

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

Literature is something that is basically often encountered during the education phase and even in daily life. According to Klarer (2004), the meaning of literature when viewed in terms of the narrowed meaning of etymology is that everything written by letters has artistic value and coherence. Literature can be said to be a way for someone to put what they think into writing or speech into language that contains beauty in their words. The presence of literature can help to convey everyone's thoughts, feelings, arguments to other people such as family, friends, rulers, even everyone if the person wrote it in a writing that can be read in general. The existence of literary works can also influence society. This could happen because the more people know a literary work, the more people feel what the author feels, have the same arguments, have the same thoughts, or even contradict the author. Literature creates an opportunity for the next generation to look back on what happened in the past. Not just to enjoy the story, but to know the values that exist either explicitly or hidden in literary works.

Literary works have various genres that have been known since the past until now. Klarer (2004) mentioned in his book that there are four main genres in literary works. The four main genres are fiction, drama, poetry and film. In this research, drama will be used as a data source. The drama chosen by the researcher is a classic tragedy drama. The classic tragedy drama was chosen because it has a complex storyline because the story that will be delivered has various problems in it such as

love, power, and revenge that lead to an ending in the form of sorrow. The classical drama of tragedy was also chosen because it has a more aesthetic sentence structure that has many metaphorical sentences that make people interested in seeing more clearly the meaning of the existing sentences.

In literary criticism, in-depth reading includes techniques in analyzing which require special techniques so that the reading of a literary work can be more scientific, structured, and conceptual. There are several ways to read literature in the context of criticism which is divided into various theories, one of them is reading by using structuralism which will be used in this research. According to Hawkes (2004), structuralism is one of many approaches that focus on selected literary works and discusses the intrinsic elements that function to build the literary work itself. Therefore, the analysis of structuralism in a literary work can explore in depth a literary work. Structuralism also has a goal to examine in detail to get a value or issue that is not clearly discussed by the author of the literary work.

One of the experts, Eagleton (2013) explained in his book how to read literary works which are divided into four sides, namely character, narrative, interpretation, and value. The characters are included here because Eagleton believed that every writer has different characteristics in describing their characters and also differences in characters based on the themes taken. The narrative side in question is the content of the story conveyed by the author. The interpretation referred to is consideration about the meaning of what is written by the author, not only from the opinion of the author, but readers can also give personal opinions. With interpretation, readers can interpret literary works more than ever before. The last

is the value, the assessment of the good and bad of literary works over time cannot be seen from only one side. Also, Eagleton (2013) in his book said enjoying and admiring a literary work are different things and in evaluating a literary work must put personal feelings aside. How to read the literature above will be used in the process of reading the literary works that will be used in this research in the form of a classic drama with the title Othello written by Shakespeare.

This research applied the narrative structure theory as one of the theories in the structuralism approach. The narrative structure theory used is the idea of an expert named A.J Greimas. This theory is widely used to analyze literary works that usually used for plot analysis of a story. The purpose of this theory is to get a deeper structure from a literary work. Greimas' theory was chosen to apply literary readings because Greimas's narrative structure can analyze all literary works universally without any particular focus, unlike another expert, Claude Levi-Strauss whose theory focuses more on myth. Greimas narrative structure is also used because it examines each character in a literary work in more detail from the beginning to the end of the story. Greimas (1984) in his book described several steps on reading literary works, including actantial schemes, functional schemes, isotopy, and semiotic squares. Also, Greimas (1984) said in his book that the actantial scheme is an analysis of an action in a literary work. The functional scheme has a function as a schema that organizes the plot that happened. The functional scheme is divided into three parts, namely the beginning situation, transformation, and ending situation. However, the semiotic square is an analysis that shows several contradictory words contained in the story. Last, isotopy is an analysis that looks

for messages that are broader than what is only written in the story. The Structuralism approach and Greimas theory have been chosen for the research on “Othello” drama due to their unique perspectives on the analysis of literary works. Structuralism emphasizes the underlying structures that are present in language and culture, which help to create meaning. This approach considers the work as a system of signs that are organized and interconnected. On the other hand, Greimas theory, which is rooted in structuralism, focuses on the narrative structure and the semantic relationships between the elements of the narrative. This approach is particularly useful in analyzing complex and multi-layered texts like Shakespeare's Othello. By using these approaches, the research can delve deeper into the text and understand the underlying structures, patterns, and meanings that are hidden beneath the surface of the drama. The research using these approaches will help in uncovering the complex relationships between the characters, the themes, and the symbols used in the drama, which will provide a more comprehensive understanding of Othello.

Greimas theory above will be applied to Shakespeare's drama entitled Othello. This drama is a tragic story written in 1603 by a famous writer William Shakespeare who was born in the 16th century. The name of the drama “Othello” by Shakespeare (1603) itself is taken from the main character Othello who is a general in Venice, Italy who has African blood. This drama told the story of a main character named Othello who has a wife named Desdemona. The wife of Othello, Desdemona is the daughter of a senator in Venice. Othello and Desdemona married secretly without his father's blessing. On the other hand, Othello had two lieutenants named Cassio and Iago. Cassio is described as someone who has a higher rank than

Iago, even though Cassio is Iago's junior. With this promotion Iago begins his manipulation tactics to avenge Othello for his position which he finds inappropriate. Iago begins by manipulating a person named Roderigo, who basically loves Desdemona. This Shakespeare's (1603) drama used as a data source because it has been made into several movies with the same and different titles. As for every film released, it has been nominated for various awards.

One of the components in Greimas reading method is the classification of subject and object as the narrative structuralism terminology. Hebert & Desmedt (2011) explained the theory of Greimas about the actant that there is a relationship between subject and object with a certain thing. As for the Shakespeare drama, which is used as the data source, one of the examples of subject is Desdemona and the object is love. It could be reflected from the quotation below:

OTHELLO. Peace, and be still!
 DESDEMONA. I will so. What's the matter?
 OTHELLO. That handkerchief which I so loved and gave thee
 Thou gavest to Cassio.
 DESDEMONA. No, by my life and soul!
 Send for the man, and ask him. (Shakespeare, 1603, 5.2.56-52)

The quotation above showing that Desdemona became a subject because she had a desire to prove her love to the Othello. One of Desdemona's struggles in this drama in getting proof of her love for Othello is to prove that she is not having an affair with Cassio. Love is used as the object in this "Othello" drama because Desdemona wants to prove her love for the main character of the drama, Othello by showing evidence of her love. The quotation below occurred when Desdemona denied that she gave her handkerchief to Cassio and asked Othello to send someone

to ask Cassio directly to prove her words. This conversation aimed to show her pure love to Othello that make Desdemona become a subject in this drama.

Another example that is still related to the actants that will be discussed in this research is the helper, one of the actantial scheme's parts. In this research, the helper is included in one of the actants who have a function as a subject assistant to get the desired object. The following is evidence of a quotation about Emilia being a helper with her statement:

EMILIA. O thou dull Moor! That handkerchief thou speakst of
 I found by fortune and did give my husband.
 For often, with a solemn earnestness
 More than indeed belonged to such a trifle
 He begged of me to steal it.
 IAGO. Villainous whore!
 EMILIA. She give it Cassio? No, alas, I found it
 And I did give t my husband.
 IAGO. Filth, thou liest! (Shakespeare, 1603, 5.2.267-276)

The quotation above taking one of the characters from "Othello" drama named Emilia, Iago's wife and also Desdemona's servant. Emilia can be concluded as a helper because she helps Desdemona who wants to prove her real love for Othello by providing the help of a statement that Emilia was the one who found Desdemona's handkerchief which was the source of the problem of the affair between Desdemona and Cassio. With Emilia's statement, it can be said that Emilia's character can be used as a helper because she helps the subject get the object.

Greimas theory has been widely used by previous researcher combined with various different data sources. One example is the article written by Wulandari, et al. (2020), this research aimed to analyze the actantial scheme and functional

structure in a folklore. This article used Greimas theory which focused on actantial model. The method in this article is qualitative descriptive. The data source used is two folklores, Asal Mulo Jambi Tulo and Jambi Kecik. The results found the fulfilled all of functional structure and actants scheme.

Another example is the article written by Seli, et al. (2020) that analyzed the narrative structure in the form of actantial schemes and functional structures and the existence of a relationship between actant schemas and functional structures. This article used Greimas theory which focused on actantial structure and functional structure. The method in this article is qualitative descriptive. The data source used is an oral story from the Dayak tribe with title Ne' Baruakng Kulup. The results of the research found in this article were the discovery of 14 actantial schemes and 14 functional structures.

Based on the problems that existed in previous studies, in this research the researcher focused the problem into two specific problem limitation, the actantial scheme and isotopy that reflected in the "Othello" drama. The use of Greimas theory in this research because this theory is considered appropriate and related to what the researcher wants to research. The use of data sources of "Othello" drama because the drama was written by the famous writer William Shakespeare, the story has an interesting plot in the form of tragedy, and has also been adapted into movies with the same storyline or changed. "Othello" drama is much talked about because until now it is still being played in several places because of its good plot.

1.2 Identification of the Problem

Based on the background of the research written above, there are several problems that can be identified. The problem is related to the theory of structuralism which focuses on the theory by A. J. Greimas. The problems are:

1. The storyline that contains various issues that exist in “Othello” drama by Shakespeare.
2. The process of actantial scheme implementation found in “Othello” drama by Shakespeare.
3. The process of functional scheme implementation found in “Othello” drama by Shakespeare.
4. The isotopy found in “Othello” drama by Shakespeare.

1.3 Limitation of the Problem

The analysis in this research was focused on actantial scheme and isotopy using the theory of A. J. Greimas. The existence of limitation aimed to make the research focus on several things and not deviate from the original aim. Based on the identification of the problem above, there are two problems that have been taken for limitation of the problem:

1. The process of actantial scheme implementation found in “Othello” drama by Shakespeare.
2. The isotopy found in “Othello” drama by Shakespeare.

1.4 Formulation of the Problem

Based on the limitation of the problem above, the two problems that have been selected are shaped into research questions that aimed to become the focus of research. The two problems that became research questions are:

1. What are the processes of actantial scheme implementation found in “Othello” drama by Shakespeare?
2. What is the isotopy found in “Othello” drama by Shakespeare?

1.5 Objectives of the Research

The objectives of the research were related to the formulation of the problem above. This is to achieve several objectives in this research as listed below:

1. To find out the processes of actantial scheme implementation in “Othello” drama by Shakespeare.
2. To discover the isotopy found in “Othello” drama by Shakespeare.

1.6 Significance of the Research

The significance of the research was divided into theoretical and practical significance.

1. Theoretical Significance

In terms of theoretical significance, the analysis of actantial schemes and isotopy in “Othello” drama contributes to the ongoing conversation in literary theory about the nature of narrative structure and the relationship between form and content. Actantial scheme involves examining the characters and their relationships within a narrative, focusing on the roles they play and the actions they take. Isotopy, on the other hand, involves examining the recurring themes and motifs within a

text. By applying these theoretical frameworks to “Othello” drama, this research adds to the understanding of how narrative structures function in complex literary works. It also highlights the importance of analyzing the various elements that contribute to the overall meaning of a text, including character relationships, themes, and motifs. In this way, the analysis of actantial schemes and isotopy in “Othello” drama can contribute to the ongoing development of literary theory and provide new insights into the interpretation of other works of literature.

Furthermore, this research can also serve as a valuable comparison and reference point for future studies on actantial schemes and isotopy in other literary works. By providing a detailed analysis of how these theoretical frameworks operate in “Othello” drama, this research can serve as a model for future studies that seek to apply these frameworks to other texts. Overall, this research has significant theoretical implications for the study of literature and can contribute to the ongoing development of literary theory and analysis.

2. Practical Significance

Practically, the analysis of actantial schemes and isotopy in “Othello” drama has important implications for literary interpretation and analysis. By examining the structural elements of the drama in detail, this research can provide valuable insights into the ways in which character relationships, themes, and motifs contribute to the overall meaning of the text. This analysis can help readers to develop a deeper understanding of the drama, and can also provide a useful reference for scholars and students studying other literary works.

Moreover, this research can help readers to recognize and understand the concepts of actantial scheme and isotopy, which can be valuable tools for analyzing narrative structure and meaning in a variety of literary works.

Additionally, this research has practical significance for the researcher themselves, as it deepens their knowledge and understanding of literary theory and analysis. By engaging in a detailed analysis of the structural elements of “Othello” drama, the researcher can develop valuable skills in close reading and interpretation, which can be applied to other literary works in the future. Finally, the researcher can contribute to the ongoing development of literary theory and analysis by sharing their findings with other scholars and students.

1.7 Definition of Key Terms

Structuralism : Structuralism is an approach that was originally taken from language. The aim of the structuralism approach is to expand the existing structural fields in a story. The structuralism approach also analyzes in depth with something related to the intrinsic elements in literary works. (Pettit, 1975).

Actantial scheme : A schema included in one of Greimas's theoretical steps in the analysis of a literary work. Actantial scheme is used to analyze an action in a literary work. An actantial schema is consisted of 6 actants in the form of subject, object, helper, opponent, sender, recipient. (Greimas, 1984)

Isotopy : Isotopy is one of the steps to analyze literary works from the Greimas concept theory. Isotopy has a goal to expand beyond existing sentences in search of a deeper message that is not written in a literary work. The result of isotopy is something new but still in the same scope. (Schleifer, 2017).