

**PARALLEL LINE IN *TIMERIDERS* BY ALEX SCARROW
(The Application of Brian McHale Postmodernist Fiction)¹**

*Asia Susanti*²

*Ansor Putra*³

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini dimaksudkan untuk menganalisis representasi garis paralel di *TimeRiders* menggunakan teori fiksi postmodernis Brian McHale. Pertanyaan penelitian ini dirumuskan: "bagaimana representasi garis paralel dalam *TimeRiders*?". Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menggambarkan garis paralel yang direpresentasikan dalam *TimeRiders*. Sumber data dalam penelitian ini adalah novel *TimeRiders* karya Alex Scarrow yang diterbitkan pada tahun 2007. Pengumpulan data dilakukan melalui pencatatan, pratinjau, dan penafsiran untuk mendapatkan analisis lengkap tentang Garis Paralel di *TimeRiders*. Teori Fiksi postmodernis Brian McHale digunakan sebagai alat untuk menganalisis temuan garis paralel dalam *TimeRiders*. Hasil analisis menunjukkan bahwa garis paralel direpresentasikan dalam *TimeRiders*, garis paralel direpresentasikan melalui perjalanan waktu. Garis paralel menghubungkan fiksi ilmiah dan strategi postmodern dalam novel ini. Garis paralel menyebabkan penerapan superimposisi di *TimeRiders*. Superimposisi terjadi dalam empat dimensi, terdiri dari superimposisi dalam tempat, superimposisi dalam karakter, superimposisi dalam ruang, dan superimposisi dalam waktu. Perjalanan waktu dilakukan dengan beberapa karakter untuk beberapa waktu selama 2026, 2001, 1941, 1963, dan 1956. Tujuan dari perjalanan waktu dengan Liam adalah untuk memperbaiki sejarah yang diubah oleh Kramer, dan untuk memperbaiki sejarah adalah tujuan dari postmodernisme. Sejarah itu berubah setelah Kramer berjuang dengan Hitler dan ia memimpin Nazi. Kramer memperluas pemerintahannya di New York. Perjalanan waktu adalah salah satu bagian dari fiksi ilmiah berdasarkan definisi garis sejajar. Itulah sebabnya, *TimeRiders* memiliki fiksi ilmiah bergenre. *TimeRiders* dengan fiksi ilmiah yang telah dilakukan sejarah alternatif, karena karakteristik tidak percaya sejarah, karena sejarah dibuat oleh manusia.

Keywords: garis paralel, perjalanan waktu, fiksi ilmiah, superimposisi.

ABSTRACT

This research is intended to analyze the represented of parallel line in TimeRiders using theory of Brian McHale's Postmodernist Fiction. The research question of this study is formulated: "how is parallel line represented in TimeRiders?". The objective of this study is to describe parallel line which is represented in TimeRiders. The source of data in this study is TimeRiders novel by Alex Scarrow that is published in 2007. The data was collected through annotating, previewing, and interpreting to get complete analysis about Parallel Line in TimeRiders. Theory of Brian McHale's Postmodernist Fiction is used as tool for analyzing the finding in the parallel line in TimeRiders. The result of analysis showed that parallel line is represented in TimeRiders, parallel line was represented though time travel. Parallel line connected science fiction and strategy postmodern in this novel. Parallel line caused the application of superimposition in TimeRiders. Superimposition occurred in four dimension, they are superimposition in place, superimposition in character, superimposition in space, and superimposition in time. Time travel was done by some characters for several time during 2026, 2001, 1941, 1963, and 1956. The

¹ Hasil Penelitian

² Alumni Program Studi Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Ilmu Budaya Universitas Halu Oleo, Kampus Hijau Bumi Tridharma, Jl. H.E. Agus Salim Mokodompit, Kendari 93232, Pos-el: asia13@gmail.com

³ Staf Pendidik pada Program Studi Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Ilmu Budaya Universitas Halu Oleo, Kampus Hijau Bumi Tridharma, Jl. H.E. Agus Salim Mokodompit, Kendari 93232, Pos-el: ansorputra@gmail.com

purpose of time travel by Liam is to correct the history that was changed by Kramer, and to correct history is the goal of postmodernism. The history was changed after Kramer fought with Hitler, and he lead Nazi. Kramer expanded his governer in New York. Time travel is one part of science fiction based on parallel line definition. That is why, TimeRiders has science fiction genre. TimeRiders with its science fiction has done alternative history, because of characteristic does not believe history, because history is made by people.

Keywords: parallel line, time travel, science fiction, superimposition.

A. INTRODUCTION

This research is going to take *Time Riders* by Alex Scarrow as material object. *TimeRiders* has science fiction genre. This novel is one of postmodern novels in this era, because this novel shows the plurality of the world between fantasy and real world. The fantasy world came when Liam, Bob, Kramer, and the others did time travel from the future to the past. Time travel is one part of parallel line, where parallel line is a part of science fiction. Kramer, in his time travel he has mission to attack Hitler, he jumps back in time and ensures that Hitler does not lose the Second World War. Kramer created alternative history of World War II. Postmodernism does not believe with history. So that in this novel, with the science fiction created some alternative history.

The Time Riders, in this case Liam and Bob jump back to the past in 1956 in New York to correct the history of the world from destruction but they did not do any attacking or a war. Postmodernism does not like a war, so that their mission in doing time travel was to correct the history that changed by Kramer without doing a war.

This novel tells how technological advances represented in a time machine created by a physicist. The purpose of making time machine is to do time travel or parallel line. Parallel line that exist in this novel caused superimposition. Super-

imposition is one of strategy postmodern that apply in *TimeRiders*. Superimposition can occur in the dimension of character, place (setting), space, and time. There are many things that superimposed in this novel. Such as when Liam jump back in New York in 1957, he met the same man in museum that he saw in museum 2001. The man is the security in the museum, in 2001 the man was 60 years old, while in 1957 the man was around 20 years old. That is one of superimposition in character dimension.

By the phenomenon above, the writer is interested to expose a research entitled "*Parallel Line in TimeRiders by Alex Scarrow (The Application of Brian McHale Postmodernist Fiction)*". In this study, the writer used the theory relevant to the issues in the novel, namely the theory of Brian McHale in Postmodernist Fiction. The writer would like to present a problem which is formulated in the following question "How is parallel line represented in *TimeRiders*?". Based on the research question, the objective of this study is to describe parallel line which is represented in *TimeRiders*.

B. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In this study the writer used Library Research kind of method. It is called as library research because the material object is writing data and the writer did the acti-

vities in collect datas with analyzing Parallel Line is represented in *Time Riders* by Alex Scarrow.

The sources of data in this study are comprised into two types, primary data and secondary data.

1. Primary data was the data collect from the novel *TimeRiders* by Alex Scarrow.
2. Secondary data was the data collect from many sources that deal with the research object (material object), Postmodernist Fiction by Brian McHale and many journals related with the theory or object material.

Data analysis is the way to classify and to arrange the data based on the objective of the research (Mahsun, 2005: 45). In this research, the writer used the descriptive method in analyzing the data. Descriptive method is a method of analysis by describing and analyzing the data and then giving interpretation and explanation. All the selected data was analyzed to prove what are written in the objective of this research and finally the writer can draw the conclusion for this research.

C. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

This chapter provides two sections, the first section describes science fiction as the genre of *TimeRiders*. Science fiction is portrayed by parallel line, where parallel happen through time travel. Parallel line caused there are some alternative history in this novel. The second section describes the application of superimposition in *TimeRiders*, where superimposition in this novel occurred in four dimensions, superimposition in place, superimposition in character, superimposition in space, and superimposition in time.

1. Science-Fictionalization of Postmodernism (Parallel Line and Alternative History)

One part of science fiction is a parallel line. Parallel line is talking about the parallel our world (the real world) and some other world or the absurd world. Parallel line is causing of many *topoi*, such as invasions from outer space, visits to other planets, Utopian or dystopian futures, time-travel, parallel or lost worlds-all of these science-fiction *topoi* serve the purposes of an ontological poetics, but one that has developed almost entirely independently of postmodernism's ontological poetics. Science fiction and postmodernist fiction, it would appear, have advanced along parallel literary-historical tracks.

Science fiction in *TimeRiders* portrayed in the story through a parallel line. It has been described above that one part of parallel line is time travel, in this novel some characters did the time travel, it can be seen through the quotation:

'Liam,' said Foster, 'today's going to be your first trip back into the past. You and Bob are both going together.'

Bob's thick lips managed a clumsy ill-practised smile that looked more like a camel chewing. 'Is good,' his deep voice rumbled.

'And you?' asked Liam.

'Yes, I'm coming along too.'

'Where are we going?'

The old man raised a finger. 'A-hah... now that's a secret.'" (Ch. 25, p. 70)

In quotation above showed that there was parallel line through time travel, Foster told Liam that day will be the first trip for Liam. Liam will do time travel somewhere. Foster did not want to tell Liam where will he go. Beside the quotation, the time travel has done by others. It can be known through the following quotation:

Such is the absurdity of time travel, Paul... eh?

Background details, of course, known only to the few men he trusted around

him: Karl Haas and the three other men who'd come through the time machine and survived to this day. Storming Hitler's Bavarian retreat had proven costly. Just the five of them left by the time Hitler ordered his men to stand down. The people of Germany adored Kramer, their Führer – the one who led them to victory, the leader who'd replaced that confused anti-Semitic old fool, Adolf Hitler. They believed him to be German, they cared not that there was no record of his childhood, no record of a mother or a father, no trace of his existence in this world... until the spring of 1941. All they cared was that he had emerged from nowhere, like a guardian angel falling from heaven, and led them to victory. He'd united Europe under one proud banner, not that idiotic symbol, the swastika, but a banner of his very own design, the uroboros – the serpent eating its own tale – a symbol of infinity (Ch. 43, p. 137-138).

From the quotation above showed that Kramer and his followers has done time travel, Where Kramer said that time travel they do is absurd. Absurd described that they passed the time dimension from the future to the past and they are still alive. It is hard to believe but it is real. Where the traveling time, Kramer and his followers have successfully changed the history of the past, by attacking Hitler and made him resign from the government.

In the quotation above, Kramer admired by the German society without knowing who Kramer actually is. A person who did time travel also has risks, where time travel was unperfect will impact with condition of the body who did time travel. It can be seen through the quotation:

His eyes drifted across the twisted, mutated thing in the body bag between them.

Karl looked up at his leader. 'You think this might have been the result of another time traveller?'

Kramer said nothing in response.

How could someone else travel through time? (Ch. 45, p. 141)

In the quotation above showed that how Kramer shock when seeing the object that wraps in a body bag carried by Karl. From Karl question to Kramer, he knew that his leader would thought that the body was a result of the time travel, without answering Karl's question, Kramer really confident that the body was one risk of time travel, but he was still unsure how could anyone else after him and his followers were able to do time travel.

Based on the analyzing above, the writer concluded that there is a risk in doing time travel. In addition, there is also a quotation that showed Liam wrote coordinates of the location where he and Bob there. In order to Foster and Maddy can send them back home by traveling time through a time machine. It can be known-through the following quotation:

But then, in a fainter ink, she spotted it: written with a different pen in the gap left between one comment and another, scrawled in the untidy hand of a person writing quickly... Me and Bob would really like to come home now, please. Lat: 40°42'42.28"N. Long: 73°57'59.75"W. Time: 18.00, 05-03-1957 (Ch. 77, p. 252-253).

The quotation above illustrated that Liam and Bob wanted to back home, the way to back home was by doing the time travel. Therefore, the writer concluded that Liam and Bob will do time travel. In order to make it easier Liam wrote the coordinates point. Liam hope that Foster, Maddy or Sal will read the coordinates.

In a time travel someone needs to pay attention to the accuracy of location

and time. It can be known from following the quotation:

‘OK, Liam, you’re going to be there for two hours exactly. We’ve set the coordinates for the first of September 1956. We’re sending you to the grounds of the White House – the president’s Washington office. All you and Bob are going to do is observe, OK? Just observe. Do you understand?’

Liam nodded.: ‘Y-yes.’ (Ch. 34, p. 107)

The quotation above showed that Foster and Liam were talking about location where will Liam do his time travel. So that the writer concluded the accuracy of time and location in doing time travel is very important. Here also there is a quotation that proves the determination of the location and time of the time travel is needed. It can be seen through the following quotation:

‘Anyway, back to business,’ he said. ‘I suggest we pick a return window within the vicinity of the White House, not too far away but safely beyond any security perimeter. We need to see whether they have a map of Washington in this new Nazi version. The city may be different, sections rebuilt.’ ‘OK.’ ‘So that’s the where. We need to now consider the when. I have a suggestion for that. We set it for the last possible time for their mission. Bob’s maximum mission duration—’ (Ch. 49, p. 153).

The real fact about Nazi is from the mid-to late 1930s, Hitler undermined the postwar international order step by step, when Nazi Germany moved toward Poland, Great Britain and France countered further aggression by guaranteeing Polish security. Nevertheless, Germany invaded Poland on September 1, 1939, and Great Britain and France declared war on Germany. Six years of Nazi Party foreign policy had ignited World War II.

As the war expanded, the Nazi Party formed alliances with Japan and Italy in the Tripartite Pact of 1940, and honored its 1939 Nazi-Soviet Nonaggression Pact with the Soviet Union until 1941, when Germany launched a massive blitzkrieg invasion of the Soviet Union. In the brutal fighting that followed, Nazi troops tried to realize the long-held goal of crushing the world’s major communist power. After the United States entered the war in 1941, Germany found itself fighting in North Africa, Italy, France, the Balkans and in a counterattacking Soviet Union. At the beginning of the war, Hitler and his Nazi Party were fighting to dominate Europe; five years later they were fighting to exist.

From the description about real fact above, Nazi did not do invasion to Washington, but after the United States entered the war in 1941, Germany found itself fighting in North Africa, Italy, France, the Balkans and in a counterattacking Soviet Union. At the beginning of the war, Hitler and his Nazi Party were fighting to dominate Europe; five years later they were fighting to exist. In this novel with its science fiction has done alternative history that from the quotation above describes Foster said that *a map of Washington in this new Nazi version*. The sentence prove that Nazi has changed by Kramer who fought with Hitler and he expanded his governor in Washington. That is why, Foster will pick a return window for Liam and Bob came back in 2001, Foster was very pay attention about the location because there is the new Nazi lead by Kramer who has did time travel from 2026 to 1941 in Germany to fight with Hitler.

From the quotation above showed that in doing time travel, one thing that very important is accuracy of location and time, where Foster considered about the appropriate of location to arrange the returning of Liam and Bob, because the location and situation of Washington in

1956 and 2001 are different, whether in form of the city or its security. So it must be really expected the return window was correct and close with Foster's location in 2001. About the time, Foster set the time in the end of their mission. That is because time travel using a time machine involving computing devices.

Parallel line in time travel also caused the people around is hard to believe that someone did time travel was really happen. It can be known from following quotation:

'You're really asking me to believe you're from the future?'

'Yes.' Liam shrugged. 'Well, actually I'm from 1912. But –' he offered a tired smile – 'yes... I came here from the future'. 'And you say you came back to today... to 1956, to fix history so that the Germans actually lost the Second World War?' 'Yes. To correct history' (Ch. 54, p. 169).

The real fact of Germany is in December 1941 Germany lost the war when it failed in its all-or-nothing attempt to defeat Russia before the winter, and in addition to that, at its moment of failure, the US joined the war and its additional immense war potential further ensured Germany's defeat.

Science fiction in this novel has done alternative history, where in the quotation above Liam said that he did time travel to correct the history, the history was changed because Kramer fight with Hitler who did time travel from 2026 to 1941, just a moment before Hitler defeat to Russia. In the case to correct history is the goal of postmodernism, like Liam as the agent of *TimeRiders* jump back in the past to correct the history that has changed by Kramer. The quotation showed how Liam tried to convince Wallace that he really came from the future and he did time travel.

However, in Wallace's mind it is unreasonable and what Liam said just a joke.

Based on quotations and analysis above, the writer concluded that science fiction in *TimeRiders* occurred in time travel, where some characters named Kramer, Karl, Kramer's follower did time travel from the future, from New York in 2026 to Germany in 1941, and carried out an attack against Hitler. Moreover, time travel was also did by Liam and Bob who came from 2001 and go back to 1956. The similarity of time travel they did is by using a time machine.

2. The Application of Superimposition in TimeRiders

a. Superimposition in Place

In *TimeRiders*, the writer found some quotation that showed superimposition in place.

When Liam was in Titanic ship that will be sink, he met an old man as the following quotation:

'Say goodbye to your life, Liam,' he shouted above the thunderous din of the ship splitting in two.

The last sensation that Liam was aware of was the vibrating metal floor of the passageway beneath his feet giving way, and falling... falling through darkness.

Falling, falling... falling. Liam jerked awake, his legs kicking out. His eyes still clamped shut, he felt with his hands-material, dry and warm covering him. It was quiet, almost silent, except for the soft rustle of breathing next to him, and a distant muted rumble somewhere far above him. He knew that he was mysteriously somewhere else – that much was obvious. (Ch. 2-3, p. 12)

In the quotation above showed that Liam was initially in corridor in the ship that split in two. Then an old man told Liam to say goodbye to his life. It described that Liam would go somewhere else. Then he

fell in and he was in a dry room. By the time, Liam knew that he had been somewhere mysteriously and no longer in Titanic ship. It showed that there was superimposition in place. Where corridors in the Titanic connected with a bed in dry room.

Based on the analysis above, the writer concluded that the characteristics of a superimposition in place, when initially Liam was in a ship, and then he felt the sensation of falling. As he felt he had been in a dry room and he was on a bed. It showed that two places superimposed on the same place (two places placed one on top of another).

b. Superimposition in Character

Here the following quotation that indicated the superimposition in character:

Liam grinned. 'I've actually met you in the year 2001. Guess what? You're still working here. You're a security guard, guarding these very books, so it happens.' The worker's eyes narrowed. 'I... I don't understand'. 'You don't have to understand. I just wanted you to know that'. (Ch. 75, p. 245).

Liam really ever met the same security in same museum when he was in 2001. It can be seen through the following quotation:

On a podium, a large leather-bound book lay open beneath the glow of a brass reading lamp. Beside it an old security guard with a ruddy face, topped with thick bushy eyebrows and an odd heart-shaped mole poking out from one of them, stood to attention. 'Guest book,' growled the guard, noticing Liam's curious gaze. 'Feel free to sign and add a comment if you wish, sir,' he added reluctantly. 'And keep it clean'. Liam looked down and noticed the scrawled messages of hundreds of visitors, so many different names, so many languages.

'Keep it clean?' The guard cleared his throat. 'I know what you damn teenagers are like'. (Ch. 29, p. 88).

The quotation above showed that Liam really met the same security even in different age. Based on the quotation the writer concluded that superimposition in characters occurred with the security. He did not move from his body as Liam met him for the second time in 2001 and 1956. However, because Liam back to the past in 1956, he met with the same man, although with different ages. His age proven that he got superimposed in character, he lived in 2001 at the age of 60 years, and when Liam was in 1956 he still met the man. Without realizing the man that he had lived in 2001. Time travel that done by Liam caused the man got superimposition in character.

c. Superimposition in Space

In this study, the writer also found quotations that indicated superimposition in space. It can be seen through the following quotation:

8.43 a.m. Two minutes to go.

She looked up at the skyline, seeing in the distance the very tops of the two World Trade Center towers, glistening like polished silver in the morning light. Proud structures that confidently seemed to reach up to the blue sky and actually touch it. And inside... so many thousands of people, sitting down to start a regular day at work, opening their email in-boxes, peeling the lid off their Starbucks coffee, unwrapping their salt-beef and mustard bagels. (Ch. 32, p. 100-101)

In the quotation above, Sal was waiting for two minutes before the explosion that destroyed the Two World Trade Center Towers. It structures with a very beautiful which reach up the blue sky. She thought about the thousands of people

who were working in the building and within two minutes of the thousands of people will lose their lives.

d. Superimposition in time

In doing time travel by Liam and Bob, the writer also found a superimposition in time when they were in the year 1957. It can be seen through the following quotation:

Liam: 'Why's it still so small?' 'They must have limited power. Or this window has been projected by machinery that is not fully charged.' Liam stepped eagerly towards it. Bob: 'Caution: you must be entirely within the sphere. Any part of you not within will be left behind when it closes'. Liam carefully ducked down low and eased himself within the shimmering envelope of energy. Once he was in, crouching because the sphere was low, Bob joined him, stepping in and hunkering down, wrapping his thick arms around Liam to prevent him wobbling out of the envelope. Bob: 'Remain completely still,' said Bob. Then all of a sudden it felt like the ground beneath their feet had been whipped away from them and they were tumbling through air. His feet hit hard, cold concrete. Familiar concrete. Oil-stained concrete. The first thing he noticed was that the arch was pretty dark. The second thing he noticed was Maddy screaming and then the deafening, echoing boom of a shotgun fired just a few feet away (Ch. 83, p. 270-271).

In the quotation above showed that Liam was about to enter the shimmering envelope of energy for returning to 2001 with Bob. In the quotation shows that place they were in 1957 and 2001 are currently same, namely the office when Liam enters the shimmering and floating in the air, at the moment the superimposition in time occur, where Liam floating in the air, Liam finally back to year 2001 in his office, but

the office has different conditions from 1957.

Based on the analysis above, the writer concluded that there was a superimposition in time that occurred in *Time-Riders*, through the shimmering and floating in the air Liam moved from 1957 to 2001 and it happen in same place, it was in their office.

REFERENCES

- <http://www.theguardian.com/childrens-books-site/2013/feb/25/timeriders-alex-scarrow-review> (accessed on October 17 2014)
- Leedy, P. & Ormrod, J. (2001). *Practical research: Planning and design* (7th ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Merrill Prentice Hall. Thousand Oaks: SAGE Publications.
- McHale, Brian. 1987. *Postmodern Fiction*. Methuen, Inc. Great Britain.
- Malhotra, Isha., 2013. *Jeanette Winterson's Fiction: A Postmodernist Fabulation*. ISSN: 2278-4012, Volume: 2.
- Nicol, Brand. 2009. *The Cambridge To Introduce Postmodern Fiction*. United Kingdom: Cambridge University Press.
- Randall, John Herman, Jr. "The Nature of Naturalism." In Yervant H. Krikorian, ed., *Naturalism and the Human Spirit*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1944: 354–82.
- Ratna, N.K. 2006. *Teori Metode dan Teknik Penelitian Sastra*. Jakarta: Gramedia
- Roberts, Adam. 2000. *Science Fiction*. London: Routledge.
- Roberts, Edgar V and Henry E Jacob. (1993). *Literature an introduction to Reading and Writing*. New Jersey: Upper saddle River

- Roberts, Edgar, V. 1999. *Writing about Literature*. New Jersey: Prentice Hall, inc.
- Sumarni, Cici. 2009. *Female Major Character's Struggle in Nathaniel Hawthorne's The Scarlet Letter*. Kendari: Thesis Halu Oleo University (Unpublished).
- Scarrow, Alex. 2010. *TimeRiders*. Jakarta: Gramedia.
- Scarrow, Alex. 2010. *TimeRiders Day of Predator*. England: Penguin Group
- Shelke, K.N., Prof., *Research Chronicler* A Peer-Reviewed Refereed and Indexed International Multidisciplinary Research Journal. Volume II. ISSN: 2347-503X
- Sugiyono. 2011. *Metode Penelitian Kombinasi (Mixed Methods)*. Bandung: Alfabeta.