews to identify problems and solutions based on theories from diverse sources like books and online articles. Qualitative approaches are particularly well-suited for social research, offering efficiency by not requiring numerical analysis typical of quantitative methods. This makes qualitative methods ideal for investigating social aspects such as art, literature, culture, and other social phenomena

## DISCUSSION

### **Main Character And Plot Comparison Between *Snow White And The Seven Dwarfs (1937)* and *Snow White And The Huntsman (2012)* Movie.**

#### **A. Main character differences between the movies *Snow White And The Seven Dwarfs (1937)* and *Snow White And The Huntsman (2012)*.**

##### **1. *Snow White And The Seven Dwarfs (1937)*.**

*Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* is a classic animated musical film suitable for all ages. The characters, including Snow White, are depicted in classic Disney style animation, showing her innocence and kindness. Snow White is depicted as a passive character, often relying on help from others.

##### **2. *Snow White And The Huntsman (2012)*.**

*Snow White And The Huntsman* is a live-action film starring a real person played by Kristen Stewart. Snow White's character in this film is very different from the animated version because the main character Snow White is realized with an active character who is tough, strong, and brave in changing her own storyline without waiting to be helped by others.

#### **B. Main character similarities between *Snow White And The Seven Dwarfs (1937)* and *Snow White And The Huntsman (2012)* movie.**

1. In both movies, Snow White is depicted with extraordinary beauty, sincere kindness, and care for people and animals.
2. Snow White is portrayed as a symbol of goodness fighting against evil in both the animation and live-action films.

#### **C. Main character representation between *Snow White And The Seven Dwarfs (1937)* and *Snow White And The Huntsman (2012)* movie**

##### **1. Representation Snow White in the *Snow White And The Seven Dwarfs (1937)*.**

- a. Snow White's personality is innocent, naive, and kind, reflecting traditional values of femininity.
- b. Her role is primarily as a damsel in distress who also fulfills traditional female duties as a housekeeper.
- c. Snow White is depicted as the ideal Disney princess, characterized by her gentleness and elegance.

**2. Representation Snow White in the *Snow White And The Huntsman (2012)*.**

- a. Snow White is depicted as strong, independent, and courageous, showing resilience and maturity.
- b. She takes on the role of a warrior and leader, actively fighting and inspiring others to battle against the evil Queen.
- c. Snow White is portrayed as a modern heroine who independently confronts challenges, with a darker and more realistic depiction than the animated version.

**D. Differences in the background of Snow White's character in the *Snow White And The Seven Dwarfs (1937)* and *Snow White And The Huntsman (2012)* movie.**

**1. *Snow White And The Seven Dwarfs (1937)*.**

In the classic Disney animated film "Snow White," the character of Snow White depicts women in a traditionally passive role, dependent on the hero for rescue. The film reflects past gender views that placed women in a more limited and less active position in determining their own destinies.

**2. *Snow White And The Huntsman (2012)*.**

In this modern film, Snow White is portrayed as a strong and independent character, a departure from her traditional depiction as a passive figure. She is active in determining her destiny and plays a significant role in the plot, reflecting a shift towards stronger and more complex gender representation in modern media.

**E. Plot differences between the *Snow White And The Seven Dwarfs (1937)* and *Snow White And The Huntsman (2012)* movie.**

**1. *Snow White And The Seven Dwarfs (1937)*.**

- a. Exposition with Snow White as a servant with little background detail.
- b. Rising action occurs when Snow White is about to be killed by the huntsman but the huntsman does not have the heart to do it. The climax involves Snow White being poisoned by a disguised queen.
- c. The climax occurs when Snow White finally loses consciousness after eating the poisoned apple given by the queen.
- d. The falling action has Snow White awakened by the prince's kiss.
- e. Resolution with Snow White living happily with the prince.

## 2. *Snow White And The Huntsman (2012)*.

- a. Exposition Shows Snow White's happy childhood and mother's death in the exposition.
- b. The rising action occurs when the huntsman agrees to help Snow White in exchange for a reward.
- c. The climax features Snow White leading a battle to reclaim her kingdom.
- d. The falling action has Snow White defeating Queen Ravvena.
- e. Resolution with Snow White reclaiming her throne and being crowned queen.

### F. **Similarities between the *Snow White And The Seven Dwarfs (1937)* and *Snow White And The Huntsman (2012)* movie.**

1. Both movies feature the magic mirror, symbolizing truth that cannot be concealed.
2. Snow White shares a spiritual bond with animals in both films, surrounded by them in her environment.
3. Dwarves appear in both movies, with the 2012 film depicting them more strongly due to its action fantasy genre.
4. Snow White is awakened by a kiss in both films; however, in the 2012 film, she wakes up from the Huntsman's kiss, not the prince's.

## CONCLUSION

The conclusion of this study is the difference in storyline between the two films adapted from the same fairy tale, but still maintain typical elements such as the magic mirror, the poisoned apple, and true love's kiss. In "*Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*" (1937), Snow White is depicted as a gentle, kind, and dependent character. In contrast, in "*Snow White and the Huntsman*" (2012), Snow White is depicted as a stronger and more independent figure, reflecting the development of the times and a more complex character.

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