

## **An Analysis of Thorfinn's Personalities Change in "Vinland Saga" by Makoto Yukimura**

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### **Abstrak**

Tokoh protagonis dari Vinland Saga, Thorfinn, memiliki kepribadian yang paling berubah dari semua karakter dalam serial film Vinland Saga, penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menggambarkan perubahan karakteristik psikologis darinya. Konsep yang mendominasi kepribadian Thorfinn juga dijelaskan dalam penelitian ini. Studi ini menggunakan metodologi kualitatif dikombinasikan dengan psikologi sastra dan alat analisis data. Teori klasifikasi emosi oleh David Krench berdasarkan temuan penelitian, Thorfinn, protagonis dari seri Vinland Saga, menampilkan lima klasifikasi emosional yang berbeda: lima untuk cinta, dua untuk kebencian, empat untuk konsep rasa bersalah, satu untuk hukuman diri, dan dua untuk kesedihan. Dari lima kategori tersebut, konsep cinta mendominasi, diikuti oleh konsep rasa bersalah. Ini menggambarkan kekuatan potensi perubahan jika dibandingkan dengan konsep lain. Perkembangan karakter Thorfinn yang kompleks terlihat dari plot protagonis seri Vinland Saga, yang menunjukkan kepada kita seluruh perjalanan psikologisnya dari yang terburuk hingga versi terbesar dari dirinya sendiri. Thorfinn tampaknya tak terkalahkan sebagai hasilnya.

**Kata Kunci:** *Thorfinn, Vinland Saga, Perubahan kepribadian*

Thorfinn, the protagonist of the Vinland Saga, in my opinion, has the most altered personality of all the characters in the series, and this study aimed to describe psychological characteristics change from him. The concept that dominates Thorfinn's personality is also described in this study. This study employs a qualitative methodology combined with literary psychology and data analytic tools. David Krench's theory of emotion classification is applied. According to the study's findings, Thorfinn, the protagonist of the Vinland Saga series, exhibited five different emotional classifications: five for love, two for hatred, four for guilt concept, one for self-punishment, and two for grief. Out of those five categories, the concept of love predominated, followed by guilt concept. This illustrates the force of change's potential when compared to other concepts. Thorfinn's complex character development is evident from the Vinland Saga series' protagonist's plot, which shows us all his psychological journey from the worst to the greatest version of himself. Thorfinn appears to be unbeatable as a result.

**Keyword:** *Thorfinn, Vinland Saga, Personalities Change*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Literary works, such as novels and short stories, are fictitious works of written literature. Literary works must possess beauty, sincerity, and creative value in both their content and expression. If any one of these criteria is not met, a work cannot be classified as literary. A literary work meets the criteria for beauty when it adheres to the concepts of totality, harmony, balance and focus says (Attridge, 2015). (Jonathan, 1997) says that the literary work is a linguistic event which projects a fictional world that 30 includes speaker, actors, events, and an implied audience (an audience that takes shape through the work's decisions about what must be explained and what the audience is presumed to know). Literary works refer to imaginary rather than historical individuals but fictionality is not limited to characters and events (Cohn 2000; Dubourg and Baumard 2022; Walsh 2007).

In Chinese university education, instructing students to evaluate and analyze literary works, and teaching students to analyze the impression and psychology of characters from various perspectives is the key to allowing students to deeply appreciate the meaning of literary works. Characters appearing in literary works have typical and artistic characteristics (Li et al., 2024).

Poetry, drama, films, and novels are all considered literary works. The sole means of expressing one's ideas in the past was through spoken or written language. With the development of technology, visual media can now be used to communicate ideas, thoughts, or artworks. A film can provide a deeper and more vivid understanding of the work of literature.

For a number of reasons, including the value of literary psychology in examining characterization in greater detail and the ability to give researchers feedback on alignment issues as they arise, literary psychology research is crucial to our understanding of literature. According to the researcher, this study is particularly beneficial for evaluating literary works that are rife with psychological issues says (Endraswara, 2021). The terms "psychology" derived from the Greek words "psyche" and "logos." In which psyche refers to the soul, spirit, sukma, atma, and life, while logos refers to science or study. It is frequently interpreted etymologically as the science of the soul, the study of the soul, or the spirit. Psychology, according to Atkinson, is the science that investigates and studies human behavior (Minderop, 2010)

Studies on the psychology of literature seem to be of interest to many researchers, namely by Borsboom et al. (2021) and van Rooij & Baggio (2021). According to them, psychology can be used to explore and explain things and phenomena of human life by applying the principle of psychology in

the literary work. "For some conscious artist, psychology may have tightened their sense of reality, sharpened their powers of observation or allowed them to fall into hitherto undiscovered patterns. However, "in itself, psychology is only preparatory to the act of creation, and in the work itself, psychological truth is an artistic value only if it enhances coherence complexity, in short; it is art.

Many researchers seem to find literary psychological studies are interesting, because, of the literary works itself we can learn from about psychological studies such as like (Sela Putri et al., 2021) in their research entitled "an analysis of the main character in the film "the nightingale": a literary psychology study". Finding out about and evaluating how the lead character in the movie *The Nightingale* is portrayed is the goal of this study. The film's narrative centers on a woman named Clare who, following the deaths of her cherished daughter and husband, is left vulnerable, which is why this title was chosen. The lieutenant who had previously raped her killed both her husband and daughter. She subsequently became a different lady as a result of these mishaps. He was furious and resolved to use all of his strength to murder the lieutenant. He is determined to hold the British officer accountable for the horrific acts of violence that occurred to his family.

*Vinland Saga* is a series by Makoto Yukimura tells the story of a kid named Thorfinn son of Thors who is living vulnerably and fall apart after the death of his best Father. His father was killed by a group of a Viking that wanted his father's head for a politic. That event then changed him to be a different young man. He was full of anger and determined to kill the leader of the Viking (Askellad) with all his might. The researcher is interested in analyzing personality change of the main character based on David Kerch theory.

The purpose of the study is to examine and understand the character development and personality transformation of Thorfinn, the protagonist of the manga "*Vinland Saga*." This involves exploring how his experiences, challenges, and interactions with other characters influence his personal growth and changes in his behavior, motivations, and overall outlook on life. The study aims to provide insights into the narrative techniques used by the author, Makoto Yukimura, to portray Thorfinn's evolution and to analyze the themes and messages conveyed through his character arc.

## **2. RESEARCH METHOD**

Qualitative descriptive analysis was the research method employed in this study. The goal of the descriptive qualitative method is data collection and analysis. By using this technique, researchers are able to comprehend and clarify the descriptions of the primary character's personality (Scholz & Tietje, 2002; Zabihi & Pordel, 2011). Qualitative descriptive research aims to describe and describe

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existing phenomena, both natural and human engineering, by paying more attention to the characteristics, quality, and relationships between activities. Creswell and Poth (2017) define qualitative research as the process of gathering and interpreting non-numerical data, such as language. The author conducted bibliographic research to collect data for this paper. This is done to identify supporting aspects that are relevant to the study subject. This research also uses a literary approach, specifically a literary psychological approach. In analyzing Thorfinn's psychology, the use of data collection methods is an important part of research to achieve its goals. In gathering data, researchers used several stages. To begin with, observation is the act of observing a procedure or an object in order to sense and subsequently comprehend information about a phenomenon. In order to conduct this study, the researcher first watched the movie in person. She then observed to the entire movie and meticulously noted each scene and actor's movements. After that, researchers analyzed the main characters of the series. This research was carried out in depth to see how the main character's attitude changed. Vinland Saga is a Japanese historical manga series written and illustrated by Makoto Yukimura. The series is published by Kodansha, and was first serialized in the boys-targeted manga magazine Weekly Shōnen Magazine before moving to the monthly manga magazine Monthly Afternoon. The story is a dramatization of the story of Thorfinn Karlsefni and his expedition to find Vinland, with the majority of the story covering his fictional counterpart's transition from a bloodthirsty, revenge-filled teenager into a pacifistic young man; juxtaposed against this is the rise to power of King Canute. Here, researchers examine a number of scenes that cause the main character's attitude, personality, and morality to shift. Following the aforesaid approach for data collection, descriptive analysis techniques are applied to the data to analyze the data, set, or study findings.

### **3. FINDING AND DISCUSSION**

Thorfinn, the main character, is portrayed as a energetic, curious and determined kid, but after he heard about his father and other young man in his village are going for a war. He thinks he should come along and end up hiding in the long ship. It's leading him in an event where he saw his father got killed by Vikings. He sudden turned to be a different young man. Thorfinn then had an ambition to take revenge on the Viking who killed his father.

The researcher describes the research results and analyzes the data collected by watching and observing the main characters in the Vinland Saga series. Researchers present the emotions

shown by the main characters. After that, the researcher described and explained the emotions expressed by the main characters from the scenes in the series. The result description is as follows:

1. Love

Episode	Minute	Corpus
Episode 4 S1	00:18:39	Thorfinn love his father so much, not only because he is a well-behaved kid at home and always helping their family doing chores. He's running crying to hug his father who's going to die after Vikings shoot him with arrows. Thorfinn : Father!! Father!!!
Episode 16 S2	00:10:42	When he became a slave, Thorfinn has 2 friends and he love his friends by helping Einar on giving a hand Arnheid running away with her injured husband from their owner. Einar : Arnheid, are you ready to share destiny with Gardar? If you want to spend your life with Gardar, you have to run away with him. But, you're pregnant now. No, doubt the journey would be difficult. However, if you still wanted to do it..i will help you. Right now, that's the only option. Thorfinn : The only way.. huh

		I will help you too. With two people maybe we can think of a plan.
	00:20:43	After a very long time Thorfinn haven't having a fight. Now, he face an event where he have to stand for Arnheid and protect her and her husband. Snake : Just so you know.. Thorfinn. Negotiation is not an option. Give up Gardar without fighting. If not, I will cut you down. Thorfinn : (There are three people chasing, but only snake is here. I don't sense the other two. If somehow I could stop him, we still can runaway. Dodge his slash, then land a blow on his chin.
Episode 20 S2	00:16:57	Arnheid can't make it, after that she's died. Thorfinn holding her head making sure she's at peace now. Thorfinn : Far to the west...and beyond the open sea, there is a place called Vinland. It was warm and fertile there, a faraway land unreached by traders and slaves and the fires of war. There you will

		definitely be able to live without suffering. Arnheid, let's go there together. Let's build a peaceful country in Vinland
	00:18:14	Einar can't hold his sadness and trying to take a revenge for Arnheid. Thorfinn knows it's not the right thing to do, because Einar will end up with suffer Thorfinn been through. Snake :Ah, you guys. Why you guys still here? Thorfinn : Stop it! Einar!! Einar : Ketil! You! You have killed Arnheid! I will kill you, I will kill you! Thorfinn : Stop, Einar! there's no point in killing our master! Snake : I see, So Arnheid died already Thorfinn : Open your eyes Einar! Please! Einar!  Thorfinn trying his best to make Einar awake and punch his face.

From those scenes it shows, Thorfinn basically is a loving character because he came from a loving family. He takes his father personality, seen when he took care of his friends and manage to remember all lesson his father gave him.

2. Hatred

Episode	Minute	Corpus
Episode 4 S1	00:21:19	<p>After his father death, Thorfinn cannot accept the destiny and manage to hid in Viking's Ship.</p> <p>Vikings : Hurry! To the back of the ship, Askellad!</p> <p>Askeladd : What's wrong? you guys are so noisy</p> <p>Vikings : There is Thors's son he's hiding in the ship. Look at that, the boy is carrying a knife. We will get killed by him. (Mocking voices) hahahahaha</p> <p>Nah, I'm scared</p> <p>Thorfinn : How dare.. How dare you killed my father!! I will kill you!!! Whatever happens, I will definitely kill you! I will finish you off! I will kill you!</p> <p>Vikings : He's just a kid.. but, that look..</p> <p>How, Askeladd? We throw him into the ocean?</p> <p>Askeladd : Just leave it. Soon, he will die too.</p>



Episode 24 S1	00:18:41	<p>Thorfinn swear with following and living under Askeladd shade, he will eventually can take a revenge to kill Askeladd with a fair duel. But, after a long journey Askeladd end up died in Prince Canute hands.</p> <p>Prince Canute : Thorfinn, I didn't ask you to forgive me. This sentence was given because he suddenly went crazy and committed a great crime by murdering the king. But, I'm sure you don't intend to serve me anymore after this happens. Go anywhere you want.</p> <p>Thorfinn end up trying to kill Prince Canute, because he lost his reason to live. He, failed after all.</p>
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The hatred that Thorfinn shown is very clear from his intention to kill Askeladd, even though he is only six that time, he's not fearful and keep following Askeladd and the Vikings. Because, of that hatred, it was seen he dared to survive with the Vikings and learn how to kill. Hatred had overcome Thorfinn's fear. It can also be seen when he tries to kill Prince Canute without hesitation. He who had never used a weapon and kill before, but with his hatred, he was trying to be brave and tried his best to kill the Vikings.

3. Guilt Concept

Episode	Minute	Corpus
Episode 6 S1	00:15:00-00:22:39	He was assigned to infiltrate a village and then killed the soldier. However, at the middle of the mission he was unconscious and an old lady and his daughter helping him, gave him hospitality. After Thorfinn can stand with his legs again, he try to warn the old lady to run away. A minute after, Thorfinn killed a soldier and burn a house to give Askeladd sign to attack. Eventually, the old lady not running away and following Thorfinn. He was then shocked and felt guilty after all the help he got, but end up colonizing the village.
Episode 3 S2	00:08:16	Thorfinn waking up screaming. Einar : Thorfinn! What's wrong? Are you dreaming? Thorfinn! Thorfinn : Aaah! (Thorfinn heavy breathing) Einar : Are you okay? You seems anxious. How bad was your dream that you were like that?

		Thorfinn : Dream? What dream was that? I don't remember
Episode 4 S2	00:10:46 – 00:13:25	<p>Einar : The way he fends off when attacked by snake (land guard) unusual</p> <p>Einar : Thorfinn, have you ever been to war?</p> <p>Thorfinn : Yes</p> <p>Einar : Have you killed people?</p> <p>Thorfinn : Yes</p> <p>Einar : Approximately, How many people? Is it 5 or 10?</p> <p>Thorfinn : Why you wanted to know? you hate war, don't you?</p> <p>Thorfinn : I don't remember how many. I killed a lot of people. Since, I was 5 or 6, I've been on the battlefield. I also joined the Danish invasion of England. I was a soldier. Are you disgusted? Einar?</p>
Episode 4 S2	00:15:40 – 00:23:17	Before ended up becoming a slave, Einar has a family but, his family was attacked by a Viking. Somehow, it grows hatred to Thorfinn after knowing his background. He was trying to kill Thorfinn in his sleep, while Thorfinn struggling with nightmares

		<p>every day. After trying to choke Thorfinn, seeing him struggling with nightmare, Einar stop his intention of killing him and try to wake up Thorfinn from his nightmare. For, several days Thorfinn kept screaming during his sleep.</p> <p>Thorfinn : Einar,why you kept waking me up, everytime I have nightmares?</p> <p>I have killed.. I have killed so many people. From one battle to another, I attacked villages and killed a lot of people. The people who murdered your family, I have no difference.</p> <p>Einar : You..</p> <p>Thorfinn : Are there any good things given in life? I don't know the answer.. In my entire life, I never once felt happy that I was alive</p> <p>Einar : You.. Are you want to die? I don't know what horrific things you went through. I don't even want to know what difficulties you're going through. Even though this might be hell, we can talk about</p>
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		<p>nonsense, eat, pee, and sleep. We can do all this because someone let us alive. You said you don't know the answer, but you're wrong. You wrong!! Damn! Life is not that simple! You're not necessarily the one who killed my family. The world doesn't revolve around you Thorfinn : Thank you.. Einar. Thank you for waking me up. Einar : Gosh, because you're delirious, I'm not getting enough sleep Thorfinn : I see...</p>
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The scenes above showing Thorfinn kept getting nightmares and delirious during sleep. He dreams of Askeladd, and all people he has been killed. Thorfinn's circumstances shows that he is feeling a deep sense of guilt for committing murder and invading villages. He was haunted by that guilty feeling so that it entered his subconscious state, so that he was carried away by a terrible dream. The guilt that haunts Thorfinn shows that he is a kind-hearted and caring young man, because even though the reason for his murder is so that he can take a revenge, he still feels guilty by other people he has killed outside of his intention. This means that the grudge that has been lodged in Thorfinn heart has been defeated by the guilt he feels.

#### 4. Punishing Yourself

Episode	Minute	Corpus
Episode 21 S2 – Episode 22 S2	(00:16:35) – (00:12:18)	<p>Knowing the attack from King Canute at farming land where Thorfinn work, he has intention to speak and have negotiation with King Canute, he knows him because, he once works with King Canute when he was a prince. Thorfinn believes with this way, they don't have to war. Unfortunately, it's not easy to pass through the guard.</p> <p>Thorfinn, doesn't want to have a fight, so he told the guard to punch him 100 times and if he still can stand, he will have a chance to talk to King Canute.</p>

Based on that scene, Thorfinn tries to punish himself for all the bad things he has experienced so far. All of that haunts Thorfinn. So, he back to his father guide, we have no enemies. He, believes no one should be killed, we don't have to fight, even in the battlefield. After all that he decided to have a negotiation with King instead of having a war. But, to reach that goal he has to sacrifice himself by getting punch and not fight back, to let others believes his intention it's also an act to punish himself from everything he did in the past.

5. Sadness

Episode	Minute	Corpus
Episode 4 S1	00:18:39	Thorfinn love his father so much, not only because he is a well-behaved kid at home and always helping their family doing chores. He's running crying to hug his father who's going to die after Vikings shoot him with arrows. Thorfinn : Father!! Father!!!
Episode 20 S2	00:11:02	Thorfinn, was seeing Arnheid suffering with her condition. Not, knowing it's only about time she will going to die. After, few words from her, she wasn't able to survive with her condition that time. Thorfinn still can't accept his fate losing a friend. So, Thorfinn was trying to do CPR on her with hope she will breath again, sadly she's not able to wake up anymore.

There are several scenes that show Thorfinn feeling very deep sorrow. All his sadness actually stems from losing his father and friends, as well as the innocent people he killed. Sadness can be seen in the scene where he saw his father killed before his eyes and Thorfinn could only watch the incident without being able to do anything, but scream for his father. Sadness is also seen in the scene where Thorfinn remembers memories with his father and dreams about him. Also when he loses his friend and can't do much.

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## **DISCUSSIONS**

Here, researchers look at several scenes that change the main character's morality, attitude, and personality. In order to assess the data, set, or study findings, descriptive analysis techniques are applied to the data using the previously mentioned approach for data gathering. The technique of using data or samples that have been collected unfiltered and without additional analysis or reporting to reflect or provide an overview of the subject under investigation is known as the descriptive analysis approach, according to Sugiyono (2009).

### **1. Love**

The feeling of love is an emotion characterized by strong feelings of affection for another arising out of kinship, companionship, admiration, or benevolence. Platonic love it's typically a love that means you have a strong bond with someone, they are important to you, and you are emotionally connected to them, but you usually do not have romantic feelings for them. Whereas a child's love for his father is based on the need for protection, similarly, a mother's love for her child has a desire to protect. The same thing happened to Thorfinn. Thorfin and his father had feelings of love and protection for each other as father and son, and Thorfinn and his friends had a strong bond with each other. According to Krech, the feeling of love is a feeling of loyalty and compassion. Like Thorfinn's feelings towards his father, he has compassion and loyalty.

### **2. Hatred**

Krech clarified that anger, jealousy, and hatred are all strongly associated emotions. A person may experience hatred due to a variety of reasons, including his hatred for another person, feelings of envy, or residual bitterness from something that happened in the past. If the person's desires are not fulfilled, this hate will surface whenever they feel like it. The emotional classification of hatred of the main character in the Vinland Saga is shown when Thorfinn sees his father killed by a group of Vikings. As a little kid knowing his father did nothing wrong but, got murdered like that in a war, grows hates in Thorfinn.

Based on that event Thorfinn live his life having intention to revenge. However, this can be related to Krech's theory which says hatred is caused by a person's dislike of another person. Just as Thorfinn felt, he is not agreeing with the fact that his father should die and he cannot even do anything to resist that.

### **3. Guilt Concept**

According to Krech, the idea of guilt comes from the belief that an individual's actions go against moral or ethical principles. While guilt might sometimes fade quickly, it can sometimes remain for a

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very long period and even result in sorrow and misery. Some people are aware that they have broken a rule, and know what to do, eventually understand it. There are also those who experience guilt but are unable to figure out the source or find a way to overcome it; these individuals typically experience stress and become highly suicidal. In the concept of guilt in the series of Vinland Saga, there are guilt in the main character, Thorfinn. Thorfinn's feeling of guilt is when he kills innocent people. Thorfinn kills innocent people and soldier because he has to join a war with Viking so that he can have a revenge. Thorfinn's feelings of guilt arises when he knowing the fact that his friend's family got killed by Vikings and Soldiers. Thorfinn having a constant nightmare and always wakes up anxious. Thorfinn expression every time he saw his friend's face was guilty. As explained in the previous paragraph, this can be related to Krech's theory which says guilt is caused by a person's attitude that is contrary to moral values, just like Thorfinn did to the innocent people and soldier. Krech also added that there were people who were aware that what he was doing was a violation, but there were also people who were aware that he was guilty but did not know what the reason was. Thorfinn experiences a conscious sense of guilt, because he knew what he was doing was a violation. We can say Thorfinn regretting his past.

#### 4. Punishing Yourself

According to Krech, the most unsettling aspect of guilt is when someone considers an individual's self-punishment as the core of their guilt. When someone is classified as self-punishing, it usually means that they have acknowledged, felt regret repeatedly, and punished towards themselves for their mistakes. Personality disorders are a fundamental reason for guilt like this one. As with Thorfinn, he punished himself by letting the soldier punch him for 100 times. There, he felt very guilty for innocent people who have to face war and for his father words saying we don't have enemies but, he eventually keeps looking for a reason to kill. Then Thorfinn punished himself by trying to protect people from fighting and not using any weapon or fight back. We can relate this to Krech's theory that says self-punishment is caused because someone has realized his mistake.

#### 5. Sadness

Grief and sadness are concepts that are associated with the loss of something or someone significant and valuable. The level of sadness varies depending on the value; often, the loss of a loved one, especially one who is passed away, causes the biggest amount of sadness. The loss of a particularly valuable thing that causes disappointment or sorrow can also cause deep sadness. When the Viking murdered his father in front of Thorfinn's eyes, he experienced intense sadness. And the moment when his master killed one of his companions shortly after he manage the grief of his father. He was

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broken and miserable As stated in the previous paragraph, Krech theory is strongly tied to this. Sadness is a reaction to losing something significant and irreplaceable. The same as, Thorfinn lost loved ones and he cannot do anything. Seeing his father killed in front of him made Thorfinn feel very sad. Knowing his father did nothing wrong, but the Viking should take his life makes him felt so miserable. From this moment, Thorfinn's character began to be different, where he even dared to kill someone for revenge.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

In the Vinland Saga series, Thorfinn's character goes through a range of emotions. But for some reason, he started to feel changes in his emotions. People around Thorfinn treat him cruelly and badly, which has a profound impact on his personality and mental health. He also trying takes revenge on those who have mistreated him and a loved one. Thus, the researcher used Krech's theory of emotions classification along with a literary psychology technique to analyze and observe the main character's personality in the television series Vinland Saga. Moreover, this series teaches us the moral principles that guide human behavior, such as how humans relate to one another as social beings and how much one's attitude toward us is influenced by how one treats others. Future life is primarily influenced by the surroundings. The lesson that can be learned is that fellow human beings must always do good without exception, like it said in the series, Thorfinn's father believes we born in this world we don't have enemies. No one should be in a war; we never have a reason to kill. As demonstrated throughout the series, even decent individuals can have their lives profoundly changed by the people they surround themselves or accidentally encounter. We also know building character is from people around you and the environment. As a victim of a bad people, Thorfinn always got hurt and treated badly during moments where he only follows those Vikings which causes the main character Thorfinn to become vengeful and miserable. As the researcher I hope that the results of this research can be used for something useful such as literary discipline in relation to psychological and moral studies with a fun example. Moreover, this research also expected to enrich studies in series, drama, film media or literary works, in understanding the psychology of literature in the series or film, especially on the personality of the main character like in the series of Vinland Saga.

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