

AN ANALYSIS OF NARRATIVE STRUCTURALISM IN *THE ROAD* BY CORMAC McCARTHY'S: AJ GREIMAS PERSPECTIVE

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Abstract

*The purpose of this study was to find out how the functional scheme works in the story *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy according to AJ. Greimas. This research was examined using the structuralism theory put forward by AJ. Greimas. The method used is descriptive qualitative to analyze the source of the data taken from quotations in the novel *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy. The finding in this study is the functional scheme in this story has a stage of telling the subject in reaching the object which opens with an unhappy start, as well as the ending of this story which has a sad ending.*

Keywords: *Post-Apocalyptic, Greimas Perspective, Narrative Structuralism*

Abstrak

*Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui bagaimana skema fungsional bekerja dalam cerita *The Road* karya Cormac McCarthy menurut AJ. Greimas. Penelitian ini dikaji dengan menggunakan teori strukturalisme yang dikemukakan oleh AJ. Greimas. Metode yang digunakan adalah deskriptif kualitatif dengan menganalisis sumber data yang diambil dari kutipan-kutipan dalam novel *The Road* karya Cormac McCarthy. Temuan dari penelitian ini adalah skema fungsional pada cerita ini memiliki tahapan penceritaan subjek dalam mencapai objek yang dibuka dengan awal yang tidak bahagia, serta memiliki akhir cerita yang menyedihkan..*

Kata Kunci: *Pasca-Apokaliptik, Perspektif Greimas, Strukturalisme Naratif*

1. INTRODUCTION

Etymologically Structuralism comes from the Latin *struere* (to build), *structura* which means in the form of a building. The structure itself is a theoretical building (abstract) which is formed from a number of components that relate to each other. Structure is the main aspect in structuralism. In other words, structuralism is a theory which states that various cultural and natural phenomena are theoretical (abstract) structures consisting of elements that are related to each other in syntagmatic and paradigmatic relations. Structuralism also assumes that all human organizations are determined broadly by social or psychological structures that have an interesting independent logic related to human intentions, desires, and goals. According to Taum (in Hamzah & Rahayu, 2011) explains that the theory of literary structuralism is a theory of approach to literary texts that emphasizes the overall relationship between various elements of the text. While according to Tyson (2006) (in Irawan, 2015), said if structuralism has very important implications. After all, literature is verbal art: it is composed of language. In addition, structuralist believe that the structuring mechanism of the human mind are the means by which we make sense out of chaos, and literature is a fundamentals means by which human being explain the world themselves. That is making out of chaos. Structuralist approach to literature will focus on the narrative dimension of literary text because structuralist criticism deals mainly with narration. In the narrative structuralism there is an actan.

Greimas through Taum (in Wulandari et al, 2020) suggests that the actan is the smallest narrative unit, the function of the actan consisting of six actants, namely Subject, Object, Sender, Receiver, Helper & Opponent. Greimas summarizes Vladimir Propp's concept of 31 functions of action into 20 functions which are grouped into three syntaxes. Furthermore, with a focus on the relationship and function of actants, Greimas offers the concept *three spheres of opposed* as follows Subject vs Object, Sender vs Receiver, Helper vs Opponent. Greimas tries to find a pattern from a narrative text that focuses on the function of the character as an actor who moves the story (order of events) in a syntagmatic relation structure (Karnata, 2015). According to Geimas (in Dewi, 2019) , a functional model explains a model of story as a plot of events called by function. The function of the functional model used to explain the role of the subject to carry out the assignment from the sender which is contained in the actant.

2. METHODOLOGY

The method of this study is using qualitative method. The data collection in this study was sourced from the novel *The Road* in the form of words and sentences by taking fragments of the dialogue contained in the story of *The Road*. According to Sugiyono (2006) (in Pratiwi :2017) qualitative data is the stated data in the form of words, sentences, and pictures. The techniques in analyzing data which are divided into several parts. First, by explaining the meaning of the novel and then explaining the structuralism approach. Second, explain the structuralism of AJ Greimas along with the actant and functional schemes. And lastly, it includes several research reviews that support that this research is different from previous research.

3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

After observing the situations contained in the story of the road, it will be seen the stages of the situation that show the role of the subject when they have to get the object. The following are the stages contained in the story of *The Road* when the man tries to get an object. The beginning situation that occurred in *The Road*'s story showed the condition of the landscape that had been destroyed after the apocalyptic. Conditions like this made the climate chaotic, forest fires everywhere, flying gray covered the streets, days looked gray without sunlight and the nights are colder and darker far beyond the darkness. None of the animals and plants live, so humans eat each other to survive, and those who have no hope prefer to end their lives. Here is the quotation. Due to the condition of the world that has been destroyed, the man has to carry out a tough task as a father in protecting his child while continuing to struggle to survive in the midst of a destroyed world, where nothing is left. It was on this basis that made the man never give up to continue moving south in the hope of getting a decent life. During their journey they always stop at one place and stay for a while, then leave a few days later because the man knows that the place where they are is no longer safe so they can reach the main destination where there are no more cannibals. During the main test stage, it was told that when the man and his son were resting in a forest near a hill after being tired of traveling to the south, suddenly a group of cannibals passed by and forced them to escape from the situation. They ran into the forest to hide, but unfortunately they were caught by one of the cannibals who was urinating. They also had a long conversation and when the man was off guard, the cannibal quickly grabbed the child and held him hostage with a knife, this condition made the man have to kill one of the cannibals using a revolver because he made the child hostage. Describes the subject's efforts to get the object blocked by the presence of

the opponent. A thief came to their camp and took all the supplies while they were on the beach resting for a while before they continued their journey, the thief took all of the man's belongings including the wagon which was hidden. Unfortunately, the theft he did did not go smoothly, the man managed to follow him and threatened him with a gun to return what he took from them. After take back the stolen goods, the father and son continued south through the town near the wharf, they pushed the carts down the back roads across the tracks and arrived at the main road. When they passed the last house which was quite sad, there was a clanking sound and suddenly someone from the window shot an arrow attack at them. The man swiftly pulled the boy down and overturned the cart for cover, but an arrow shot right into the man's leg. While enduring the pain, the man grabbed a flare gun to retaliate and fired it right at the window, screams were heard from inside the house. Here is the quotation. The ending situation of *The Road* describes the failure of the man and his son on their journey to the southern hemisphere to seek a decent life because the man who is the subject of this story has died. But before he died, he advised his son to continue his journey south alone and look for the remaining good people. Then shortly after the man died, a combat veteran came up to the boy and offered to help him, initially he refused because he doubted that the veteran was a bad guy. Then the veteran gave the child 2 choices, go with him or stay there with his father and die. After being quite sure of the veteran, the child accepted his invitation and said goodbye to his father's body, then a woman who was the wife of the veteran greeted him properly while introducing her children. Here is the quotation.

4. CONCLUSIONS

From the research done, it could be concluded that the functional scheme in this story has a stage of telling the subject in reaching the object which opens with an unhappy start, as well as the ending of this story which has a sad ending.” is a good movie.

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