

# CHARACTER STUDY OF TWO MAIN FIGURES OF THE SEVEN PRINCESSES FOLKLORE OF NORTH MOLUCCAS

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**Abstract:**“The 7 Princesses“ is a story developed in the community of North Moluccas. It is believed to be the origin story of the Four sultanate in North Moluccas. Fascinating story structure and strong characters contributes to the liveliness of the story. Thus, it was deemed necessary to assess the character and structure of the story and how it can be dissected through exposure assessment using the approaches of folklore theory and the theory of interpretation. Furthermore, this story can be translated into visual forms that are represented by the intrinsic and extrinsic elements of the story in order to build character.

**Keywords:** *Acts 7 Princesses, Adaptation, Characters, Folklore*

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

“The 7 Princesses“ from the community of North Moluccas is a story that has been being passed down through generations. This story is considered to be the origin story of the four Sultanates in North Moluccas (The Sultanate of Jailolo, the Sultanate of Bacan, the Sultanate of Tidore, and the Sultanate of Ternate). The story begins with a man of the Earth (Jafar Sidik) who is married to a woman from heaven (Sifa Nur). They lived on a hill and have three children. After her third child was born, the woman flew back to her place, heaven. The husband then followed his wife using a two-headed bird. When he reached heaven, the man and his wife then had a son. After the newborn son started to grow, all of them returned to earth and regroup with the other three. Moreover, after the four children were considered to have been quite old, the man of the earth along with his wife ordered their children to build their lives. The first child inhabited the area currently known as the Sultanate of Jailolo. The second child inhabited the area currently known as the Sultanate of Bacan. Furthermore, the third child inhabited the area now known as the Sultanate of Tidore. Finally, the fourth son inhabited the area now known as the Sultanate of Ternate. These are the origins of the four areas of North Moluccas sultanate now known as the Moluccas Kie Raha (Four Big Mountains).

## 2. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

According to William R Bascom, the folklore has four functions as follows:

- As a projection system (projective system), namely as a reflection tool of a collective delusion;
- As an instrument of ratification of institutions and cultural institutions;
- As an educational tool for children (paedagogical device);
- As a means of coercion and supervisors that the norms of society will always be obeyed by collective members (Danandjaja, 1996: 19)

These theories are used to dissect the story of the 7 Princesses in society within the story structure as an element of visual construct.

Virtual state is the full manifestation of what happens in writing, that the events were taken from an election meaning, in a lively conversation, from something that appears and starts (Ricoeur 2012: 62).

Meta-Model linguistic is; 1) describes the direct discourse not as a residue language, 2) Describes a structure of discourse and not only irrational events, and 3) Meta-linguistic subordinates functions under the sign of the role of communications connections. (Jakobson in Ricoeur 2012: 42)

(While) language is a mark or rules that are based on the meaning of each conversation that resulted in parole as a special message (Ricoeur 2012: 21).

Parole is the provisional release of a prisoner who agrees to certain conditions prior to the completion of the maximum sentence period, originating from the French parole ("voice", "spoken words")

Whereas the theory as explained by Ricoeur, it is used to see the visual adaptation of the depiction formed from the folkstory structure that is growing in North Moluccas.

### 3. THE RESEARCH METHOD

The design figure, in drawing, will at least have movements and flexibility in order to communicate the points; because the image cannot explain itself (Loomis, 2011: 103). Design figure describes the moves that can determine the character, nature, and personality in which are different in each of the characters and will form an icon that represents something that is more tangible. Based on the book "Understanding Comic" by Scott Mc Cloud (1993: 35).

By understanding the figure design method of Loomis and McCloud, it is used as a character study baseline for intrinsic and extrinsic comprehension within character visualization from the 7 Princesses story.

### 4. DISCUSSION

#### STUDY LEADER / CHARACTER

In the visualization of a character / characters, intrinsic and extrinsic approach is required in which are analyzed from the structure of the story. In this story structure, there are two important figures that needs to be described in detail. The structure of these characteristics is divided into four parts; 1) Physical Characteristics, 2) Psychic Feature, 3) Style, and 4) Cultural Feature.

The creation of the character study of the 7 North Moluccas Princesses is for the application of the 7 Princesses story in the form of picture books or comics. The objective is to document as a cultural artifact of a myth or a folkrole. Thus, the story will experience a cultural preservation and could survive through the generations to come.

#### CHARACTERIZATIONS 1

##### Physical Characteristics

Name	: Jafar Sadek (Jafar Noh)
Age	: 35 Years
Height & Weight	: 165 cm / 55 Kg
Physical Specificity	: Curly Hair, Brown Eyes, Caucasian Brown, mustache
Motion / Gestures	: Steady, nimble
Expression	: Quiet, friendly, authoritative
Occupation	: Hunter, Fisherman, Farmer

##### Accessories

Property : Parang (Machete)  
Attributes : Towel (Headband), long-sleeved shirt, long pants  
Special Feature : Proportional  
**Feature Psychic**  
Character : Calm, assertive  
Temperament : Patient, cheerful,  
General Conditions : Calm  
Sensitivity : Sentimental  
The spirit of Life : Optimistic  
Imagination / Ability : Fight  
**Feature Culture**  
Ethnic / Tribal / Nation : East Melayu  
Order Value / Culture : North Moluccas





Figure 1 Illustration for *Jafar Sadik* (Jafar Noh)  
Source: Personal Documentation

## CHARACTERIZATIONS 2

### Physical characteristics

Name	: Nur-Sifa
Age	: 20 Years
Height & Weight	: 145 cm / 35 Kg
Physical Specificity	: Luras Long Hair, Brown Eyes, White, Oval Face
Motion / Gestures	: Flexible, graceful
Expression	: Gracious, friendly, smile
Occupation	: Housewife, Fisher, Farmer

### Accessories

Property	: Stab bun
Attributes	: Long-sleeved shirt, Kemben, Sheath
Special Feature	: Proportional, winged

### Feature Psychic

Character	: Calm, motherly
Temperament	: Patient, compassionate
General Conditions	: Calm
Sensitivity	: Sensitive
The spirit of Life	: Optimistic
Imagination / Ability	: Fly

### Cultural characteristics

Ethnic / Tribal / Nation	: East Melayu
Order Value / Culture	: North Moluccas

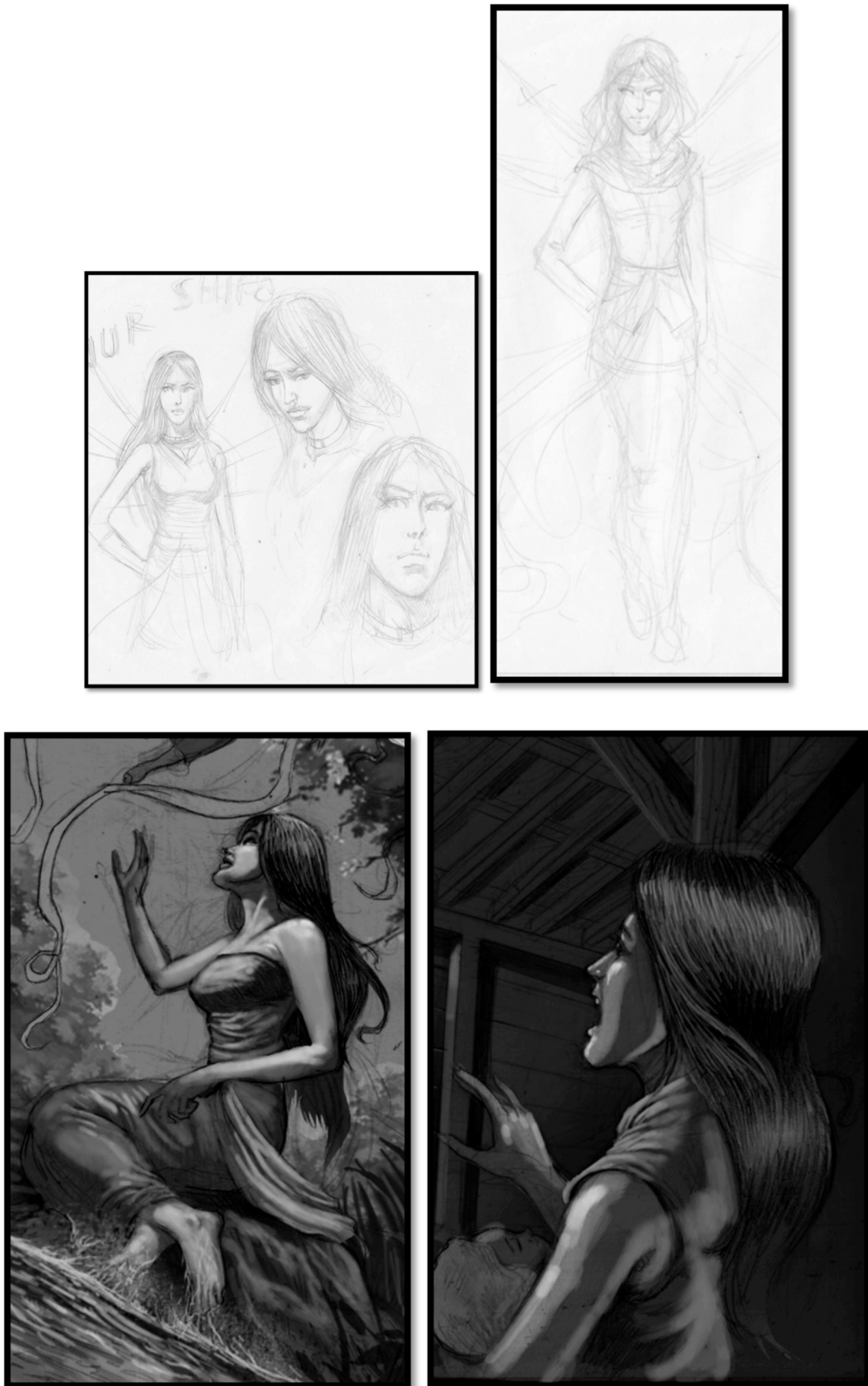


Figure 2 Illustration for *Nur-syifa*  
Source: Personal Documentation



Figure 3 Illustration of *Opening of the 4 Sultanate of North Maluku*.  
Source: Personal Documentation

## 5. CONCLUSION OF DESIGN

The visualization of the “7 Princesses“ characters is based from the story itself. The depiction of the first figure (Jafar Sidik) in forming the character reflects a man of the earth with an understated figure and patience. Meanwhile, the depiction of the sky woman (Nur Sifa) is a loving and patient character that can be illustrated by the visualization. Given these points, it can be explained that the creation of a visual illustration on a character / characters is strongly associated with the intrinsic and extrinsic elements as it can be seen from the structure of the story and where it is originated. The extrinsic element as mentioned here covers the parts that form a visual construct of a character, like the cultural structure which influence the visualization on the clothers and accessories used by the character. Whereas the intrinsic element influence the facial expression, body posture, age, and the personality of the character.

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