

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Research

Every author has their own way to construct the story that they have written in to make it becomes more valuable and can be understand to the reader. The story will be arranged as good as their works can be understood by the readers. The story could be seen by the structures of the text that the author has written in their literary works. Also, the structures there will be a function which tells the reader about the elements that constructed the story in literary works. Therefore, the reader could know the story and some elements through the structures of the text.

In this research, the researcher uses structuralism to figure out the construction which has been arranged by the author of the novel. Klarer (2013) stated that, structuralism is one of approaches in literature that analyze about the text in the literary works. This approach is mainly focus in the narrative structures in literary works. The researcher analyze about the structure in the text that has been constructed the story in a fiction. Therefore, through this approach the researcher wants to figure out the elements that construct the story in the novel.

Narrative structure is one of a part from structuralism approach. As its name, the research is more focus on analyze about the narration in the story. The narration send the story of the novel to the reader by its sentence. Also, the

narration shows the structure of the sentences which construct the story line. Fludernik (2009) stated that narrative structure was developed by some structuralism experts from French. the experts were influenced by Vladimir Propp which tells about the narrative structure only in a folktale story. One of the expert is Algirdas Julien Greimas who proposed narrative structure theory which he made simpler than Propp's theory.

The researcher uses the narrative structure to reveal the elements that construct the story by using A.J. Greimas' theory about actantial concept and isotopy in the novel. Greimas' theory (as cited in Ratna, 2015) is more details about the story from the beginning until the final. Greimas offers a theory which shows the correlation of the text in the story. Greimas also introduces a narrative structure theory that contains actantial concept and isotopy in a story. Therefore, Greimas's theory gives more details of narrative structures in the story.

In Greimas' narrative structure theory, actantial concept has two parts, they are actantial schema and functional model. In actantial schema, there are three axis which has some actants. The axis of desire, the axis of power, and the axis of transmission. Then, the functional model in Greimas' theory has three stages, the initial situation, the transformation stage, and the final situation. Hence, from the interpretation of the actantial concept the researcher can find isotopy in the novel.

In this research, the researcher analyze about a novel titled "See You in The Cosmos" by Jack Cheng (2017). The main character in here is also being the narrator of the story. The novel is about a young boy named Alex who loves astronomy and rockets. Also, he lives with his mother that has schizophrenia.

Also, he has a brother who lives far from them and barely to take care of him. Therefore, Alex wants to achieve something by recording himself and have a long journey to get the thing he wanted for.

As the explanation above, to support the researcher's theory about the narrative structure above, here is quotation of the narration started to tell about the story in the novel "See You in The Cosmos".

"That's my dog. I named him after my hero, Dr. Carl Sagan, who was one of the greatest astronomers of our time. Dr. Sagan helped send Voyagers 1 and 2 into deep space and put a Golden Record on them with all kinds of sounds from our planet, like whales singing, and people say hello in fifty-five languages, and the laugh of a newborn baby and the brainwaves of a woman in love and mankind's greatest music like Bach and Beethoven and Chuck Berry. Maybe you've heard it?" (Cheng, 2017, p.2)

The narrative structure shows how the actant created in the novel. It shows that Dr. Carl Sagan is an astronomer who makes the Alex (the main character) gets inspiration to share his recordings because Dr. Carl Sagan was launched his recordings twice in the space by Golden Records. It helps Alex to find a way in showing his object. Therefore, in here Dr. Carl Sagan as the helper who inspires him to make some recordings.

Another problem that the researcher has found in the novel is the opponent to the main character. There are some opponents that block the character to achieve his desire.

"The ticket guy looked at me and he said. This is an adult ticket, and I said, yeah, because the website only let me buy an adult ticket. He said that I need a children's ticket and I asked him how can I get one, and he said I need to buy it with an adult ticket and I was really confused. He said I can't get on the train by myself, I need an adult with me if I'm younger than thirteen" (Cheng, 2017, p.19)

In another quotation, it shows that there are two opponents. They are ticket guy and narrator's age matter that prevent him to get on the train. He is too young to go to other country that makes the ticket guy could not let him go alone. Therefore, from the explanation above the researcher finds some problems that is related to Greimas' narrative structure theory.

Related to the problems above, the researcher found some researches that has been using Greimas' narrative structures. The first one is from Astuti & Taum (2017) that had a research entitled "When The Earth Conquers The Heaven: A Study of Narratology on Kana Inai Abang Nguak in The Perspective of A.J. Greimas". The researcher were analyzed about a folk lyric in Dayak tribe. They analyze it to reveal if the surface structure, deep structure, and discursive structure on folk lyric can be analyzed with Greimas' narrative structure theory. The second one is from Kanonge & Jordaan (2014) with titled "On the role of Susanna in Sussana: A Greimassian contribution". They stated that Susanna has dual actantial configuration in the story as a subject and also helper to achieve her goal for maintenance the law in the story. Susanna through some obstacles by the elders tried to block her ways to preserve the law but some people even herself still help her to achieve it. Based on the researches above, this research will be definitely different because the previous research are not completely using Greimas' narrative structure theory. The first researchers were only focus on actantial concept, and the second researchers were focus on actantial schema in a bible. Meanwhile, this research uses the complete concept of Greimas' narrative structure such actantial concept and isotopy. Also, the source data from this

research is in modern era where the narrator or the main character uses the technology to get what he wanted for. This research is different from previous researcher to avoid plagiarism in a research. Therefore, this research is really important to be done.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher is interested to use Greimas' narrative structure in the novel "See You in The Cosmos" because the researcher have not found yet a research about Greimas' narrative structure. The novel "See You in The Cosmos" by Jack Cheng is the newest novel which is written in 2017 and the researcher wants to figure out that Greimas' narrative structure can be applied in in this novel. Therefore, this research focuses on the structure to find out the elements with Greimas' theory.

1.2. Identification of the Problem

Based on the background above, the researcher identified some problems that found in the novel as follow:

1. The elements that found in the novel "See You in The Cosmos" by Jack Cheng.
2. The function of narrative text in the novel "See You in The Cosmos" by Jack Cheng.
3. The actantial concept that is presented in the novel "See You in The Cosmos" by Jack Cheng.
4. The isotopy found in the novel "See You in The Cosmos" by Jack Cheng.

1.3. Limitation of the Problem

As the problems that have been mentioned above, the researcher reduces the problems that have found in this novel because the limit of time. Here are the limitation of the problems:

1. The actantial concept that is presented in the novel “See You in The Cosmos” by Jack Cheng.
2. The isotopy in the novel “See You in The Cosmos” by Jack Cheng.

1.4. Formulation of the Problem

Based on the limitation above, the researcher makes two formulations for the problems above:

1. What are the actantial concept presented in the novel “See You in The Cosmos” by Jack Cheng?
2. What is the isotopy in the novel “See You in The Cosmos” by Jack Cheng?

1.5. Objective of the Research

Based on the formulation above, the researcher has purposes are to do this research. Here are the purposes of this research:

1. To describe the actantial presented in the novel “See You in The Cosmos” by Jack Cheng.
2. To explain the isotopy in the novel “See You in The Cosmos” by Jack Cheng.

1.6. Significance of the Research

The research describes about phenomenon in the novel “See You in The Cosmos” where the result can give benefits for theoretical and practical:

1. Theoretical Significance

The result of the research can be a reference for the next researcher. Also, this research can give more knowledge about the narrative structure of the plot and the meaning of every text that explained in the novel. Also, this research can be a reference for the next researcher.

2. Practical Aspect

The researcher hope that this research can be implemented to know how the implicit meaning of every literary works can be interpreted for people in the real life and also get a motivation to do something.

1.7. The Definition of Key Terms

1. Structuralism is a fundamental of the way people think on the description of the structure itself. People have different perspective of reading a story. (Hawkes as cited in Faruk, 2014)
2. Actantial concept is a theory that proposed by Greimas which has two parts they are actantial schema and functional model that shows the relation of narrative structures in literary works. (as cited in Susanto, 2012).
3. Isotopy is a theory that proposed by Greimas to reveal the meaning of the story that has been constructed and shows the relation which construct the meaning in literary works (as cited in Susanto, 2012).