

**ACTANTIAL CHARTS AND SYNTAGMS IN JONATHAN SWIFT'S
GULLIVER'S TRAVELS : A STRUCTURAL READING**



A Thesis

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ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini menganalisis novel Gulliver's Travels karya Jonathan Swift dengan tujuan untuk menemukan struktur dasar dari perjalanan karakter utama ke beberapa tempat dan menjelaskan perjalanan tersebut dalam bentuk struktur bagan pelaku. Selain itu, penelitian ini juga bertujuan untuk membuktikan bahwa novel ini memiliki tiga struktur yang dinamakan dengan Syntagm. Analisis ini menggunakan pendekatan struktural yang di kembangkan oleh A.J. Greimas. Dalam teorinya, Greimas membagi struktur bagan pelaku kedalam enam bagian yaitu: pengirim (*sender*), tujuan (*object*), pelaku (*subject*), penghalang (*opponent*), penolong (*helper*), dan penerima (*receiver*). Kemudian penulis mengidentifikasi dan menjelaskan 3 teori lanjutan A.J. Greimas mengenai syntagms, yaitu: struktur yang bersifat perjanjian, struktur yang bersifat penugasan, dan struktur yang bersifat pengakhiran. Ketiga struktur ini bisa diaplikasikan ke dalam novel Gulliver's Travels. Dalam analisis ini penulis menemukan gambaran perjalanan-perjalanan karakter utama kebeberapa tempat untuk mendapatkan tujuannya. Struktur perjalanan karakter utama dimulai dari Lilliput, Brobdingnag, Laputa, dan Houyhnhnms. Di setiap perjalanan yg dilakukan oleh karakter utama selalu ada kesamaan. Penulis menyimpulkan bahwa setiap perjalanan dari karakter utama mengalami kesamaan "*contractual structure*" yang terjadi akibat situasi yang tidak diprediksi sebelumnya sehingga membawanya ke tempat-tempat tertentu.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1. 1. The Background of the Study

Gulliver's Travels is a novel of satire and adventure which has four main sections, and divided into several chapters. Gulliver's Travels is a common story that the children known as fairy tale and it had been filmed for several times. In this novel there are four voyages to different countries. All of voyages in the stories happen in Lemuel Gulliver's life. One of his voyages is to Lilliput which is well known by everyone in the world especially for the children. It tells about the Hero figure and the moral value taught to the children. In addition, the voyage to Lilliput had added as a fairy tale. The writer chooses the novel because it has an interesting and imaginative plot. Moreover, there are three voyages remain that rarely heard by everyone; they are voyages to Brobdingnag, Laputa, and Houyhnhnms. Each voyage has special characteristics whether it creatures, society, or environment.

Lemuel Gulliver is the main character who has involved on the stories. Here, Gulliver has the reasons why he does the voyages. One of the reasons that push him to have a voyage is economical problem. Unfortunately, all of his voyages are an accident that leads him to illogic situation such as meeting tiny people, landing on floating island, founding high technology, and etc. However, what he aims from the beginning had fulfilled at the end of the stories which are

the better economy and also the meaning of human existence. Hence, this novel is suitable for this research.

One of the theories that develop the intrinsic approach is Structuralism. According Nyoman Kutha Ratna in his book Teori, Metode, dan Teknik Penelitian Sastra: “Strukturalisme berarti paham mengenai unsur-unsur, yaitu struktur itu sendiri, dengan mekanisme antarhubungannya.” (2004:91) It means that “Structuralism is a concept concerned with elements which means structures itself; one structure has relationship with another structure.” Structural analysis is a suitable theory for analyzing intrinsic elements of the literary work. The main focus of structuralism is to analyze the structure of a work that will lead us to find the narrative structure of the work as a whole.

The writer assumes that Gulliver’s Travels is proper to be analyzed by using Structural Theory of A.J Greimas because all story does narrative characteristic, beside the novel is well known by everyone but it seldom to analyze as such issue. Here, the writer wants to analyze Lemuel Gulliver voyage into several remote countries in Gulliver’s Travels by Jonathan Swift. Therefore, the writer chooses the title: “Actantial Charts and Syntagms in Jonathan Swift’s Gulliver’s Travels: A Structural Reading.”

1. 2. Identification of Problem

The problem of Gulliver to have a voyage is collecting the money to defend his family life. In the way to complete his quest, he found many experiences in several countries from Lilliput to Houyhnhnms. The writer limits the analysis in order to see Gulliver voyages through structural analysis by Greimas. However,

the writer must decide the actants that fills to the scheme in order to have the position on the plot. Hence, the writer can see the narrative structure in basic before analyzing deeply.

1. 3. Scope of the Study

The novel talked about the adventures that had been done by Lemuel Gulliver to several places. There are four voyages that had been divided into four chapters. So, this research focuses on the following two points that wants to be analyzed:

1. Explaining the actant chart and syntagms perspectives of Swift's Gulliver's Travels based on Greimas theory.

1. 4. Objective of the Study

In this research, the writer wants to analyze the narrative structure of Gulliver's Travels in describing Lemuel as the main character which had travelled to several Countries by using A. J. Greimas Theory in order to get the specific position in actant charts and syntagms perspective. There are four countries that Lemuel Gulliver had visited, they are: Lilliput, Brobdingnag, Laputa, and Houyhnhnms. The aim of this research is to dismantle the structure of Gulliver's various voyages into Greimas's narrative structure (actant and syntagms) in order to show the similar structure.

1. 5. Review of Previous Studies

The writer finds the thesis with the same novel but different theory from Bung Hatta University student entitled Satire as Seen through Jonathan Swift's Gulliver's Travels by Vivi Annora(2000). She analyzes the satire in Gulliver's

Travels by using objective Abrams approach. She found three kinds of satires in Gulliver's Travels, which are Horace satire, Juvenal satire, and indirect satire. Horace satire tells about the character of an urbane and tolerant man of the world, which can evoke laughter rather than indignation at the spectacles of human folly sometimes including his own, Juvenal satire tells about a moral indignation of the vice or corruption of men. The satirist speaks in a serious character to denounce men's act that is no less dangerous because of conveying in humor, and the last Indirect satire tells about cast in the form of plot in which characters make themselves ridiculed by their thoughts, speech, and sometimes made even more ridiculed by the author's narrative style and commentary.

Similarly, Adamz Hoemwurk Pajj's essay also talks about satire which is entitled Perceptions of Satire in Gulliver's Travels, he stated: "As Swift's story of Gulliver unfolds, the satire begins to take a much more general focus: humanity as a whole. Gulliver manages to escape the land of miniature, and after a brief stay in England, returns to the sea. Again, he finds himself in a strange land, but this time, he is the small one, with everything around him many times the normal size. Unlike the Lilliputians, however, he is alone in this world." He analyzed Gulliver's travels is the satire of swift perception of humanity. When Gulliver stayed in Lilliput, he was the biggest creature of this land, whereas in Brobdingnag he is the small one. Here, Adamz shows the perception of Swift on each country that Gulliver visited about Humanity.

In Faculty of Letters at Andalas University, the writer found the thesis entitled An Application of A. J. Greimas Structural Analysis on Tolkien's

The Hobbit by Mike Betri Handayani (2010). She analyzes six actants chart, functional structure, and the syntagms of each character by A. J. Greimas theory. The writer assumes that the actants of three characters which are Bilbo, Thorin, and Bard specifically has the same purpose. Bilbo and Bard have succeeded to gain their object but Thorin gain his object by paying his life. To sum up, all of the actions from each character had display on this thesis through the theory.

The writer also found a thesis which used A.J Greimas theory by Harma Fitriyani entitled The Major Character's Struggle of love in Thomas Hardy's *Far From The Madding Crowd* (2008). She analyzes the description of character relationship through actant chart and functional structure. Then she wants to get the specific themes for the characters which are Gabriel Oak, Batsheba, Boldwood, and Sergeant Troy. In short, the characters cannot fulfill their job to get the object on actant chart and it makes no receiver.

1. 6. Theoretical Framework

This research uses the objective approach. According to Atar Semi's Metode Penelitian Sastra (1993:67): "Pendekatan objektif, pendekatan formal, atau pendekatan analitik, bertolak dari asumsi dasar bahwa karya sastra sebagai karya kreatif memiliki otomi penuh yang harus dilihat sebagai suatu sosok yang berdiri sendiri terlepas dari hal-hal lain yang berada di luar dirinya (objective approach, formal approach and analysis approach are based on the basic assumption that literary work is imaginative and have authority to look as one object)". It means that the analysis is based on the work itself without considering

to the extrinsic element. This research will talk about describing actants charts and syntagms perspectives of Lemuel Gulliver voyage to several remote countries by using Structuralism A.J. Greimas theory.

According to Hawkes in his book entitled Structuralism and Semiotics (2003),

Greimas sees the story as a semantics structure analogous to the sentence and yielding itself to appropriate kinds of analysis. In pursuit of this aim, he proposes first an inventory of three ‘actant’ ; that is, three sets of binary oppositions, into which all the actants can be fitted, and which will generate all the actors of any story. (72)

In his analysis Greimas used semantics structure to see the story. His theory called “actant” which consists of three sets of binary opposition. Greimas suggested that the actant can be applied to all of the actors of any story.

Furthermore, Greimas proposed first to an inventory of actants in three ‘actantial categories’ that is three sets of binary oppositions which involve six actants. They are (1) subjects versus objects (2) sender versus receiver (3) helper versus opponent.

Subject

Object

Sender

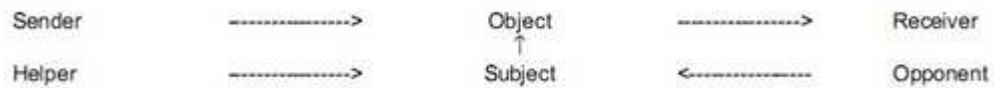
Receiver

Helper

Opponent

(Hawkes,72-73)

A journal by Louis Hébert's Tools for Text and Image Analysis: An Introduction to Applied Semiotics helps the writer to describe the actantial model.



In this theory, Greimas had found three distinct types of syntagms investigated by Propp. In Structuralism in Literature an Introduction by Robert Scholes (1975)

If some inventory of roles or actants could be said to constitute a lexicon of narrative paradigms, then a comparable list of syntactic structures or principles of structuration would be needed to complete a grammar of narration. (108)

This quotation shows that Greimas developed his theory called syntagms. He said that the actant is constituted a lexicon of narrative paradigm, but the syntactic structures need to complete a grammar of narration. Hence, the following lists are Greimas's theory which called as syntagms.

1. Contractual structures (syntagmes constructuels) in which the situation has the overall bearing of establishing and breaking of contracts, alienation and/or reintegration, etc.
2. Performative structures (syntagmes performanciels) involving trials, struggles, and the performance of tasks, etc.

3. Disjunctive structure (syntagmes disjonctionnels) involving movement, arrivals, and departures.

(Hawkes,75)

Actants chart have a qualitative relationship in developing the structure of the novel. Because the limitation of the actant chart, the syntagms will filled the competence of narrative structure.

1. 7. Method of the Research

1. 7. 1. Collecting Data

The writer uses library research to find the primary data and supporting data. Primary data is the novel that was written by Jonathan Swift entitled Gulliver's Travels. The writer also used some other books or journal which are related to the subject as the supporting data in order to support and to get better and clearer description.

1. 7. 2. Analyzing Data

In analyzing this novel, first the writer analyzed the intrinsic element of this novel that help the writer to understand this novel. Then the writer used A. J. Greimas theory who proposed the actants chart and the syntagms perspective. Moreover, the writer wants to use qualitative method to conduct the research.

1. 7. 3. Presenting Result

As stated by Semi in his book Metode Penelitian Sastra “Penelitian yang deskriptif artinya data terurai dalam bentuk kata-kata atau gambar-gambar, bukan dalam bentuk angka-angka.” “Descriptive research is the data which is formed in words or pictures, not in numbers” (24). The writer wants to describe the voyages of Lemuel Gulliver by looking on the plot. Then, the writer put the actant for specific position for each voyage and also uses syntagms perspective to see the narrative structure of the novel.

Chapter 1 discusses the background of Gulliver's Travels, the reason to use the novel and the suitable theory to be applied to the novel. Chapter 2 analyzes the intrinsic element of the novel such as characters, plot, setting, theme, and point of view. These parts help the writer to get the clearly parts of Gulliver's Travels to analyze it. Chapter 3 applies the structuralism theory to the novel then analyzed it deeply to get the conclusion of the analysis. Chapter 4 concludes the result of the analysis and explains the result briefly.

CHAPTER 3

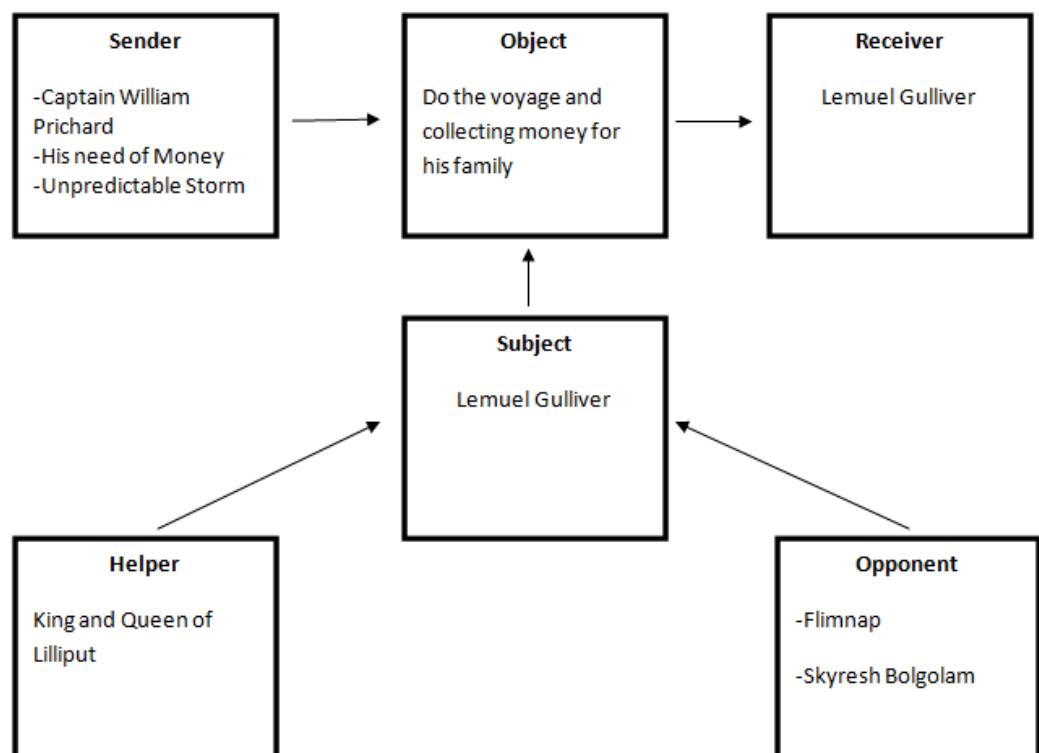
ACTANTIAL CHARTS AND SYNTAGMS IN JONATHAN SWIFT'S

GULLIVER'S TRAVELS: A STRUCTURAL READING

In this chapter, the writer applies the Actants Chart, and The Syntagms to get the description of Lemuel Gulliver voyages to several remote countries. Gulliver starts the voyages in Lilliput and over in Houyhnhnms and felt unusual behavior, environments, and society.

3.1 Gulliver Voyage to Lilliput

3.1.1 The Actant Chart



From the chart, it can be seen that Lemuel Gulliver is the subject. Gulliver is a surgeon ship and he offered to sail by Captain William Prichard. Gulliver agrees

CHAPTER 4

CONCLUSION

After analyzing the novel Gulliver's Travel by using theory that proposed by A.J. Greimas, the writer finds that there are four actants and four syntagms that showed in the novel which have one subject. The subject is Lemuel Gulliver who has four voyages to several countries. The objects of his voyages are to get the money and experiences.

From the four voyages, the writer assumes that Gulliver's Travels by Jonathan Swift has similar problem in order to have the voyages that was assigned to Gulliver. Each voyage has break by unpredictable situation that leads Gulliver to an unknown land. The Actant chart divides each voyage although the subject did not change. And the Syntagm will generate the actants in three structures for each voyage.

As the result, the writer concludes that Gulliver's Travel has similar contractual structure which is "the unpredictable situation." The situation sends Gulliver to several voyages by the storm. In addition, Gulliver helped by the storm and has completed his objective. Further research, the writer suggests analyzing the novel by using colonialist ideology in order to gain the critical analysis of the novel.

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