

A COLLECTION OF SHORT STORIES *DIRAWU KELONG* BY AHMAD BAKRI (STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS)

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Abstract

This research is titled "A Collection of Short Stories Dirawu Kelong by Ahmad Bakri (Structural Analysis)." It is motivated by the unique characteristics of Ahmad Bakri's works, especially in terms of story structure and language. One of Ahmad Bakri's notable works is the Collection of Short Stories Dirawu Kelong. Based on this background, the study aims to analyze the story structure in the Collection of Short Stories Dirawu Kelong by Ahmad Bakri. The elements described include theme, characters, setting, plot, point of view, language style, and moral message. This research employs a descriptive method. Data was collected through literature study techniques. Selected data, namely the short story Dirawu Kelong, were analyzed using direct element analysis and structural analysis. The findings show that the theme of the short story is social; there are four characters; the plot follows a sequential structure; the setting includes daytime as the time and the kitchen and forest as places. The point of view is the first person; the language style is simple, and the moral message is that we should strive to be good children to everyone.

INTRODUCTION

The emergence of literature often reflects the life experiences of its author or the life of the surrounding community, portraying various human values. Through literary works, society can visualize different life models, their relationships with others, and their environment. Literature is also seen as a social phenomenon connected to the customs and values of the society it represents. It is a form of social reaction processed and transformed by the author into a structure that holds autonomy as a text.

Short stories, as a form of prose, inevitably draw from human life in their creation process. A short story is a fictional narrative based on human behavior, depicting everyday life and society, leaving an impression that the events described are real. It often incorporates educational and moral values as reflections or examples for readers.

Structuralism, etymologically, refers to consistent relationships between groups of phenomena or elements. These relationships result from studies that define and explain the objects under investigation. In this context, the research focuses on literary works,

encompassing themes, narrative facts (including plot, setting, and characters), and literary devices (including title, language style, point of view, and symbolism) (Ahimsa-Putra, 2001).

The aim and benefit of this research are to identify the structural elements present in the short story *Dirawu Kelong* by Ahmad Bakri. The benefit of this research is the hope that it will enhance knowledge regarding structural analysis in literature, particularly in the collection of short stories by Ahmad Bakri.

METHOD

This study employs a descriptive qualitative approach to analyze the structural elements in Ahmad Bakri's short story *Dirawu Kelong*, part of his collection of children's stories. The descriptive method was chosen to explore and interpret the intrinsic elements systematically and comprehensively. The primary focus of the research includes themes, plot, setting, characters, narrative devices, language style, and moral messages, in alignment with Robert Stanton's structuralist framework. The data were gathered through literature review and direct textual analysis. The short story *Dirawu Kelong* was selected as the main object of analysis due to its rich narrative and cultural significance. The analysis involved identifying and interpreting each structural element based on textual evidence, enabling a deeper understanding of the story's educational and cultural values.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Ahmad Bakri's short stories stand out for their unique characteristics, particularly in terms of structural analysis present in his works. This study focuses on one of his collections, *Dirawu Kelong*, a compilation of children's stories deeply rooted in Sundanese values and cultural heritage.

The *Dirawu Kelong* collection presents tales from the past, rich in educational values and life experiences. Among the stories in this collection, the title story, *Dirawu Kelong*, serves as the primary material for this research. The book contains 12 short stories, including *Melak Salédri*, *Miara Hayam*, *Kabokér*, *Ngangon Domba*, *Embé Jang Udin Ngajuru*, *Moro Beurit*, *Dirawu Kelong*, *Naheun Bubu*, *Ka Pangangonan*, *Musim Hujan*, *Jang Usén Disunatan*, and *Nawu Kombongan*. A notable feature of the book is the presence of illustrations or sketches accompanying each story, adding visual appeal and aiding in storytelling.

Ahmad Bakri portrays the daily lives of Jang Udin and his friends while embedding moral lessons and values that reflect Sundanese etiquette. The stories emphasize respect for elders, compassion for those younger or in need, harmony among peers, and other aspects of proper conduct in children's interactions.

The structuralist theory applied in this research is based on Robert Stanton's framework. Structuralism, as Stanton defines it, perceives literary works as cohesive systems where the elements interact reciprocally with one another and with the overall content.

According to Stanton, a literary structure comprises several layers or elements, including plot, setting, characters, and themes. These are categorized as: (a) themes and issues, (b) story facts, and (c) narrative devices. A short story, like any literary work, relies on these intrinsic elements to create a unified and aesthetically appealing narrative. The structural components are classified into two main groups: intrinsic and extrinsic elements. This study adopts Stanton's structuralist approach, focusing on three aspects of fictional works: (1) story themes, (2) story facts (plot, character, setting), and (3) narrative devices.

Dirawu Kelong stands out as one of Ahmad Bakri's significant contributions to children's literature. Each story in the collection conveys unique moral messages, emphasizing educational and cultural values that resonate with young readers.

This study focuses on the short story titled *Dirawu Kelong*, part of Ahmad Bakri's collection of children's stories. *Dirawu Kelong* portrays the life of Sundanese children in the past. The story centers on Jang Udin and his friend, Oji, who visit Aki Uda's house. Jang Udin, like most children, enjoys playing and listening to stories. On this occasion, he eagerly waits to hear a tale from Aki Uda, a palm sap tapper known for his storytelling (Bakri, 2017).

Aki Uda narrates the story of *Kelong*, a ghost-like figure, by recounting the misadventures of a boy named Si Tolok. Si Tolok is portrayed as a mischievous child, defiant towards his parents and neglectful of personal hygiene, making him an outcast among his peers. One evening, while playing late into the night, Si Tolok encounters a *Kelong*—a terrifying spirit with exaggerated features, including long fangs, sharp nails, and a haunting laugh. The *Kelong* captures Si Tolok as punishment for his bad behavior, taking him to its lair. This experience leads Si Tolok to deeply regret his actions, prompting a transformation. Upon escaping and returning home, he becomes a well-mannered and obedient child, earning the respect and affection of those around him (Darpan, 2011; Koswara, 2013).

A structural analysis of *Dirawu Kelong* reveals several key elements. The theme focuses on social values, emphasizing the role of storytelling in imparting moral lessons to children. The characters include Jang Udin, the central figure; Aki Uda, the storyteller and palm sap tapper; Nini Uti, Aki Uda's wife; Oji, Jang Udin's friend; and Si Tolok, the protagonist in Aki Uda's tale. The plot is divided into three parts: Jang Udin's anticipation of the story, the narration of *Kelong* by Aki Uda, and the resolution of Si Tolok's transformation.

The setting alternates between Aki Uda's house, particularly the kitchen, and the fantastical world within the tale. The story employs a third-person perspective, using simple and accessible language suitable for children. The moral lesson emphasizes the importance of obedience, cleanliness, and respect for elders, aligning with the traditional values of Sundanese culture.

Ultimately, the structural analysis of *Dirawu Kelong* aligns with the theoretical framework and provides insights into its narrative structure and educational purpose. Future research is encouraged to explore other stories within the collection, applying similar structuralist methodologies to uncover their deeper meanings and contributions to children's literature.

CONCLUSION

Based on the previously presented description, this research provides insights into the structure of short stories contained in two collections by Ahmad Bakri, focusing specifically on children's stories. The structural analysis includes themes, narrative elements (plot, setting, and characters), and literary devices (title, point of view, tone or style, and moral lessons). The analysis reveals that the short story *Dirawu Kelong* carries a social theme. The characters include Jang Udin, who serves as the central figure; Aki Uda, the grandfather and storyteller; Nini Uti, Aki Uda's wife; and Oji, Jang Udin's friend. Additionally, in Aki Uda's narrated tale, there is Si Tolok, a mischievous child who becomes the subject of the ghostly figure, the *Kelong*. The plot is structured into three parts. The beginning depicts Jang Udin's visit to Aki Uda's house on a Sunday, specifically to listen to one of his legendary stories. The middle introduces the tale

itself, in which Aki Uda captivates his young audience, sparking curiosity and engagement. The climax and resolution reveal the moral of the story as Si Tolok learns a valuable lesson about obedience and personal growth. The setting alternates between daytime scenes of Aki Uda tapping palm sap and his home, particularly the kitchen, where children gather to listen to his stories. The point of view is third-person, characterized by the narrator using pronouns such as "he" or the names of characters to focus on the unfolding events. The language used in *Dirawu Kelong* is simple and easy to understand, designed to appeal to a younger audience. This simplicity reflects the story's intended purpose as a children's tale. The moral lesson emphasizes the importance of good behavior, respect for elders, and obedience to parental advice, as these values are integral to a child's character development. This moral is explicitly conveyed during the story's climax and resolution. Overall, the structural analysis of *Dirawu Kelong* aligns with its purpose as a children's story that entertains while delivering valuable life lessons. The findings serve as a foundation for further exploration of Ahmad Bakri's works through similar structural approaches, shedding light on the educational and cultural significance of his narratives.

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