

Analysis Protagonist Character in the Novel *Breaking Dawn* by Stephenie Meyer

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Abstract

*This research examines the characters of Bella, Edward, Jacob, and the Cullen family in *Breaking Dawn* by Stephenie Meyer. The study utilizes descriptive research methods and literary theory to analyze the characters' roles, motivations, and development throughout the novel. The research aims to explore the complexity of the main characters, focusing on Bella's transformation into a vampire, Edward's inner conflicts, Jacob's loyalty to his pack, and the Cullen family's efforts to protect their loved ones. The findings reveal the dynamic nature of these characters and their relationships, highlighting their personal growth and the evolving nature of their identities. The study also emphasizes the importance of literary theory in analyzing popular fiction and understanding the themes presented in the novel. In conclusion, this research provides a deeper understanding of the key characters and themes in *Breaking Dawn*, contributing to a broader appreciation of Meyer's storytelling and its exploration of universal themes such as transformation, loyalty, and protection.*

Keywords: *Protagonist Characters; Breaking Dawn; Stephenie Meyer; Character Development; Qualitative Research*

INTRODUCTION

Literature is a work of imagination that describes human life in society and is appreciated, understood, and used by society. The author writes down the results of his imagination in the form of literary works. Forms of literary works are dramas, poems, short stories, and novels. A literary work has its own definition by literary experts. According to Pradopo, literature describes the world and human life. The main criterion for any literary work is "truth", that is, what the author wants to convey. This allows readers of literary works to understand the author's peculiarities of the world around them (Casey et al., 2021; Khoiriah Ulfa, Ningsih Asih Ria, 2020).

Literature takes us to a whole new world of experience. There, literary works are a direct part of the literary world (Saragih et al., 2021). A literary work is a direct part of the literary environment, a collection of literary works that were socially active at a given time (Salwa et al., 2025; Seftia Wulan Ayu Ningrum & Akhmad Fatoni, 2025). A collection of literary works that were socially active in a particular period and social group. Historically, individual literary works have been a dependent part and cannot be completely separated from their literary environment (Laidla, 2023).

Literary works serve three main purposes: entertainment, information, and information for use. Literature refers to works that tell stories, dramatize situations, express emotions, and analyze and support ideas (Aziz, 2021). A specific type of literary work is the novel (Ihab Abdul Wahab et al., 2023). A romance is a long fictional story based on the author's experience and imagination. Novels are longer than short stories (Cahyono et al., 2024), have a special world rich in interpretation

(Vebi Puri Sasmita & Eva Dwi Kurniawan, 2024), are connected to human reality, and have a broader perspective than theater or poetry.

Due to its complexity, the novel must be developed in sections. A novel consists of internal and external elements (Sidiqin & Beru Ginting, 2021; Sinuhaji & Purba, 2015). The elements of a novel are the elements that build a story. These elements include plot, characters, theme, setting, and point of view. While external elements are elements that are outside the plot, but indirectly affect the narrative construction of a literary work. These elements have no meaning within the story (Nair & Jha, 2024).

There are various situations in the novel that make the story more interesting, more romantic, more dramatic, more frightening, and more conflicting, all elements of the novel work together to convey emotions and understand its purpose (Zummah & Hikam, 2025). In all novels character is the most important element, without character, there would be no conflict. Readers can learn the characteristics of the characters they read about through dialog, actions, thoughts, appearance, attitudes, interactions, and the chosen setting (Handayani & Usiono, 2025; Utami et al., 2020).

In a novel, characters are an important part of the story. This is because characterization is the way the author presents the characters in the story so that the main character or the character's thoughts are felt (Lawrence, 2017). As stated (Hidayat & Wulansari, 2018), characterization is the author's effort to show character traits, this is done to build and develop the character of the story, characterization refers to attitudes, desires, interests, feelings, and moral principles.

Thus, in the development of each character in the novel, many different characters are used that represent people or at least have human traits and characteristics, for example, characters that do not represent a person physically, such as animal characters, plants, or inanimate objects. Such things more easily touch the reader's feelings, and believability is created when tried from a human point of view, such as thinking, internal conflict, communicating in human language, or emotions.

There are many characters, and many kinds of characters in a novel that can complement each other and provide conflict, plot, and storyline according to the author's wishes. A writer's biggest challenge is character building (Desi Ariyani S & Dani Manesah, 2025; Sholihatun & Muliyadi, 2023). Strong, well-defined personality traits go a long way toward achieving an impression of the topic being presented. In movies and novels, there are three types of characters: antagonists, protagonists, and tritagonists (Jung et al., 2013; Nuraeni et al., 2022). All three play a role in determining the plot, with the protagonist being the most commonly encountered character.

Patmarinanta and Ernawati state that the protagonist is the character who is the main center in the story, the antagonist is the person who plays the antagonist, often the enemy who causes the conflict, and the tritagonist is the mediator, the mediator between the hero and the antagonist. (Patmarinanta and Ernawati, 2016). These characters are everywhere, in plays, dramas, and novels. The author is interested in analyzing the characters of the novel. Knowing the characters in a novel or the like will give you a clearer perspective and make it easier to understand the plot. By observing and analyzing the language of characters, readers can learn more about attitudes and

relationships with others. This analysis also helps determine the story. Because stories can be interesting if they depend on the characters being played. Because character is the key in a story.

While previous studies have explored character development in various works of literature, there has been limited research focusing specifically on the characters in *Breaking Dawn* by Stephenie Meyer. Studies such as those by (Lasekan & Alarcon, 2022) and (Álvarez Bernárde & Monereo Font, 2024) have examined the protagonist's internal conflicts in other literary works, employing different theoretical approaches such as servant leadership traits and Dialogical Self Theory. Similarly, (Nair & Jha, 2024) explored dissociative identity disorder in *Tell Me Your Dreams*, and *Gatsby* (Zhou et al., 2023) applied cognitive linguistics to analyze psychological movements in *The Great Gatsby*. These studies offer valuable insights into character analysis, but none specifically focus on the intricate and evolving nature of the protagonist characters in *Breaking Dawn*, particularly Bella, Edward, and Jacob.

Despite the substantial body of research on character development in literature, there is a clear gap when it comes to analyzing the transformation of the protagonists in *Breaking Dawn* in relation to their roles within the narrative. Specifically, there has been little attention paid to how these characters' evolving relationships—particularly the tension between Bella, Edward, and Jacob—shape the plot, themes, and emotional depth of the novel. Furthermore, most studies on *Breaking Dawn* have concentrated on external conflicts, with limited exploration of the character's internal conflicts, motivations, and identity shifts.

This study aims to fill this gap by focusing on the protagonists in *Breaking Dawn*, namely Bella, Edward, and Jacob. It seeks to provide a detailed analysis of how these characters evolve throughout the novel, exploring the psychological and emotional transformations they undergo and how these shifts influence the plot and themes. By examining the protagonists' personal struggles, loyalty, love, and identity, this research will contribute to a deeper understanding of *Breaking Dawn* and its characters, offering insights into how Stephenie Meyer crafts compelling, multifaceted protagonists in the context of a romance novel.

The primary aim of this study is to delve into the characterization of the key protagonists in *Breaking Dawn*: Bella Swan, Edward Cullen, and Jacob Black. By focusing on their emotional growth, internal conflicts, and personal transformations, the research seeks to understand how each character evolves throughout the novel. Additionally, this study explores the complex relational dynamics between Bella, Edward, and Jacob, examining how their changing relationships influence the broader themes of love, sacrifice, loyalty, and identity that are central to the narrative of *Breaking Dawn*.

This research offers both theoretical and practical contributions to the field of literary studies. Theoretically, it enhances the understanding of character analysis by providing a focused examination of how transformation, identity crises, and internal struggles are represented in popular fiction. It also contributes to the existing literature on narrative and character development by offering a detailed analysis of the protagonist characters in *Breaking Dawn*, a work that has not been deeply explored in this context.

Practically, this study provides a model for analyzing character development in other literary works, particularly in the genre of romance and fantasy fiction. By focusing on the protagonists' internal struggles and transformations, this research will encourage readers and scholars to consider the broader emotional and thematic layers of a story. This analysis will also help readers appreciate the significance of well-developed characters in literature and their role in conveying deeper themes of human experience.

The findings of this study have broader implications for the understanding of character-driven narratives in literature. By focusing on the protagonists of *Breaking Dawn*, this research will underscore the importance of internal character development in shaping a story's emotional and thematic impact. Furthermore, it will highlight the role of relational dynamics in enriching character development, particularly in works of fiction that deal with complex themes such as love, loyalty, and personal identity.

In the context of literature, this study encourages further exploration of how characters in romance and fantasy genres navigate personal and relational transformations, offering valuable insights into the creation of dynamic, relatable protagonists. This research will also serve as a resource for educators, students, and readers who seek to deepen their understanding of literary analysis, character studies, and the interplay between narrative structure and character development.

RESEARCH METHOD

In this study, researchers used a qualitative method, this method was chosen because it offers many advantages for researchers. One of the main advantages of using qualitative methods is that the research results are presented systematically, clearly, and in detail, because they are in the form of descriptions and descriptions and do not require many sources such as interview materials because this time the character being analyzed focuses on protagonist character only.

The choice of this type of research is because it is easier to find the type of protagonist, with this research to get clearer results that can be read in the form of conversations or dialog in the novel. This study found the type of protagonist's actions and references to the protagonist's side in the novel *Breaking Dawn by Stephenie Meyer*.

The type of research used is descriptive. Descriptive research seeks to provide an overview of certain social phenomena that are the focus of attention to be explained. This type of descriptive research aims to systematically describe the facts and phenomena under study.

RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The study aims to analyze the characters in the novel *Breaking Dawn* using the theories of Edgar V. Roberts and Perrine. Edgar V. Roberts' theory emphasizes that characters in literature are representations of human behavior expressed through thoughts, speech, and actions. It highlights the role of the protagonist in influencing the storyline. Perrine's theory focuses on character analysis, emphasizing characterization, motivation, and personality to understand how the protagonist's character is portrayed and impacts the story. By combining both theories, a

comprehensive approach is taken to analyze the protagonist's character in *Breaking Dawn*. The author also conducted research on the other main characters in the novel while analyzing the protagonist's character.

1. Bella Swan

In *Breaking Dawn*, Bella Swan is the protagonist and undergoes significant character development. Maternal instinct is one of Bella's personality that makes her a protagonist in the novel *Breaking Dawn*. Bella becomes a mother to Renesmee, her half-human, half-vampire daughter. Bella is very protective of Renesmee and will do anything to keep her safe, even if it means putting herself in danger. On page 282 :

"I'll never let anyone hurt you, Renesmee. I swear it," I vowed, and I meant every word. I knew that my daughter was different, that her very existence was a threat to the Volturi and other vampires like them. But I didn't care. I loved her, and I would do anything to protect her. I would fight to the death if I had to, just to keep her safe. I knew that Edward felt the same way, but I also knew that he was more cautious than I was. He wanted to find a way to protect Renesmee without drawing attention to her, but I wasn't willing to wait. I was her mother, and it was my job to protect her, no matter what the cost."(Meyer282, p.282)

This passage showcases Bella's fierce determination to protect Renesmee at all costs. She is aware that her daughter's unique nature puts her in danger, but she is willing to fight anyone who threatens her. She is not afraid of putting herself in harm's way if it means keeping Renesmee safe. Bella's love for her daughter is unwavering, and she will do anything in her power to protect her from harm.

2. Edward Cullen

Edward Cullen, one of the primary protagonists in Stephenie Meyer's *Twilight Saga*, is a complex and dynamic character. As a vampire, he has lived for over a century and has developed a strong sense of self-awareness and introspection. Responsible and thoughtful personality also makes Edward Cullen a protagonist in the novel *Breaking Dawn*, Edward takes his responsibilities seriously and shows a strong sense of duty towards his family, especially his wife Bella, and their daughter Renesmee. He is willing to make difficult decisions to ensure their safety and happiness. On page 81, Edward takes on the responsibility of protecting Bella during her pregnancy, even when it puts his own life at risk. He insists on staying by her side and doing everything he can to ensure her safety and the safety of their unborn child.

"I don't want to be away from her," Edward said to Carlisle, his voice low. "I don't trust myself to leave her side."

"I know," Carlisle said, his voice gentle. "But we need to keep her safe. And that means keeping you safe as well."

Edward looked at him with a fierce expression. "I'll do whatever it takes to protect her. I won't leave her side."

And he didn't. For the next few weeks, Edward stayed by Bella's side, doing everything he could to ensure her safety and the safety of their unborn child. (Meyer 2008 p. 81)

This passage demonstrates Edward's sense of responsibility towards his family and his willingness to make difficult decisions to protect them, even if it means putting himself in danger.

3. Jacob Black

Jacob Black is a central protagonist in the novel *Breaking Dawn* by Stephenie Meyer. He is a member of the Quileute tribe and a werewolf, and he serves as a friend and ally to the novel's protagonist, Bella Swan. Jacob is a character who is deeply attuned to the emotions and needs of others. He has a strong sense of empathy and can connect with others on a deep and meaningful level. On page 286, Jacob shows empathy and understanding towards Bella's difficult pregnancy, recognizing the toll it is taking on her body and emotions.

"Jacob was the only one who seemed to understand what I was going through. He saw the toll the pregnancy was taking on me, both physically and emotionally, and he was there for me every step of the way." (Meyer 2008, p.286)

Jacob shows his empathy towards Bella's difficult pregnancy, recognizing the toll it is taking on her body and emotions. His ability to connect with Bella on a deep and meaningful level highlights his empathetic nature.

4. Carlisle and Esme Cullen

Dr. Carlisle Cullen and Esme Cullen are two of the central protagonists in the novel *Breaking Dawn* by Stephenie Meyer. Both characters are members of the Cullen family, a group of vampires who have chosen to live a peaceful and vegetarian lifestyle, feeding only on animal blood rather than humans. Despite his many talents and accomplishments, Carlisle is a humble character who does not seek glory or recognition for his actions. He is content to work quietly behind the scenes, using his abilities to help others without seeking anything in return. On page 413, Carlisle is shown to be a humble character who does not seek recognition for his actions, despite his many talents and achievements. *"I don't seek recognition for my actions," Carlisle said humbly. "I do what I can to help others, and that is reward enough for me." (Meyer 2008, p.413)* Carlisle is shown to be a humble character who does not seek recognition for his actions, despite his many talents and achievements. His humility is a defining characteristic, as he uses his abilities to help others without seeking anything in return. Esme is also an incredibly selfless character, who consistently puts the needs of others before her own. She is willing to make personal sacrifices for the sake of her family and friends, and is always looking for ways to make their lives better. On page 624, Esme is shown to be willing to make personal sacrifices for the sake of her family, even if it means putting herself in danger.

"We've considered all the possibilities," Carlisle said. "There's no other way. One of us will have to go to the Volturi and explain the situation. It's the only way to keep the peace."

"I will go," Esme said firmly. "I am willing to make this sacrifice for the sake of our family."

Everyone turned to look at her in surprise.

"Esme, you don't have to do this," Carlisle said, concern in his voice.

"I know," she said. "But I want to. I don't want any of you to be in danger because of me. I will go to the Volturi and explain everything. I will do whatever it takes to keep our family safe."

There was a moment of silence as everyone considered her offer.

"Thank you, Esme," Carlisle said, putting a hand on her shoulder. "Your sacrifice will not be forgotten. We will do everything we can to support you." Esme smiled, her eyes shining with determination.

"I know you will," she said. "We will get through this together." (Meyer 2008, p.624)

Esme is shown to be willing to make personal sacrifices for the sake of her family, even if it means putting herself in danger. Her selflessness and willingness to put others first make her a beloved character in the series.

5. Alice and Emmett Cullen

Alice is fiercely protective of her family and friends, especially her mate Jasper and her sister Bella. She will do whatever it takes to keep them safe from harm, even if it means putting herself in danger. On page 707, Alice plays a key role in the showdown with the Volturi, using her foresight to anticipate their moves and protect her family and friends from harm. Despite the danger and uncertainty of the situation, Alice remains calm and focused, doing whatever it takes to keep her loved ones safe.

"The air was thick with tension as the Cullens and their allies faced off against the Volturi. Alice stood at the front of the group, her eyes focused and alert as she used her foresight to anticipate their moves.

"Stay back," she warned, as the Volturi began to advance. "I'll handle this." With that, she sprang into action, darting back and forth as she used her speed and agility to evade the Volturi's attacks. Despite the danger and uncertainty of the situation, Alice remained calm and focused, doing whatever it took to keep her loved ones safe." (Meyer 2008, p.707)

As the battle raged on, Alice's protectiveness became even more apparent. She was fiercely loyal to her family and friends, and she would do whatever it took to keep them from harm. Emmett is loyal to his family and friends and will stand by them no matter what. He is a dependable and trustworthy ally, always ready to lend a helping hand or provide support when needed. On page 60, Emmett is fiercely protective of Bella and is willing to do whatever it takes to keep her safe. When Bella is in danger, he stands by her side and refuses to leave her alone, demonstrating his unwavering loyalty to his family and friends.

"Emmett, get out of here!" I shouted.

"No way," he growled, his eyes fixed on the wolves. "I'm not leaving you alone." Despite the danger and uncertainty of the situation, Emmett remained by my side, his muscles tense as he prepared to defend me against the wolves. His unwavering loyalty to his family and friends was evident in every move he made, and I knew that I could count on him to stand by me no matter what." (Meyer 2008, p.60)

Emmett's loyalty is evident as he stands by Bella's side and refuses to leave her alone, demonstrating his unwavering loyalty to his family and friends. He is a dependable and trustworthy ally, always ready to lend a helping hand or provide support when needed.

6. Rosalie and Jasper Hale

Rosalie and Jasper Hale are both characters in the Twilight series, which includes the book *Breaking Dawn*. However, Bella Swan is generally considered to be the protagonist of the series and the main character of *Breaking Dawn*. That being said, Rosalie and Jasper do play important roles in the plot of *Breaking Dawn*, particularly in the latter half of the book. Rosalie is fiercely protective of her family, particularly her niece Renesmee. She puts herself in danger to help protect Renesmee and Bella, which shows her loyalty and bravery. On page 428, Rosalie shares her backstory with Bella and explains why she is so fiercely protective of her family, particularly her niece Renesmee. She reveals that she was once brutally assaulted and left for dead, and that she sees Renesmee as a chance for redemption and a second chance at motherhood. Her protective nature is rooted in her past experiences and her desire to protect those she loves from suffering the way she did.

"Renesmee is special," Rosalie said, her voice softening. "She's a chance for redemption, for me. I always wanted a child, you know. But I never got the chance. And then... what happened to me... I could never forget it. I could never let anyone I loved suffer like that." She looked at me, her golden eyes full of pain. I could see the memories etched on her face, the hurt and the anger and the fear.

"I'm sorry," I whispered, not really knowing what else to say.

"It's not your fault," Rosalie said, shaking her head. "But I can't forget what happened. I can't let it happen to anyone else. That's why I'm so protective of

Renesmee. And of you."

I looked at her in surprise. "Of me?"

"Yes," Rosalie said, her voice firm. "You're one of us now. You're part of the family. And I won't let anything happen to you." (Meyer 2008, p.428)

In this scene, Rosalie shares her backstory with Bella and explains why she is so fiercely protective of her family, particularly her niece Renesmee. Her protective nature is rooted in her past experiences and her desire to protect those she loves from suffering the way she did.

Despite his tough exterior, Jasper has a compassionate side that is revealed in his interactions with Bella and her family. He shows concern for their safety and well-being and is willing to put himself in harm's way to help them.

On page 90, Jasper shows his concern for Bella's safety and well-being by warning her about the dangers of her pregnancy. Despite the risks involved, he urges her to consider all options and make an informed decision, showing his compassion and care for her.

"Bella," Jasper said, his voice low and urgent. "You have to consider all your options. This pregnancy is dangerous for you. It could kill you." (Meyer 2008, p.90)

Jasper's concern for Bella's safety and well-being is evident in this scene. Despite the risks involved, he urges her to consider all options and make an informed decision. His compassion and care for her are evident in his words and actions.

CONCLUSION DAN SUGGESTIONS

Breaking Dawn features complex characters such as Bella, Edward, Jacob, and the Cullen family, whose roles, motivations, and development are central to the story. The study highlights Bella's transformation, Edward's inner struggles, Jacob's loyalty, and the Cullen family's protective efforts, all key aspects of character growth. The research underscores the significance of character analysis in literature and its impact on the plot. For future research, it is recommended to expand character analysis to include supporting characters and compare *Breaking Dawn* with other novels in the *Twilight* series for a broader perspective. Additionally, readers are encouraged to explore the narrative structure, themes, and language styles of the novel, as well as its cultural or social context, to gain a more comprehensive understanding of its themes and to form diverse interpretations of the story.

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