
ROMANCE, GERMANIC, AND OTHER LANGUAGES

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THE DESTROYER PSYCHOLINGUISTIC ARCHETYPE

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The discipline of film studies has recently seen the fledgling rise of Jungian film theory. Since the 1970s Freud-Lacanian framework has been cemented into one of the dominant tools in film studies while other psychoanalytic approaches have been marginalized. Film studies have recently begun to employ Jung's concept of archetypes prototypical characters which play the role of blueprint in constructing clear-cut characters [1, p. 14]. New typologies of archetype characters appear to reflect the changes in the constantly developing world of literature, theater, film, comics and other forms of entertainment.

Writing is a form of psychology. Writers – the good ones anyway – are keen observers of human nature and they capture it in their characters and storytelling. They show the behaviours, the thought processes, and the ways people make meaning out of their experiences and events and turn these into provoking entertainment [2, p. 5].

Tracking language use such as tracking people's gaze can tell us where they are attending. At the most superficial level, content word categories explicitly reveal where individuals are focusing. Those thinking about death, sex, money, or friends will refer to them in their writing or conversation [3, p. 30].

The aim of the research is to identify the elements of the psycholinguistic image of the main antagonist Hela in the superhero film *Thor: Ragnarok* based on the Marvel Comics and directed by Taika Waititi (2017). The task consists of two stages, at the first of which I identify the psychological characteristics of the character to determine to which of the archetypes Hela belongs. As the basis, I take the classification of film archetypes by V. Schmidt [4, p. 107-108]. At the second stage, I distinguish the speech peculiarities of the character that reflect her psychological image.

This paper explores 33 Hela's turns of dialogues in the film. According to V. Schmidt's classification, Hela belongs to the Destroyer archetype, which is a negative representation of the goddess of transformation, love and wisdom Isis (to compare the archetype with the positive representation of Isis, namely Female Messiah, see [5]). There are several crucial characteristics revealed by Hela's monologues.

1) The Destroyer archetype is not only concerned with her own gain and desires. She is a villain in the sense of bringing the highest good for all. All her deeds are completed in the name of others, for their own good and not hers. In Hela's case, the highest good is the power of her people over other worlds. As the Destroyer, she explains her motives to the Asgardian warriors: *HELA: We were once the seat of absolute power in the cosmos. Our supremacy was unchallenged. Yet Odin stopped at Nine Realms. Our destiny is to rule over all others. And I am here to restore that power* [6, 00:32:06].

2) To start her great conquer, Hela first needs to assemble an army of loyal followers: *HELA: Kneel before me and rise into the ranks of my great conquest* [6, 00:32:24]. Since the Asgardians are not keen on the idea, her means are destructive and harsh. She is like the mother who says, «I brought you into this world, and I can take you out if you don't behave.» Hela slays the whole legion to make the rest acknowledge her as their lawful queen: *HELA: Still, it's a shame. Good soldiers dying for nothing, all because they couldn't see the future. Sad* [6, 00:34:08].

3) The previous abstract is one of the few examples depicting that Hela may have some emotions. The screenwriters often present the Destroyer as an emotionless machine given a mission to accomplish – she just does it. There is no emotional or mental involvement in what she does, no remorse, no compassion, no excuses, and no apologies. It is as if she is programmed by the Divine to take care of things. Even in the above-mentioned monologue, her sorrow and regret are only stated but not heartfelt, the words look like a mockery of the stated emotions.

She expresses her true affection only to the ancient dead warriors who once fought with her, including her giant wolf Fenris: *HELA: Fenris, my darling, what have they done to you? With the Eternal Flame, you are reborn. I've missed you. I've missed you all* [6, 00:45:39].

4) The Destroyer sees the world in black and white. She is prone to divide everyone's deeds into either supporting her goals or opposing them: *HELA: Odin and I drowned entire civilizations in blood and tears. Where do you think all this gold came from? And then, one day, he decided to become a benevolent king. To foster peace, to protect life. To have you* [6, 01:41:41].

Her principle is ‘it’s my way or the highway’ and she methodically implements in into life. As the Destroyer, Hela sees only two possibilities for everyone around, they either follow her lead or die: *HELA: You see? No one’s going anywhere. I’ll get that sword, even if I have to kill every single one of them to do it* [6, 01:45:57].

5) She does not care to justify herself to others; they will never fully understand her power or the burden she carries. When Thor tries to reason with her, find the source of her bitterness and ambition, she simply brushes him off: *HELA: It seems our father’s solution to every problem was to cover it up. THOR: Or to cast it out. He told you you were worthy. He said the same thing to me* [6, 01:41:20] ...*THOR: I understand why you’re angry* [6, 01:42:00] ...*HELA: Okay, get up. You’re in my seat* [6, 01:42:15].

6) As the archetype is the key to enlightenment and knowledge, the Destroyer possess secret information or knows something that cannot be explained. As the Destroyer, Hela is enraged that her father Odin tried to hide the true story of their conquests and blood-shedding wars. She knows the truth and is ready to reveal it first the Asgardian warriors: *HELA: It’s come to my attention that you don’t know who I am. I am Hela, Odin’s firstborn, the commander of the Legions of Asgard, the rightful heir to the throne, and the Goddess of Death. My father is dead. As are the princes. You’re welcome* [6, 00:31:36].

Later, she elaborates on the idea to her executioner: *HELA: Does no one remember me? Has no one been taught our history? Look at these lies. Goblets and garden parties? Peace treaties? Odin... Proud to have it, ashamed of how he got it. We were unstoppable. I was his weapon in the conquest that built Asgard’s empire. One by one, the realms became ours. But then, simply because my ambition outgrew his, he banished me, caged me, locked me away like an animal. Before that, Asgard’s warriors were honored, their bodies buried as heroes beneath this very palace* [6, 00:42:57].

7) The Destroyer always challenges others and pushes their limits. Thus, fighting Thor, Hela mocks him: *HELA: Darling, you have no idea what’s possible* [6, 00:24:12]. / *To be honest, I expected more* [6, 01:43:42] / *I’m the Goddess of Death. What were you the god of, again?* [6, 01:47:35]. When Skurge demands that Asgardians bring back the stolen Bifrost sword, Hela makes her executioner prove his loyalty and decapitate an innocent woman: *SKURGE: Asgardians... Some misguided soul has stolen the Bifrost sword. Tell us where it is or there will be consequences. Bad ones. Well? HELA: You. Well? Executioner?* [6, 01:36:08]. She knows that bloodlust is not in her unwilling servant’s nature but pushes him to harm his compatriots.

8) The Destroyer feels the pain of transformation is necessary. She is ready to teach a hard lesson if she is sure it will help her apprentice reach some spiritual growth. As the Destroyer, Hela fights Thor. He loses the right eye in the battle: *HELA: Here's the difference between us. I'm Odin's firstborn, the rightful heir, the savior of Asgard. And you're nothing. So simple, even a blind man could see it. Now you remind me of Dad* [6, 01:43:58]. The lesson is twice painful, as Thor has recently lost his father Odin, who was lacking an eye as well.

9) The Destroyer is a harsh wielder of justice, and she does not play favorites. This trait is illustrated by her attitude towards Skurge. He is the only Asgardian who unwillingly supports her having no other choice except for death. Hela makes him her executioner: *HELA: When I was young, every great king had an executioner. Not just to execute people, but also to execute their vision. But mainly to execute people. Still, it was a great honor. I was Odin's executioner. And you shall be my executioner. Let's begin our conquest* [6, 01:00:12]. Still, as soon as he betrays her, Hela immediately kills him without any hesitation.

The further research aims to create a coherent system of psycholinguistic images frequenting English-language films in XXI century. The holistic typology may serve as the means to improve the general understanding of the characters' speech differentiation, linguistic competence, and skills on conducting psycholinguistic analysis.

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