

AN ANALYSIS OF THEMES THAT BUILD ON C.S. LEWIS'S NOVEL
"THE LION, THE WITCH, AND THE WARDROBE"

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Abstract

Key words:

The Chronicles of Narnia, Theme, Sociological approach

The aim of this study was to discover theme in novel *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, as well as how theme was understood in the historical events depicted in *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. The research design for this study was qualitative, and the data collection method was library research. This research chose on analyzing one of the intrinsic elements, namely theme. The researcher chose to use a sociological approach in the process of literary criticism of this depicted in *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* novel. According to Peck and Coyle, writers are moralists, and they observe and study the relationship between individuals and society and present their ideas about how people should behave but it would be too simplistic to say that the important thing about their novels is the message they convey (1986). The researcher analyzed the themes in the novel from a sociological perspective. Because literature itself was a reflection of society and social life was what gives birth to literature, therefore the two could not be separated.

Abstrak

Kata Kunci:

The Cronicles of Narnia, Tema, Pendekatan sosiologis

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menemukan tema dalam novel *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, serta bagaimana tema tersebut dapat dipahami dalam peristiwa sejarah yang digambarkan dalam *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and The Wardrobe*. Desain penelitian dalam penelitian ini adalah kualitatif, dan metode pengumpulan datanya adalah penelitian kepustakaan. Penelitian ini memilih menganalisis salah satu unsur intrinsik yaitu tema. Peneliti memilih menggunakan pendekatan sosiologis dalam proses kritik sastra yang digambarkan dalam novel *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. Menurut Peck dan Coyle, penulis adalah moralis, dan mereka mengamati dan mempelajari hubungan antara individu dan masyarakat dan menyajikan ide-ide mereka tentang

bagaimana orang harus berperilaku tetapi akan terlalu sederhana untuk mengatakan bahwa hal penting tentang novel mereka adalah pesan yang mereka sampaikan. (1986). Peneliti menganalisis tema-tema dalam novel dari perspektif sosiologis. Karena sastra itu sendiri merupakan cerminan masyarakat dan kehidupan sosial yang melahirkan sastra, maka keduanya tidak dapat dipisahkan.

INTRODUCTION

Literature is a work that comes from the deep thoughts and imagination of an author. Therefore, literature is often heavily influenced by the life, beliefs, and environment of the author. Some also represent conditions and problems in a certain era that 'disturbed' the author and are written in their own way of delivery that can make it interesting for readers to read.

Literature consists of two important parts, namely intrinsic and extrinsic elements. These two elements are often the material studied by a researcher in researching a literary work. Extrinsic elements are elements that are outside the work of fiction that affect the birth of the work but are not part of the work of fiction itself. Meanwhile, intrinsic elements are elements contained in fiction that build it, including; theme, plot, setting, characters, point of view, stage direction/text, and symbols. In *Theory of Literature*, it is defined that intrinsic analysis is "the interpretation and analysis of the works of literature themselves" (Wellek & Warren, 1954). This research will focus on analyzing one of the intrinsic elements, namely theme. Thus, this study aims to analyze and describe the themes contained in the Novel "The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe", written by C. S. Lewis. The researcher only chose theme for analyzing because the researcher interested with this novel since this story so amazing imagination and gave many lesson in the part of theme for the reader to take the most important part of this novel.

"The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe" is the first writing of C.S. Lewis from his seventh series, "The Chronicles of Narnia". The novel, which tells the adventures of 4 brothers, namely Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy in the land of Narnia, was first published on October 16, 1950. C.S. Lewis gives the feel of

the 1940s to the setting of the novel. This novel is a fantasy fiction genre and is filled with strong elements of Christianity in it. This novel was adapted into a film with the same title in 2005. This version of the film even became one of the biggest films released that year and received a lot of attention and praise from the audience.

The researcher chose to use a sociological approach in the process of literary criticism of this novel. The researcher would analyze the themes in the novel from a sociological perspective. Because literature itself was a reflection of society and social life was what gives birth to literature, therefore the two could not be separated. According to Peck and Coyle, writers are moralists, and they observe and study the relationship between individuals and society and present their ideas about how people should behave but it would be too simplistic to say that the important thing about their novels is the message they convey (1986). Moreover, C.S. Lewis is one of the writers who often conveys moral messages, religious teachings, and social life into his writings. Therefore, the researcher feels that a sociological approach is needed in the process of literary criticism of the novel "The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe".

Author Soulmate

Regarding the novel analyzed in this paper, the soulmate author that will be discussed is C.S. Lewis. Clive Staples Lewis is a novelist and author born on November 29, 1898 in Belfast, Northern Ireland. He and his older brother Warren named his father, Albert, after his departure, Flora Augusta Hamilton Lewis, when he was young. Clive at that time was quite obsessed with talking animals and Warren was interested in Indian land, so they made a place called Animal Land which owned India. Many people consider Animal Land to be the precursor to the land of Narnia, those who have read the stories Jack wrote about Animal Land say that Clive's many imaginations and ideas were incorporated into Narnia Chronicles. The plant of the fantasy land experienced by the talking animals begins with Animal Land.

In his teens, Clive was an avid man, and considered Christianity to be just a part of the mythological belief. The death of his mother also played a role in his death towards Christianity. He does not believe that God allows such suffering to be "good". He even considered "faith" as a form. Lewis's views on religion changed dramatically in 1931. As a scholar of philosophy, he believed so strongly in absolute morality, his thinking combined his ideas of absolute student esteem with the Christian God. This change in perspective later influenced Lewis' writings, and perhaps the most notable is "The Chronicles of Narnia". Lewis came to believe that the Christian story was a "true myth" - a myth that actually happened.

Lewis wrote a book for a Christian series in 1940. The book, entitled "The Problem of Pain" (1940), became the first work written according to Christian teachings. This book was very successful because it was interested in language as well as thinking. With this book Lewis defines and supports the Christian doctrine that a person is made "perfect" through suffering.

Once Lewis was convinced of the validity of Christianity, he wrote many works. In fact, almost all of Lewis's famous books highlight the theme of Christianity. Several books have argued about Christianity from an intellectual point of view. His achievements include The Screwtape Letters, The Chronicles of Narnia, The Space Trilogy, science fiction novels, and Till We Have Faces. Also some others are very personal, such as Lewis's autobiography, Surprised By Joy, and his reflection on the death of his wife, A Grief Observed. Throughout most of his life, Lewis maintained a very insightful perspective on his faith and his life in general intellectually.

In 1956 Lewis married his lover, Joy Davidman Gresham. They have a pure love story where at that time, Joy was fighting against her cancer and Lewis who was faithful by her side. The novel, which Lewis considers his best work, Till We Have Faces, was written with Joy in the role of the female protagonist. In 1960, Joy's cancer returned, and this time there was no miraculous cure. He died that year at the age of forty-five, and Lewis was deeply affected by his death after their brief period of happiness. After that Lewis could be considered a

permanently heartbroken man. He died on November 22, 1961, of various ailments, most notably a heart attack and kidney problems.

Sociological Approach

The sociological approach is a general understanding of the process and reasons for developing, including how people can be affected by it and what is involved in handling it. It can be said that the sociological approach is an approach to find imaginary meanings in a literary work that studies society, social class, romance, religion, nature, etc. The sociological approach can be used to develop the views of the author in society, which is conveyed in his own style.

It relates to the novel *The Chronicles of Narnia* which was written by C.S Lewis, which is one of his works that contains religious elements, which is one part of the behavior studied in sociology. C.S. Lewis incorporates the theme of Christianity and several depictions of social life into his fantasy novel. Therefore, the researcher will try to analyze the themes included in this novel using a sociological approach.

If other sciences want to help the activities of literary criticism, then literature as a reflection of society must be placed in the context of literary conventions. Thus, literary works through a sociological perspective are more of a literary endeavor in its secondary meaning; secondary meaning because its existence comes from the relationship of the meaning of the work (internal) with the world outside (external). Sociological assistance or call it a sociological approach, to literary works is actually an effort to achieve, understand and make sense of the intrinsic elements of the work and relate them to the world outside (the element of extrinsicity).

By placing the position of literary and sociological works proportionally, the view that literature as a "mirror of life", "social mirror" or a picture of the "spirit of the times" remains within the framework of an intrinsic-extrinsic approach: intrinsic if the meaning is only based on the elements that build it, and extrinsic when viewed with factors outside the work itself.

Rene Wellek and Austin Warren (Literary Theory, 1989) Sapardi Djoko Damono (Literary Sociology: An Introduction, 1984) or Andre Hardjana (Literary Criticism: An Introduction, 1981) have explained the theoretical problems regarding the relationship between sociology (society) and literature which have been quite clearly explained. . But of course we don't need to rush to accept or reject it. Do not apply the theoretical thing to the literary work itself. In this way, it will appear that the relationship between literature and society cannot be ignored in literary criticism activities.

Grebstein (1968), reveals: an understanding of literary works can only be done more fully if the work is not separated from the environment, culture or civilization that produced it. He also said that literary works of literature are the result of complex influences from social and cultural factors.

That statement needs to link socio-cultural factors in an effort to understand literary works in full. From this relationship, it will be seen that in several respects, literary expressions as a reflection of society have truth values. Especially if it turns out that we do not get written material about the work.

Literary works that show a reflection of society appear to be more dominant in novels than poetry or drama, although not a few dramas and poems produced by our writers depict such a picture. Especially regarding novels, there is a tendency for these problems to be related to local colors or traditional images of certain communities. So, not all literary works can be freely analyzed based on a sociological approach. In this case, the mirror of society must always be in the context of literary conventions.

Because the author cannot escape from the socio-cultural situation that surrounds him, the socio-cultural literary approach to explaining the work is still very much needed. What more if you like the diversity of the socio-cultural traditions of our authors. Problems will feel important when we try to analyze the novels of the Balai Pustaka era. Intrinsic analysis will only lead to the conclusion that the themes of the novels revolve around adat issues; black-and-white figures; explicit message, which actually reduces its artistic value. In fact, Sitti Nurbaya's novel or Salah Asuhan, in some ways actually reflects the state of society at that

time. The problem is complex. It relates to the wisdom of Balai Pustaka as a colonial institution and the social situation and spirit of its era.

METHOD

To explain its short comings. For acquiring textual information, close reading would be the optimum method. This method reads the plot, setting, characters, and point-of-view in great detail and with considerable care (Rapoport, 2011). Close reading may be a beneficial tool for covering all necessary big and minor data. As a result, when using the procedure, the first step is to (1) read the data source, (2) highlight every major and minor element relevant to the discussion while reading, and (3) sort all collected data according to the researcher.

Every piece of data gathered is evaluated using a social critique method, such as a condensed version of content analysis. The study takes an approach that explores the content of the literature while also putting literature and social theory on a level playing field (Rapoport, 2011). The literature aids in the proof of the social theory, and the literature aids in the explanation of the social theory. The examination begins with this premise and involves a discussion of literature and social philosophy. As a result, recognizing the data's pattern or correlation, criticizing, and validating it is the best technique.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

The definition of theme is the main idea chosen by the author in the preparation of a literary work. According to (Barnet et al., 2008) theme is the often rich and varied underlying idea of the action. The theme in novel is usually an idea or more which is used to develop the overall content and storyline. So from the many chapters in a novel, the core of the story can be seen from the theme. There are several ideas or topics that build this novel. Some of them will be described below:

Tabel 1 Percentage of Themes

No	Theme	Frequency	
		Number	Number
1	Childhood and Alternative Education	1	79,167%
2	Christian Symbolism and Penance	2	8,333%
3	Logic and Belief	3	4,200%
4	Forgiveness	4	4,133%
5	Friendship and loyalty	5	4,167%
	Total	5	100%

Childhood and Alternative Education

This story can be considered as a children's story, and Lewis himself basically made this novel in the form of a fairy tale, which fits his genre of fantasy fiction. Lots of childhood depictions in *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. such as Lucy, the youngest who showed her curiosity about the wardrobe. Without his pure and innocent curiosity, they would never have traveled to Narnia. In the story, Lucy is described as the most observant character. And even at the end of the story, when she ascends the throne, Lucy retains a playful, childish quality. Lewis seeks to demonstrate the importance of holding on to what is known as true truth, friendship, faith, and loyalty through Lucy's innocence (Karlin, n.d.). If a person has these qualities, he will have strong beliefs and there is no room for skepticism.

In addition, this novel also shows the theme of the importance of alternative education as a complement to their formal education. Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy live with the Professor at his country house during the school holidays. The Professor gives Peter and Susan a strange but valuable logic lesson when he suggests that Lucy tell them the truth about Narnia. In addition, the Professor repeatedly expressed his frustration about the school system, pointing out the possibility that Lewis himself was frustrated with the British education system at the time. The deteriorating personality that Edmund exhibits at school worries Peter and Susan and their search in the world of Narnia, indirectly leads the children through a very important spiritual transformation process, here especially for Edmund.

In Narnia, they are faced with a lesson in the importance of loyalty, friendship, forgiveness, courage, self-sacrifice, and faith. In this journey, the

reader is invited to learn lessons about some of these things which require imagination and the will to believe the simple and clear logic that suggests that a world like Narnia might really exist. The universe Lewis describes to his readers becomes a vehicle for studying the essential elements of personal and spiritual growth.

Christian Symbolism and Penance

C.S Lewis was clearly influenced by his Christian beliefs when writing this story, although this novel can also be read as a story about human growth. The story of Christ's Passion and Resurrection is depicted in the character of Aslan, the lion son of the deified Emperor-Beyond-the-Sea (Ottosson, 2010). Aslan is in Narnia to save him from the White Witch. His sacrifice by allowing himself to be killed by a witch in Edmund's place reflects Christ's sacrifice for the atonement of mankind. Both Christ and Aslan walked to sacrifice their lives full of sorrow, the suffering they would endure, the fear of pain, struggling to maintain their faith and believing that they would indeed be brought back to life. It is depicted when Aslan is tied to the Stone Table and killed with a knife. After some time, Aslan came back to life, and majestic more than before. His resurrection inspired a miracle in Susan and Lucy, who both witnessed his death.

Although not everything in Narnia directly describes the story of Jesus in its entirety, the similarities in it are too striking to pass up. Aslan sacrificed his life to save Edmund, just as Christ gave his life to save mankind. With Aslan's death, Edmund's sins were blotted out and he was allowed to continue living. Through this novel, Lewis aims to provide readers with a variety of Christian legends. Narnia provides a different perspective on faith and the story of Jesus coming to life.

Logic and Belief

In the story, when Peter and Susan raise their concerns to the Professor about Lucy and his story about Narnia, the Professor leads them through a simple logic exercise, considering the truth (Lucy is an honest girl) and what they observe (Lucy isn't crazy yet). in the process of reaching a logical conclusion. The professor directs the logic that the Narnia story is true. Acceptance and reaching

this logical conclusion of course requires great faith (belief). With this, it can be said that Lewis constructs a narrative that will invite the reader to believe in the existence of a place like Narnia.

Some skepticism is portrayed in this novel, which reduces the belief that Lucy's story about Narnia is true, for example through the character Edmund, who questions the help and attitude of Robin, Mr Tumnus, and Mr Beaver. In addition, the White Witch also expressed skepticism about whether Aslan would keep the promise he made or not. In each of these cases there is always a logical argument that can be made to support the belief, but skepticism is also a consideration for accepting the kindness of other characters.

Forgiveness

In the end, Edmund's unfaithfulness and bad deeds are forgiven by his brothers and Aslan, and all agree that the past is the past. It depicts the supreme act of forgiveness and self-sacrifice by Aslan, who accepted death at the hands of the White Witch in place of Edmund. Aslan believes that Edmund's life is worth keeping, despite his past actions. Lewis points out that he believes forgiveness for past mistakes is a way to heal and strengthen relationships. It will also be a solid foundation for relationships within a group.

Friendship and Loyalty

In *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* Lucy and Mr. Tumnus, the faun, is described as a true friend. Lucy gives her the handkerchief, and Master Tumnus refuses to hand over his new friend to the White Witch. In addition, friendship is also depicted in the characters Mr and Mrs Beaver, who lead them to the Stone Table, where they can find Aslan. Mr. Beaver shows Lucy's handkerchief as a sign that he is a friend of Mr. Tumnus, so he is Lucy's friend too. Lucy's loyalty to Mr. Tumnus is one of the driving forces behind the story, as the characters end up doing everything they can to save Mr. Tumnus. This novel talked about childhood and alternative education, Christian symbolism and penance, logic and belief, forgiveness, friendship and loyalty.

CONCLUSION

After reading and analyzing every chapter of the novel using the close reading method, the writer found several themes in this novel. There are five main themes or ideas in C.S. Lewis's Novel "The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe". They are childhood and alternative education, christian symbolism and penance, logic and belief, forgiveness, friendship and loyalty. The five are the main basis or the main topic used by the writer, Lewis, in developing the overall storyline of the novel. The five themes are interconnected and support each other in forming a unified story. one theme influences the emergence of other ideas, for example the friendship and loyalty theme here influences or is connected with the theme of forgiveness, then connected with the theme of penance, as well as others.

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