

The Characterization of Hua Mulan in Disney's 2020 Live-Action *Mulan*

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ABSTRACT

Disney's 2020 live-action film *Mulan* is remade of the 1998's cartoon version, with several changes, including the characterization of the main character. This study aims to investigate the characterization of Hua Mulan as the main female character in Disney's 2020 Live-Action *Mulan*. Using the qualitative interpretive method by Miles, Huberman, & Saldana (2014), the research was conducted in four simultaneous processes: data collection and condensation, data display, and conclusion drawing/verification. This research revealed that Mulan is a village girl who was reckless, brave, strong, and often acted like a boy. When Mulan grew up, she became a brave and tough person who made she could protect herself and her family. Moreover, it reflects Mulan's independence which is represented by her ability to survive and fight alone for the sake of her family and empire. Furthermore, Mulan also had an extraordinary "Chi" power that made her a strong warrior. Her family and society also respected Mulan for her honesty in revealing her mistakes. The depiction of Mulan, who has a masculine character, implies that Disney's 2020 live-action *Mulan* can be used as a role model by the audience in protecting and loving those around them.

Keywords: Characterization; Main Character; Disney Film

ABSTRAK

Film live-action Disney 2020 *Mulan* dibuat ulang dari versi kartun tahun 1998, dengan beberapa perubahan, termasuk penokohan karakter utama. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui penokohan Hua Mulan sebagai pemeran utama wanita dalam Live-Action *Mulan* Disney 2020. Dengan menggunakan metode kualitatif interpretatif oleh Miles, Huberman, & Saldana (2014), penelitian ini dilakukan dalam empat proses simultan: pengumpulan dan kondensasi data, penyajian data, dan penarikan kesimpulan/verifikasi. Penelitian ini mengungkapkan bahwa Mulan adalah gadis desa yang nekat, pemberani, kuat, dan sering bertingkah seperti laki-laki. Ketika Mulan tumbuh dewasa, dia menjadi

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orang yang berani dan tangguh yang membuatnya bisa melindungi dirinya sendiri dan keluarganya. Selain itu, mencerminkan kemandirian Mulan yang diwakili oleh kemampuannya untuk bertahan hidup dan berjuang sendirian demi keluarga dan kerajaannya. Selain itu, Mulan juga memiliki kekuatan "Chi" yang luar biasa yang membuatnya menjadi pendekar yang tangguh. Keluarga dan masyarakat juga menghormati Mulan atas kejujurannya dalam mengungkapkan kesalahannya. Penggambaran Mulan yang memiliki karakter maskulin, menyiratkan bahwa Mulan live-action Disney 2020 dapat dijadikan panutan oleh penonton dalam melindungi dan mencintai orang-orang di sekitarnya.

Kata Kunci: Karakterisasi; Karakter Utama; Film Disney

1. Introduction

Disney's 2020 live-action *Mulan* is a film produced by Walt Disney Pictures and released in 2020 (Chen et al., 2021). This film was directed by Niki Caro and has action, adventure, and fantasy genres (Wang, 2021). *Mulan* (2020) has become booming and highly anticipated by Disney film lovers because it is a live-action version of Disney's 1998 Animated *Mulan*, which was adapted based on the Chinese folklore "The Ballad of *Mulan*" (Qingli & Ying, 2020). Moreover, this film also involves well-known and professional actors such as Lu Yifei, Jason Scott Lee, Jet Li, and many more. Furthermore, Disney's 2020 live-action *Mulan* tells the story of a warrior named Hua Mulan, disguised as a man to replace her father as a part of the imperial army and save her dynasty. The struggle of Hua Mulan as the main character became phenomenal because of her noble goal to protect the empire and bring honor to her family. Therefore, this makes Disney's 2020 live-action *Mulan* not only attract the attention of the public but also attract the attention of several researchers.

A previous study was conducted by Adyatmasani (2021), identifying the figure of Hua Mulan in the Disney's 2020 live-action *Mulan* has character values like careless, courageous, independent, heroic, and strong in determination from the perspective of liberal feminism. A study by Usman et al. (2021) found values of brave, strong, toughness, independence, and like to compete in Hua Mulan. The study by Usman et al. (2021) also identified gender equality in Chinese culture through Disney's 2020 live-action *Mulan*. Harinanda & Junaidi (2021) found that there are three elements of feminism in the live-action *Mulan* (2020) such as libertarian radical feminism and liberal feminism existentialism feminism. Syafinah & Susilowati (2021) compared the intrinsic elements between Disney's 1998 Animated *Mulan* and Disney's 2020 live-action *Mulan* to find the similarities and differences between these two films. Furthermore, Qingli & Ying (2020) conducted a study on the change in Hua Mulan's character in *Mulan* (2020), which was adapted to strengthen Mulan's motto of "loyal," "truth," and "brave" based on the perspective of the female gender identity. Moreover, a study by Sulistia (2016) revealed the masculine character and female masculinity of Mulan that affected her relationship with her male friends from *Mulan* 1998.

The present study focuses on identifying Hua Mulan's characterization as the main character in Disney's 2020 live-action *Mulan*. The thing that distinguishes the present study from previous studies is the core of the discussion. The present study only discusses how good and bad characterizations are reflected in Hua Mulan as the protagonist character. Although there is a characterization that leads to the bad action, it aims for the good thing and also pioneered the emergence of good characterizations in Hua Mulan. Moreover, Mulan is represented as a careless girl who refers a bad character. However, her carelessness is based on her courage, which causes Mulan to dare to face any situation or condition. Then, because of her courage, Mulan becomes independent and can do everything by herself, starting from protecting herself, her family, and the people around her. Furthermore, Mulan's independence causes Mulan to become a strong individual who can protect herself and others. Therefore, by her courage, independence, and strong sense, Mulan demonstrates her honest characterization by showing her true identity as a woman.

Considering that there are bad and good characterizations of Hua Mulan, the characters of Mulan are described in detail in the present study. According to Putri (2017), characters guide the story's purpose and make the audience care about the message contained in the film. Moreover, Eder (2010) added that characters could also react emotionally to the

audience according to the storyline. Furthermore, characterization is defined as a character's habit, which refers to the description of how the character was created (Gill, 1995). Besides, as Aquino (1976) argued that characterization is the way to develop a character's personality. In a word, a character refers to the personality of the figure, which is described through characteristics (Fasikh & Indriana, 2022). This means that the character's characterization in the film is crucial because it can impact society as the audience. Thus, the description in this study is expected to provide an overview to the reader about how the representation of the good and bad characters of Hua Mulan was found and developed.

2. Method

This study used qualitative interpretive by Miles et al. (2014) because it aims to identify the portrayal of Hua Mulan's characterizations in Disney's 2020 live-action Mulan. The qualitative interpretive is done by following a cyclical process, including data collection and condensation, data display, and conclusion drawing/verification, from the start until the end of the report (Miles et al., 2014). Moreover, a film produced by Walt Disney Pictures entitled Disney's 2020 live-action Mulan was used as this study's subject. This film was released on March 25, 2020, and was directed by Niki Caro. The duration of this film is 1 hour, 55 minutes, and 11 seconds.

By adapting the qualitative interpretive from Miles et al. (2014), three steps are taken in processing the data: data collection and condensation, data display, and conclusion drawing/verification. These three processes were carried out simultaneously, allowing the researcher to go back and forth from one process to another to ensure the validity of the data. Moreover, while collecting the data by streaming, the researcher was also analyzing the data by summarizing and categorizing the data in the table that had been created. The results of the categorized data are described in a data display while continuing the process of data collection and condensation repeatedly. Therefore, the conclusion was drawn and reviewed continuously along with the data collection, condensation, and display to ensure that all study points were summarized.

Furthermore, the first step in processing the data was repeatedly streaming Disney's 2020 live-action Mulan. Moreover, to support the streaming process, the film's note-taking step of plot segmentation was carried out sequentially following the segmentation technique from Bordwell et al. (2017). In the process of note-taking, the portrayal of Hua Mulan's characterizations was highlighted and marked. Further, the characterizations of Hua Mulan in plot segmentation were categorized while continuing streaming and note-taking processes. The depiction of Hua Mulan's characterizations was supported by evidence in the form of a sequence of segmentation and conversation in the film. The sequence of segmentation and conversation was described by involving the elements of the film, such as sound, *mise-en-scene*, and cinematography.

3. Results

Through the data that has been collected by watching the film repeatedly, the researcher found five characterizations of Hua Mulan in Disney's 2020 live-action Mulan, which are represented in the table below.

Table 1. Hua Mulan's Characterization in Disney's 2020 Live-Action Mulan

No.	Characterization	Appearance
1.	Careless	2a, 2b, 2c, 2e, 2f, 2g, 5i, 5j, 5m
2.	Brave	6g, 6h, 7g, 7h, 9h
3.	Independent	6k, 6l, 7c, 7d, 8o
4.	Strong	8h, 8i, 8d, 8p, 10a, 10d, 10e, 10f, 10g, 10h, 10i, 11a, 11b, 11d, 13h, 13l, 13o
5.	Honest	11n, 11o, 14c, 15d

Based on the table above, Mulan has one bad character, namely careless, followed by her four good characters such as brave, independent, strong, and honest. Each of the sub-

sequences above will be explained in detail both narratively and visually in the description below.

3.1. Mulan as a Careless Daughter

Careless is one of the characters who show recklessness in doing something. According to Oxford Learner's Dictionaries, careless is a character in which a person reacts indifferently and does not think long about what he or she is doing, which results in problems. Moreover, this is also in line with the statement from White (1961), which argued that carelessness is negligence and failure to act in dealing with a situation. This character arises because of a hasty attitude that causes problems and damage. The tendency to do something without thinking first is also a reflection of the careless character. Therefore, a careless attitude needs to be avoided by everyone.

In Disney's 2020 live-action *Mulan*, Hua Mulan was known as a careless figure. Hua Mulan's recklessness had existed since she was a child. This is in line with the previous research conducted by Adyatmasani (2021), which stated that Hua Mulan's careless character had been seen from her childhood which is reflected in her rash behavior. Her carelessness was represented in the sub sequence 2a, which shows Mulan chasing the chickens back to the cage. The camera movement was a medium-long shot and slowly zoomed in, highlighting the small village and the activities of the villagers. Among the crowds of villagers busy in the morning, Hua Mulan ran while giggling after the chicken and causing chaos. She knocked down the citizens' fruit basket and broke the wings of the phoenix statue shown in sub sequences 2b and 2c. The camera's angle kept following the direction of Mulan's running and returned a medium close-up. Moreover, the back sound of this scene was accompanied by traditional Chinese instruments, followed by chicken squawking, the falling fruit basket, the broken wings of a Phoenix statue, baby cries, the screams of a woman, and Mulan's parents.

- Mulan's Father : This way! That's the last one! Gently! Mulan forget the chicken! It will come back!
- Mulan's Mother : Tell me your sister is not the cause of this!" (Said her to Mulan's sister)
- Mulan's Mother : Mulan! Take control of yourself!
(Disney, *Mulan*, 2020, subsequence 2e, 00:01:51 – 00:02:23)

This chaos refers to Mulan's carelessness, which was reflected by Mulan's mother's anger and shame in subsequence 2e. Mulan's mother sharpened her facial expression and raised her voice to warn Mulan. Mulan kept running and giggling, reflecting her fun in chasing a chicken. The villagers also panicked, which was reflected by the sounds of gasping women when Mulan dropped many items.

Moreover, following the sub-sequences 2f and 2g, Hua Mulan went up onto the roof and almost slipped. The back sound of this scene was accompanied by Chinese musical instruments and cracks in the roof tiles. This surprised all the villagers, accompanied by the hand gestures of the villagers pointing to the roof tiles and panicked voices. The camera movement was an extreme long shot showing the crowds of villagers below, then returned to a long shot. When the chicken entered the cage, Mulan was about to be advised by her father, but she suddenly slipped. This made the villagers and their father scream in panic. However, Hua Mulan was calm and could overcome the problem by jumping and landing smoothly. There was also a sound effect in wood friction, which Mulan used as a stick. Mulan's father was smiling and proud of Mulan's ability to deal with dangerous conditions. This indicated that Mulan's father was supporting Mulan to be free to express herself (Sulistia, 2016). However, all the villagers were shaking their heads while putting on a cynical face. The villagers started whispering to each other as they were annoyed with Mulan's extreme actions. Therefore, this made Mulan's father change his facial expression to flat and left Mulan.

Mulan's careless character was also found in sub sequences 5i, 5j, and 5m when Mulan and her mother went to the matchmaker. Initially, everything was fine. Mulan's innocence and grace as she poured tea into a cup were also praised by Madam Matchmaker. Moreover, Mulan, who was trained to be elegant, is also related to the figure of the Princess in the story of Issumboshi, who is trained to be beautiful and cultured (Blangsinga et al., 2021). In this case, Mulan was carrying out her obligation as a daughter to bring honor to her family by preparing herself to be a good wife in the matchmaker's place (Sulistia, 2016).

Furthermore, Suwastini, Asri, et al. (2020) stated that an obedient child would receive recognition in the world of society, as did Pi as the character in the story *The Life of Pi*. The camera's angle was a medium shot with soft, soothing back music accompanied by a smile from Madam Matchmaker. Unfortunately, there was a spider that Hua Mulan's sister feared. In the 5i and 5j, Mulan tries to protect her sister by moving the teapot to the side to cover the spider. This made her get scolded by Madam Matchmaker. Madam matchmaker raised her voice, and her face was sharp with irritation. In order to obey the matchmaker's orders, Mulan returned the teapot to the center of the table. This made Mulan's sister scream; everyone there panicked, and the teapot and glass were about to fall. The back sound of the music turned into a sharp instrument showing tension. Mulan was trying to hold the glass and teapot that almost fell with her feet, hands, and head which is shown in the sub sequence 5m. Everyone was shocked by their gaping mouth. She ended up breaking all the objects. Therefore, Madam Matchmaker was angry and annoyed and thought that the Hua family had failed in raising their daughter.

3.2. Mulan as Brave Imperial Army

Brave is one of the superior characters that need to be owned by everyone. Kinsella et al. (2017) underlined that brave refers to the ability to face all danger and pain without fear. The brave character usually exists based on the willingness and choice to fight fear, break through danger, and fight uncertainty. This is usually done when someone feels intimidated and makes them stand up for themselves or others. Thus, bravery must be able to be developed by individuals to protect themselves or the people around them and get out of a problem.

Mulan's bravery was represented in the sub sequences 6f and 6h when Mulan stole her father's armor, sword, and horse to replace her father going to war. The night before Mulan's father left for the empire, Mulan had talked to her father, who was sharpening his sword. The camera movement was extreme close-up focused on Mulan's father's hand and his sword. Mulan's father told how their ancestor, in the form of a Phoenix, protected him when he first went to war until now. As Sulistia (2016) stated, Mulan's decision to replace her father in war represented her bravery. Moreover, Mulan did this as infinite love and dedication to her parents and her emperor (Wang et al., 2020). Mulan was immersed in her father's story, her eyes filled with tears as a sign that she was sad. She hoped that she could be brave like her father. The back sound turned into melancholic, sad music. As Mulan felt pity for her weak father, she decided to replace her father for war. She stole her father's armor, sword, and horse at midnight when all her family was sleeping. Her facial expression changed to serious, sharp, and ready for the war. She went to the empire through the cold night. Mulan's action depicts her braveness in saving her father, which is the same thing that Belle did in the film *Beauty and the Beast* when she went to save her father by walking through the dark, icy forest and running until she arrived at the castle (Putriwana & Yustisia, 2021). In the morning, Mulan's father, mother, and sister were shocked to find that Mulan had lost all their war equipment. This makes Mulan's father worried, and he prays for his daughter always to be safe.

The sub sequence 7g is also found as the other evidence of Mulan's braveness in disguising herself as a man. Mulan was shocked when she saw the imperial soldiers changing clothes and joking around as she entered the rest tent. However, Mulan tried to control herself to stay calm, similar to the character Dory in Disney's *Finding Nemo* (2016), who could adjust and stay calm when she was separated from Marlin (Suwastini, Utami, & Artini, 2020). The angle of the camera was medium shot with the playful music background. She tried to make a flat expression and kept calm until finally their commander instructed them to take a shower. Mulan quickly volunteered to look after her bathing friends, represented in sub sequence 7h. Mulan did this to hide her disguise as a man. The lighting turned dark, followed by the sound of raindrops in the night at the bathhouse. Moreover, she also learned to live with men starting by sleeping and doing her daily activities. Mulan also dared to wrap her chest with a cloth and endure the pain to cover her identity.

Mulan's toughness in pursuing some Rouran army also reflects her braveness in the sub sequence 9h. On the day when the imperial army fought against the Rouran army, Mulan and her other friends served as attackers on the left flank. When the left flank was instructed to move forward, Mulan and her friends chased some Rouran army. The back sound of the music was gripping and loud, accompanied by the screams of the imperial army. Furthermore, an exchange of archery ensued, which caused many of the Rouran

armies and Imperial army to fall from the horses they were riding—the sound effects of the horses' steps, the army's groans, and the archery sound. Even though many left-flank empires fell and withdrew, Mulan persisted and continued to pursue the Rouran army without fear. Mulan's braveness made her labeled as a true warrior (Syafinah & Susilowati, 2021). She remained confident even though she was out of breath. The camera was a medium shot, then slowly turned into a long shot that showed part of the Rouran army running away and surrounded by Mulan.

3.3. Mulan as an Independent Girl

Independent character is a person's flexibility in doing things without involving other people. In order to develop an independent character, there must be strong motivation from within a person. According to Saraswati et al. (2021), independence refers to developing an individual's mindset that can bring a good change for themselves. Besides, being independent also makes people learn to think critically to survive and solve their problems without bothering other people. Therefore, the value of independence must be applied at the earliest age (Sulistia, 2016).

Hua Mulan's independence is shown in the sub sequences 6k and 6l about Mulan's journey to the empire. After stealing her father's armor, sword, and horse, Mulan prays to her ancestors. The camera's angle was a medium shot accompanied by soft Chinese music. Then, she went to the empire with a sharp gaze by riding a horse herself. This leads to a previous study by Khairunnisa (2018), which stated that Disney films increasingly highlight the message that women are independent individuals in the community. Moreover, Mulan underwent the journey independently according to her plans and wishes. This is in line with Rachel Chu's character in the novel *Crazy Rich Asians* (2013), who independently lived in New York with everything she had earned (Suwastini, Banjar, et al., 2020). Further, Mulan walked for days through the days and the nights to arrive at the training ground. The light lighting turned into the dark. Mulan was exhausted until she closed her eyes and fell asleep on the horse in the middle of her journey. Furthermore, she cared for herself by making a bonfire when she wanted to rest in the dark. Besides, Mulan also took care of her horse without help until finally, morning came. She woke up from sleep, and a smile appeared on her lips because a Phoenix came to guide her journey. Thus, she continued her journey and arrived at the imperial army training ground.

Mulan's refusal of Honghui's in the sub sequences 7c and 7d also reflects Mulan's independence. Mulan, who was queuing up in a line of imperial soldiers, suddenly fell after being pushed by the other male soldiers joking with his friends. The camera angle was medium shot with back sound chuckles by a man named Honghui. Looking at the fallen Mulan, in the sub sequence 7c, Honghui tried to reach out and offer help while smiling like he had underestimated Mulan. Mulan swiftly brushed off Honghui's hand and tried to stand up by herself, represented in subsequence 7d.

Honghui : Need a hand, little man? (chuckles)
Mulan : Insult me again and you'll taste the tip of my blade! (points sword at Honghui)
 (Disney, *Mulan*, 2020, subsequence 7d, 00:29:44 – 00:29:52)

Mulan looked annoyed by giving Honghui a sharp glare and tried to get up by herself. She pulled the sword and aimed her sword at Honghui as an act of self-protection. Her voice was round and heavy threatening Honghui, who underestimated her. This indicated that Mulan was independent and could protect herself and solve her problems without the help of men (Putri, 2021). Seeing Mulan's aggressiveness, Honghui changed his facial expression into sharp and flat. There was a sound effect in the form of sword friction being drawn by Mulan. However, Commander Tung noticed Mulan's action, and Mulan was asked to introduce herself. Then, Mulan tried to calm herself and introduced herself as Hua Jun with a firm expression and a loud male voice.

The other independent character of Mulan was represented when Mulan trained her Chi power by herself in the sub sequence 8o. At night, when all her male army friends were sleeping, Mulan chose to go to the nearest river. The camera was a medium shot, recording Mulan's movements while practicing her Chi power. There were sound effects in the form of the sound of the sword rotating and Chinese music with a calming tempo. Mulan gathered all her concentration right by the river and under the trees. She started moving her body, hands, and feet to train her Chi power. Her face turned into a serious mode. Mulan took

advantage of the serenity of nature around her to continue honing her Chi power by herself. Mulan's way of training her Chi power was almost the same as how Elsa used her powers in Disney Frozen II. Elsa utilized the energy influenced by nature into four powers in the form of fire, water, air, and earth (Putri & Retnaningdyah, 2021). In this case, Mulan also could strengthen her Chi power by practicing in nature. Therefore, with the exercises Mulan did by herself, her Chi power became stronger.

3.4. Mulan as a Strong Hua Jun

Strong is a character that emphasizes the great energy and power possessed by a person. Strong character can be seen by the physical ability to do and finish something in a row without feeling tired. A physical defense that is not easily shaken is also a representation of a strong character. A strong character can be realized by honing endurance through self-defense exercises.

Mulan's strength is represented in the sub sequences 8h and 8i about Mulan's Chi power skill. Before fighting against the Rouran army, Mulan and her friends were trained in self-defense using spears in a wide field. The camera was a medium-long shot with the back sound of the imperial army that shouted excitedly and the sound of a spear scraping. In the middle of the practice, Mulan, paired with Honghui, initially practiced well. Moreover, suddenly Honghui deliberately teased Mulan by making another move that caused Mulan's spear to fall. Mulan was trying to ignore Honghui and gave him gaze glare. However, Mulan's patience ran out, and she fought with Honghui. She was involved in a fight with Honghui that eventually became the spotlight for the other imperial army. Honghui was knocked down by Mulan's spear and gave a disdainful look. An angry Mulan immediately fought Honghui using a move from her Chi power. The back sound turned tense, accompanied by the whispers of their friends and the scraping of spears. Commander Tung also witnessed Mulan, who fought using her Chi power. He felt proud with a little smile after seeing Mulan's Chi power. Thus, everyone was amazed and speechless when they saw Mulan's Chi power.

Moreover, the sub-sequences 8d and 8p also show Mulan's strength in carrying 2 buckets of water to the top of the hill. In order to train endurance and strength before fighting the Rouran army, Mulan and her friends were trained to balance themselves by carrying 2 buckets full of water up the hill. The camera's angle was medium shot and shortly turned into a long shot. Mulan and her friends were constantly practicing and trying hard to improve their balance despite failing many times. The back sound was in the form of calm music accompaniment. However, in the end, Mulan became the first person to carry 2 full buckets of water without falling on the hill, as shown in the sub sequence 8p. She felt happy with her achievement by looking at the beautiful view from the top of the hill. All her friends also felt the same and smiled at Mulan's achievement.

The other evidence of Mulan's strength is also found in the sub sequences 10d and 10e when Mulan fought with the witch Xian Lang. When Mulan chased part of the Rouran army, she got lost in the middle of a valley with her horse which is shown in the sub sequence 10a. The camera was medium shot. Suddenly, there was a bird pushed her up, and she fell off her horse. In the sub sequence 10g, the bird turned into a witch and attacked Mulan while asking who Mulan was. The angle was an extremely long shot and shortly turned into a medium shot. Mulan fought the witch and confessed that she was Hua Jun, the imperial army. The witch who knew Mulan's real identity finally attacked Mulan again. Even though her eyes were narrowed, and she groaned because of the pain, she kept getting up and trying to beat the witch shown in the sub sequence 10f. Mulan also fought back against Xian Lang by using her father's sword. There were also added sound effects in the form of people slamming and the sound of sword friction.

Furthermore, the subsequence 11a also represents Mulan's strength when she wakes up again after being stabbed by the witch, Xian Lang. The witch Xian Lang knew the lie from Hua Mulan's disguise as Hua Jun. She was annoyed and disappointed because Mulan did not want to reveal her true identity, which is shown in the sub sequence 10h. This irritated Xian Lang stabbed Mulan with a sharp weapon, which caused Mulan to fall off in the sub sequence 10i. The camera movement was a medium shot with a tense back sound. However, with her strength, in the sub sequence 11b, she got up again and pulled Xian Lang's gun from her chest. The camera highlighted Mulan's chest and turned into an extreme close-up of the reflection of Mulan's eyes on the sword. She got confidence after seeing Phoenix and returned to help the other imperial army against the Rouran army, as

shown in the sub sequence 11d. Thus, this indicates that Mulan has a strong personality like Jackie, the main character of the movie "42" who overcame all his shortcomings to keep moving forward and rising (Ayu, 2017).

The other evidence of the Hua Mulan's strength was also found in the sub-sequence 13o when Mulan killed Bori Khan. Mulan, who knew Bori Khan had brought the Majesty to the new imperial building, immediately followed him, led by the witch, Xian Lang. This action is shown in sub-sequence 13h. The camera angle was extremely long and then turned into medium short. When she arrived at the place, Mulan kept looking for the Majesty's whereabouts and shifted her gaze to the right, left, and up. She was worried about the Majesty and remained alert. Then, she found the Majesty was tied on the top of the building with fire underneath.

Suddenly, Mulan was attacked by Bori Khan. She was emotional and breathed heavily while looking at Bori Khan. The back sound was the sound of sword friction and Mulan and Bori Khan's grunts. She got into a great fight with the powerful Bori Khan, shown in the sub sequence 13l. In the middle of their fight, Mulan lost her father's sword, which made her feel sad. Her eyes were teary, holding back her tears. However, due to Majesty's motivation, Mulan stood back up and fought Bori Khan using her Chi power. As a result, Mulan was able to kill Bori Khan by kicking an arrow thrown by Majesty into Bori Khan's chest. Therefore, Mulan immediately saved the Majesty.

3.5. Mulan as a Her Honesty

Honesty is a moral character that represents the truth and leads to positive things. As (Suud et al., 2020) stated, honesty is an action following the words, rules, and facts about something that happened. Moreover, the honest character is far from pretending and exaggerating reality. This is because honesty refers to the quality of being truthful and having integrity (Istighfarah, 2021). Therefore, an honest character needs to be applied as early as possible to have a harmonious life.

Hua Mulan's honesty is found in the sub sequence 11n when she admits her true identity. After a massive war between the imperial army and the Rouran army, all of the imperial army and Commander Tung were confused about finding the missing Hua Jun. Suddenly, a beautiful girl, Hua Mulan, appeared from behind the snow fog. The camera was medium short. Everyone was shocked. Mulan immediately kneeled in front of her friends and Commander Tung.

Mulan : *I'm Hua Mulan, forgive me*
Cricket : *He's a girl?*
Commander Tung : *You are an imposter! You've betrayed the regiment. You've brought the disgrace to the Hua family!"*
 (Disney, Mulan, 2020, subsequence 11n: 01:12:29 – 01:12:58)

She revealed that she was a woman named Hua Mulan, not Hua Jun. Her face was flat, and her eyes were teary. She tried to hold back her tears for her lied. She regretted her lies and disguised them by lowering her head and directing her gaze downwards. Commander Tung raised his voice and narrowed his eyes, reflecting his disappointment with Mulan, which is described in the sub sequence 11o. His actions were as disciplined and firm as the figure of Severus Snape in the Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone films. Severus Snape strictly disciplined his students who dared to break the rules (Yasamahadewi et al., 2021). This is the same as Commander Tung's firmness in sending Mulan home because she lied. Moreover, Mulan asserted to Commander Tung that she would rather be executed than expelled. However, Mulan's wish was rejected, making her slowly get up and leave Commander Tung and the imperial army with her unsteady steps.

In the subsequence 14c there is also Mulan's honesty about her confession in front of the Majesty. Majesty confronted Mulan after she saved Majesty and killed Bori Khan. The Majesty sincerely thanked Mulan and gave Mulan an award by placing her as an officer on the emperor's guard. He spoke firmly and gently to Hua Mulan. However, Mulan respectfully refused Majesty's offer, which caused everybody to be surprised. All the people watching turned their eyes to each other, which indicated they were surprised at Mulan's refusal. Mulan revealed that she would return to the family she left behind, lied to, and betrayed. Mulan's voice tone gently revealed her lies; her eyes were drooping, indicating her sincerity and honesty. The Majesty accepted Mulan's decision.

The other honesty of Mulan is also found in the sub sequence 15d about Mulan's apology to her father. Mulan, who returned home after her escape, got a warm welcome from her mother and sister. The camera was medium short, accompanied by soft musical instruments reflecting a happy and emotional atmosphere. The villagers were also happy and surprised at the return of Mulan. However, when Mulan saw her father, Mulan cried and apologized to him. She admitted that she had stolen her father's armor, sword, and horse. Her father expressed his happiness and immediately hugged Mulan because his father did not need these items. Mulan's father wanted his daughter to be safe and healthy when she returned home. Mulan ended up crying in her father's arms. Mulan's father was also happy about Mulan's return. Furthermore, Mulan's confession is the same as the confession of honesty represented by the character Dory in Disney's animated feature *Finding Dory* (2016), who admits to Sunfish that she forgot where she saw her parents for the last time (Utami et al., 2020). Both of them represent honesty with a confession.

4. Conclusions

Characterization is one of the crucial intrinsic elements in the film. Characterization makes the characters involved have a nature that follows the storyline that has been set. In Disney's 2020 live-action *Mulan*, the character Hua Mulan has five prominent characteristics: careless, brave, independent, strong, and honest. Careless can be defined as a character who does not pay attention to things and acts in a hurry. Moreover, bravery leads to a positive character based on the willingness to fight fear and danger. Then, independence is defined as a person's ability to do something or get things done without involving other people. Furthermore, it strongly refers to the physical strength possessed by a person in protecting themselves or others. The last, honest is a character that can make someone say something based on facts, even though the facts are bad at the same time.

These five Mulan's characterizations have a close relationship and influence each other. This film also implies that a bad character does not always harm someone. This is represented through the character of Hua Mulan, who has a careless nature but ultimately triggers the emergence of good characters in herself to protect her family. Moreover, this film also teaches the public how to be good at filtering and interpreting the things shown by the media.

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6. Conflicts of Interest

The author(s) declare no conflict of interest.

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