

**AN ANALYSIS OF CLEVERNESS REFLECTED IN
ZHEN'S CHARACTER IN FILM *KUNG FU PANDA 4***

THESIS



By:

MUHAMMAD ROSUL

NIM: 2022070007

ENGLISH LITERATURE DEPARTEMENT

FACULTY OF LETTERS

GRESIK UNIVERSITY

2026

**AN ANALYSIS OF CLEVERNESS REFLECTED IN
ZHEN'S CHARACTER IN FILM *KUNG FU PANDA 4***

THESIS

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By:

Muhammad Rosul

NIM: 2022070007

ENGLISH LITERATURE DEPARTEMENT

FACULTY OF LETTERS

GRESIK UNIVERSITY

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PERSETUJUAN DOSEN PEMBIMBING

Judul Skripsi : AN ANALYSIS OF CLEVERNESS REFLECTED IN
ZHEN'S CHARACTER IN FILM *KUNG FU PANDA 4*
Nama Mahasiswa : MUHAMMAD ROSUL
NIM : 2022070007

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Inggris Fakultas Sastra Universitas Gresik.

Gresik, 31 Desember 2025

Dosen Pembimbing I



Novi Sriwulandari, M.Pd.
NIPY. 107102020150111

Dosen Pembimbing II



Risma Kartika Dewi, M.Pd.
NIPY. 107102020150114

Mengetahui,
Ketua Program Study



M. Aini Yaqin, M.Pd.
NIPY. 107102020180130

PENGESAHAN TIM PENGUJI

Judul Skripsi : AN ANALYSIS OF CLEVERNESS REFLECTED IN
ZHEN'S CHARACTER IN FILM *KUNG FU PANDA 4*
Nama Mahasiswa : MUHAMMAD ROSUL
NIM : 2022070007
Telah di pertahankan/di uji Tim Penguji
Pada Tanggal : 1 Juli 2026

PROGAM STUDI S-1 SASTRA INGGRIS
FAKULTAS SASTRA UNIVERSITAS GRESIK
2026

TIM PENGUJI :

1. Novi Sriwulandari, M.Pd.
NIPY. 107102020150111.

1.

2. Risma Kartika Dewi, M.Pd.
NIPY. 107102020150114.

2.

3. Dr. A. Faizin, S.S., M.Hum.
NIPY. 107102020110063.

3.

Mengetahui,
Dekan Fakultas Sastra



Dr. A. Faizin, S.S., M.Hum.
10710202011006

PERNYATAAN ORISINILITAS

Yang bertanda tangan di bawah ini :

Nama : Muhammad Rosul

NIM : 2022070007

Fakultas : Sastra

Program Studi : Sastra Inggris

Jenjang : S-1

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NIM. 2022070007



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Nama : Muhammad Rosul
NIM : 202207007
Program Studi : Sastra Inggris
Fakultas : Sastra
Judul : an Analysis of Cleverness Reflected in Zhen's Character
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Pembimbing I,

Novi Sriwulandari, M.Pd
NIPY. 107102020150111

Pembimbing II,

Risma Kartika Dewi, M.Pd
NIPY. 107102020150114

MOTTO

"There is no rewrite without the courage to cross out the first draft of who you
used to be."

(Literary Axiom)

"When the map doesn't match the terrain, the clever don't sit and cry, they build a
new path."

(The Street-Smart Guide)

"The measure of intelligence is the ability to change."

(Albert Einstein)

"The only way to make sense out of change is to plunge into it, move with it, and
join the dance."

(Alan Watts)

HALAMAN PERSEMBAHAN

By the grace of Almighty God, this thesis was completed through much struggle and prayer. The author proudly dedicates this work, entitled "An Analysis of Cleverness Reflected in Zhen's in Film *Kung Fu Panda 4*," to:

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2. My extended family, for their enthusiastic support and continuous motivation.
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4. My dear friends, for their constant support, direction, and meaningful companionship.

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Finally, I am fully aware that this thesis still contains limitations and imperfections. Nevertheless, I sincerely hope that this work may contribute valuable insights, enrich academic knowledge, and serve as a beneficial reference for readers and future researchers.

Gresik, 14 Juli 2026

Researcher



Muhammad Rosul

NIM. 2022070007

ABSTRAK

AN ANALYSIS OF CLEVERNESS REFLECTED IN ZHEN'S CHARACTER IN FILM *KUNG FU PANDA 4*

Muhammad Rosul

English Literature Department, Faculty of Letters, Gresik University

Penelitian ini mengkaji bagaimana karakter Zhen digambarkan dalam film animasi *Kung Fu Panda 4* serta bagaimana kecerdikannya tercermin di sepanjang alur cerita. Tokoh dipahami sebagai unsur penting dalam kajian sastra dan film karena berperan membawa alur, membangun konflik, dan menyampaikan makna. Penelitian ini berfokus pada dua pertanyaan, yaitu bagaimana karakter Zhen dalam *Kung Fu Panda 4* dan bagaimana kecerdikan direfleksikan dalam karakter tersebut.

Penelitian menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif dengan memosisikan film sebagai teks naratif. Data utama berupa adegan dan dialog terpilih yang menampilkan Zhen, dikumpulkan melalui penonton berulang dan pencatatan adegan yang relevan. Analisis data dilakukan dengan teori karakterisasi Abrams dan Harpham, khususnya konsep “showing” dan “telling”, untuk menelaah tindakan, ucapan, dan interaksi Zhen.

Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa Zhen direpresentasikan sebagai tokoh yang kompleks, cepat berpikir, adaptif, dan memiliki inisiatif kuat. Kecerdikannya terutama tampak melalui metode “showing”, misalnya ketika ia mengambil keputusan strategis atau menemukan solusi kreatif terhadap situasi sulit, sementara unsur “telling” memperkuat pemahaman penonton atas kecerdasannya. Temuan ini menegaskan bahwa kecerdikan Zhen membentuk karakterisasinya sekaligus mendukung perkembangan alur *Kung Fu Panda 4*.

Kata kunci: kecerdikan, refleksi, karakter.

ABSTRACT

AN ANALYSIS OF CLEVERNESS REFLECTED IN ZHEN'S CHARACTER IN FILM *KUNG FU PANDA 4*

Muhammad Rosul

English Literature Department, Faculty of Letters, Gresik University

This study investigates how the character of Zhen is portrayed in the animated film *Kung Fu Panda 4* and how her cleverness is reflected throughout the narrative. Characters are considered central in literary and film studies because they drive the plot, shape conflicts, and convey meaning. The research focuses on two questions: what Zhen's character is like in *Kung Fu Panda 4* and how cleverness is reflected in her character.

A qualitative descriptive method is employed, treating the film as a narrative text. The primary data consist of selected scenes and dialogues involving Zhen, collected through repeated viewings and careful note-taking. The analysis applies Abrams and Harpham's theory of characterization, particularly the concepts of "showing" and "telling", to examine Zhen's actions, speech, and interactions.

The findings indicate that Zhen is represented as a complex and dynamic character who shows quick thinking, adaptability, and strong initiative. Her cleverness is mainly revealed through the "showing" method, for example when she makes strategic decisions or finds creative solutions to difficult situations, while elements of "telling" reinforce the audience's view of her intelligence. These results suggest that Zhen's cleverness shapes her characterization and supports the narrative development of *Kung Fu Panda 4*.

Keywords: cleverness, reflection, character.

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