

**An Application of A.J Greimas' Structural Analysis on
J.R.R Tolkien's The Hobbit**

A Thesis

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By:

Mike Betri Handayani

05 985 037



**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT – FACULTY OF LETTERS
ANDALAS UNIVERSITY
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ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini menganalisis novel The Hobbit karya J.R.R Tolkien dengan tujuan untuk menemukan struktur dasar dari bagan pelaku dan menjelaskan bagan tersebut dalam struktur fungsi. Dengan melihat struktur dasar yang membangun novel tersebut pembaca dapat memahami novel ini dengan mudah, selain itu penelitian ini juga bertujuan untuk membuktikan bahwa novel ini memiliki tiga struktur yang dinamakan dengan Syntagms.

Analisis ini menggunakan pendekatan strukturalisme yang dikembangkan oleh A.J. Greimas. Dalam teorinya, Greimas membagi struktur bagan pelaku kedalam 6 (enam) bagian yaitu: pengirim (sender), tujuan (object), pelaku (subject), penghalang (opponent), penolong (helper), dan penerima (receiver). Kemudian penulis mengidentifikasi dan menjelaskan hubungan serta fungsi dari tiap-tiap elemen yang ada dalam bagan tersebut, selain itu penulis juga memperlihatkan bahwa 3 teori lanjutan A.J. Greimas mengenai syntagms, yaitu: struktur yang bersifat perjanjian, struktur yang bersifat penyelenggaraan, dan struktur yang bersifat pemutusan. Ketiga struktur ini bisa diaplikasikan kedalam novel The Hobbit.

Dari hasil analisis tersebut, penulis menemukan tiga struktur bagan pelaku serta hubungannya dalam struktur fungsi. Dalam analisis ini penulis menemukan ambisi-ambisi dari karakter utama untuk mendapatkan keinginan dan tujuannya. Penulis juga menemukan 3 struktur syntagms yang terdapat pada novel. Dari ketiga struktur syntagm tersebut, struktur fungsi penyelenggaraan dan struktur fungsi pemutusan merupakan struktur yang paling membangun dalam cerita The Hobbit. Selain itu, berdasarkan analisa bagan dan fungsinya, penulis mendapatkan tema khusus dari The Hobbit yang berbeda dengan tema umum yang didapat dengan membaca novel tersebut.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Research

All of literary works, including novel, have different structural elements. The different structural elements can make the different interpretation from the reader about literary work. The deeper meaning conveyed by an author in literary work do not only we get by just looking the structural element of literary work such as, character, theme, point of view, plot, and setting, but we need see the basic structure of the work. Sometimes the meanings conveyed are often hidden behind the complexity, and the ambiguity of the work itself. Theory is a tool which has function to help and give direction to understand the literary works. Various approaches and theories that have been developed by the experts help the readers to have many choices in analyzing the novel.

As Nyoman Kutha Ratna stated in his book Teori, Metode, dan Teknik Penelitian Sastra: "Strukturalisme berarti paham mengenai unsur-unsur, yaitu struktur itu sendiri, dengan mekanisme antarhubungannya." (2004: 91). Structuralism is a concept concerned with elements which means structure it self, one structure has relationship with another structure. Structural analysis is a suitable theory for analyzing the intrinsic elements of the literary work. The main focus of the structuralism is analyzing the structure of the work and discovering how the structure leads us to find the meaning of the work.

In this research, the writer is interested to analyze one of J. R. R. Tolkien's novel The Hobbit published in 1937 and it is a kind of fantasy novel. The Hobbit is the story of Bilbo Baggins who prefer live peacefully in his cozy hole in the Hobbiton, suddenly he is interrupted by the coming of wizard, Gandalf, and his 12 dwarves. They force Bilbo to undertake on adventure which he never expects before, to recover the lost treasures that were guarded by dragon Smaug at the Lonely Mountain.

In The Hobbit, the writer finds that there are various structures which are still absurd, intricate and hard to decipher. The characters are complex. A single character may perform the work of two or more separate character functions. The characters and problems that are faced by the main characters in doing the adventure for getting the treasure makes the reader become confuse, difficult to understand the meaning, and also hard to get the theme of the novel.

A.J Greimas' theory will be appropriate since Greimas offer new model of structuralism theory. He is more structuralist than Vladimir Propp. Hans Bertens stated in his book Literary Theory: the Basic

Propp, too, offers generalizations on the basis of his fairytales, but his model still works with recognizable actors, or *dramatis personae*, as he calls them: the hero, the villain, the helper, and so on. For Greimas this is still too close to content and not 'structural' enough and so he develops his so-called actantial model that, at a high level of abstraction, should be able to describe narrative as such: all the possible elements and combinations of elements that we can find in actual stories, both fictional and non-fictional. In other words, in good

structuralist fashion Greimas wants to describe the basic structure that allows meaning to emerge. (2001: 69)

Propp uses his theory to analyze the fairytales. His model work still concern on seeing the actor only. Greimas think that Propp's theory not structural enough. Greimas' theory which is call Actantial Model said that by describing the basic structure, it will reveal deeper meaning of the novel. Greimas' theory can apply in all narrative form, fiction and non fiction.

Thus, the writer decides to use Greimas' theory to guide the writer conducting the research entitled "A.J Greimas' structural Analysis in J.R.R Tolkien's The Hobbit".

1.2 The Identification of the Problem

There are too many characters in the story, and it is hard to understand the characters. The characters are complex. A single character may perform the work of two or more separate character function. For instance, Bilbo Baggins is the main character. In this story he has more than two character functions. Bilbo is a hobbit which has duty to steal Dwarves' treasure, in the other side Bilbo also has duty to protect him self and the dwarves from their opponent. The other characters are 12 dwarves which have important characters function in The Hobbit novel. These complex characters make the reader difficult in understanding the theme and message of the novel. There are various structures that are still absurd, intricate and hard to decipher in The Hobbit. Therefore, a profound literary research is needed to get the deeper meaning and the theme of the novel.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

After analyzing The Hobbit base on theory proposed by A.J. Greimas, the writer finds that there are three actants and function structure in this work and this novel also has the three syntagms. The three actant and functional structure have similarities, which is the object. The subjects, Bilbo, Thorin and Bard, have the same object. They want to get the treasure (object).

The first actant is Bilbo as the subject. His desire is to get the treasure. He has some opponents and helper which help him in gaining the object. Bilbo is successful in gaining his object, he become reach hobbit and get pride from dwarves. The second actant is Thorin as the subject has opponent, helper and receiver. In the end of the story Thorin was dead but he has succeeded in gaining his object (the treasure). The last actant is Bard as the subject. His object is same with Bilbo and Thorin. He has succeeded in gaining the object.

After classifying the actants, the writer discovers that all of the characters in the novel are influenced by each other. Between the subject, helper and opponent, exist a kind of relationship which helps the writer finds out the specific theme of the novel, which is different from the general theme that gotten by reading the novel.

The writer also finds that there are three syntagms in The Hobbit novel. The first syntagms is Contractual structure, there is making of agreements and establishment of prohibition in this novel. Bilbo as the hero is making an agreement with Thorin, the super power. The second syntagms is Performative structure, there is

tasks, trials, struggles, and the like. Bilbo as the main character has tasks to help the dwarves in gaining their stolen treasure from dragon Smaug. To get the treasure, Bilbo meets with some enemy and he must struggle to face his opponent. The last syntagms is Disjunctive structure, involve travel, movement, arrivals, and departures. As we know The Hobbit is about the adventure of Bilbo and the Dwarves to get the treasure. The journey is from Bilbo's house until they come to Lonely Mountain and ended in Bilbo's house. Furthermore, after analyzing the novel the writer finds that The Hobbit has three syntagms, but The Performative and Disjunctive structure is appropriate syntagms. As we know The Hobbit is a kind of fantasy novel that tell about the adventure of a Hobbit and the dwarves to get the treasure. Of course in doing the adventure there are movement, arrivals, departures, which called Disjunctive structure, and also to get the treasure they faced opponent, trials, and they must struggle to against their opponent, Performative Structure.

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