

Analysis of Structural Aspects in the Novel Laut Bercerita by Leila S. Chudori

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Article history	ABSTRACT
Upload : August 11, 2024	Human life does not escape from a creation. All the results of human creativity are called works. One of the most popular works is literature. Novels are included in the type of prose. Novels contain complex stories accompanied by depictions of characters that reflect real life so that novels can become quality reading material that contains various values of life that can be learned for readers. Novels are created through the process of imagination and creativity of the author in expressing ideas and views on things in the real world. A story in a novel can be composed because of the elements that build and create a coherent and structured whole. Intrinsic elements are useful to glue or link into a unified story. This research uses a structural approach to examine inherent elements in the form of themes consisting of major and minor themes, characters composed of main and companion characters, characterization consisting of protagonists and antagonists, and internal and external conflicts in the novel. This research is included in qualitative descriptive research with data presentation in description sentences related to the findings.
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INTRODUCTION

Literary work is a human creation in the form of writing emphasizing aesthetic and imaginative values ([Wiyatmi, 2006](#)). Literary works presented by an author will guide humans in living a real life by presenting a picture of events or an interpretation of reality ([Waryanti et al., 2021](#)). According to [Tjahyadi \(2020\)](#), literary works created by a writer contain expressions of opinion and share their thoughts on something that comes from real life that is being or has been faced. In line with the opinion of [Siswanto \(2008\)](#), literature is an expression of human life that contains philosophy and an expression of one's soul that is poured into written works. [Ibrahim \(1986\)](#) states that all human creations that contain expressions of thoughts, ideas about an understanding, feelings, and responses of an author about life poured in the form of imaginative and emotional language are called literary works. So, scholarly works are all expressions of expression, opinions, thoughts/creative ideas in a person's real-life poured into written works. Literary works can be divided into several types, namely poetry, drama, and prose ([Ratna, 2002](#)).

One literary work that describes an event and is presented in a complex manner is the novel. The novel originated in Italy and developed in England and America in the 18th century. The novel comes from the Italian novella, which means story ([Rismawati and Setyawan, 2021](#)). A novel is a type of prose that contains stories in social reality

assembled as story objects ([Aini, 2022](#)). According to Tarigan ([1986](#)), the story contained in this novel is broad in size, which means that the writing of the story has a certain length by including the depiction of characters with all behaviors and attitudes in real-life scenes that tend to represent a rather chaotic situation/facing a problem in written form. In addition, according to Rani ([2004](#)), a novel contains an imaginative essay by a writer about issues that occur in human life or characters. So a novel is a form of free writing written by a writer presenting a story on a part of life with a complex problem.

Novels are a class of prose that falls between romances and short stories. Nurgiyantoro ([2015](#)) states that romance is a story classified as prose with content about the inner experiences described by people who have a relationship with each other in a situation. Therefore, romances are different from novels in that they contain the story of a small part of the character's life that can change the character's life path. If the novel only contains a small part of the character's life, then the novel has similarities with short stories. The difference between novels and short stories lies in the presentation of short stories not accompanied by changes in the characters' path. In line with Ahyar ([2019](#)), opinion short stories are short stories that tend to be dense stories written directly referring to their purpose and are more concise than longer novels. Novels are divided into two groups, namely serious novels and popular novels ([Nurgiyantoro, 2015](#)). Serious novels are novels that contain a story that is entirely possible. Popular novels are novels that teenagers favor in their time ([Nurgiyantoro, 2015](#)).

This research focuses on novels. Novels are created based on/reflect life that describes social conditions, experiences and events around the author. The recording of social reality in novels can have a major influence on the development of mindset, culture, norms, and socializing in society ([Rohma et al., 2024](#)). As found in one of the popular novels by Leila S. Chudori entitled *Laut Bercerita*. It contains a story set against the backdrop of the great historical reality in Indonesia, namely during the New Order era in 1998. The chaotic government system is the reason for the discussion and movement of activists to realize a democratic government. In addition, it also highlights the human rights violations that occurred at that time which are still an enigma today.

The researcher chose the object of study of the novel *Laut Bercerita* because it contains a story based on the great history that occurred in Indonesia, more precisely, the Reformation era, which was able to change the fate of the Indonesian people who were separated from the government elements that were not based on the principles of democracy and justice. In addition, the inhumane actions of the authorities, namely the disappearance of activists, are still a mystery. Therefore, this novel is worthy of research because it contains the country's great history. This research explores the facts in the novel *Laut Bercerita* and the author's response to this reality, which is realized by depicting the characters and their characters. Thus, a tool is needed to dissect the analysis of this novel, so it needs to be studied using structural studies. This structural aspect contains the story-building elements from within that make the story a unified whole for readers. Intrinsic elements are very important. In the inherent aspects there are several important components. These important components are theme, character, characterization, and conflict. This time, Research on structural aspects differs from

previous studies examining the elements of theme, plot, character, setting, mandate and point of view. However, this research focuses on the most important components of story building: theme, character, characterization, and conflict.

The purpose of structural analysis is to thoroughly explain the relationship between various elements contained in literary works to produce a complete work ([Rahayu and Noor, 2023](#)). Thus, readers are indirectly invited to observe values that can be used as lessons in life. Therefore, it is necessary to look at the elements of story building/structural aspects so that readers can understand the value conveyed by the author to them. This research benefits readers by obtaining history-related information and expanding their knowledge. It is also useful as a reference for researchers who research similar topics.

Intrinsic/Structural Elements

Novels have intrinsic and extrinsic elements. Intrinsic elements are elements that build the story from within. This means that the writer pours out his ideas and fantasies to serve as the object of building his literature ([Ahyar, 2019](#)). Meanwhile, according to Fatmawati ([2021](#)), extrinsic elements come from outside the literary work but indirectly influence the formation of the scholarly work. Intrinsic and extrinsic elements always accompany the novel. This intrinsic element contains the elements that form a story ([Puspitoningrum, 2020](#)). According to Fepbianty ([2019](#)) intrinsic elements are elements inherent in prose. So intrinsic elements build a story directly/explicitly, including major and minor themes, characterization, characterization, and conflict. According to Suprihatiningsih, Waluyo, and Mulyono ([2019](#)), a good literary work has interrelated elements to produce a story that is easy for readers to follow.

a. Theme

The theme is the basic/main idea that underpins an abstract literary work and is crossed in a story repeatedly through motifs and is done implicitly ([Nurgiyantoro, 2015](#)). The theme is the main idea or main idea contained in the script ([Wardani et al., 2024](#)). Meanwhile, according to Fepbianty ([2019](#)), theme is an idea that binds all parts of the story so that it can be a summary of the answer to the content of a story. Thus, a fictional story has a main building block in writing the story; in other words, the main idea is needed to determine the summary of the main story that will be produced, which is called the theme.

b. Actors

Literary works of fiction are inseparable from the element of characters/actors, no different from everyday life, some actors experience every event. As Ahyar ([2019](#)) people who have roles and positions in a story are called characters. Each character will carry a character. In line with Fepbianty's ([2019](#)) opinion, characterization depicts a person in a story. In line with Surastina ([2018](#)), the moral behavior of the characters will be seen through the character's words and actions. So, every story must have a character as an actor who has a character and experiences the events that occur in the story. The presence of the character will be a carrier as well as an explainer of how the author's purpose is for the readers.

The characters in the story have their characters. Giving character to a character can be known from physical characteristics, the environment, and his actions. Rusmawati (2018) states that groupings of characters are adjusted to their function, position, and role. 1) the main character, which is a character who has the most important position, is active, has a high frequency of presence, and is dominant in a story; 2) the companion character, which is a character who is almost the same as the main character. But often also oppose the main character; 3) subordinate characters are characters who are only needed to support the main character and companion characters; 4) extras are characters who are present to complement the atmosphere in the story; 5) shadow characters are characters whose presence is not needed but are only talked about by other characters in a story.

c. Characterization

Characterization is the depiction of the character's nature and behavior in a story (Yuliana, Salem and Wartiningsih, 2018). All character traits will be highlighted, including feelings, ways of thinking, actions, etc. Often, characterization and character are considered the same. But both have differences. Characterization is how an author chooses and determines characters and names. Meanwhile, characterization is a way for an author to determine the character of the characters in a story. Characterization has a purpose, namely to introduce the character/traits and character of the character to the reader. There are several types of characters based on the role's demands in the story. According to Ahyar (2019), there are generally two types of characters, namely protagonists and antagonists. Protagonists have good character traits, hold the principles of truth, and are often used as heroes. Meanwhile, antagonists are the opposite of protagonists. The dominant antagonist has a bad character, cunning and evil. So these two roles always exist in a fictional story to fill a story that always contains the value of good and evil so that the readers can use it as a lesson.

d. Conflict

Conflict is an important element in a story. This element complements and develops the storyline. Therefore, conflict is considered important because it contains events that trigger the development of the plot. Conflict is an important element in a work of fiction so that the story is not flat and is not interesting to read and follow. Conflict can be divided into two categories, namely external conflict and internal conflict (Nurgiyantoro, 2015). External conflict occurs between a character and something outside himself, such as the environment around him or with other characters. Meanwhile, internal conflicts arise between characters and their minds and souls.

METHOD

According to Santosa (2015), a method is a means for a researcher to collect data and solve the problem being studied. One of the methods is the approach. According to the Big Indonesian Dictionary (2012), approach is a way of approaching, processing, attitude, and action to view something through interrelated assumptions. Siswantoro (2005) states that the approach can be a tool to dissect the object the researcher is studying. So the approach is a guide to look at the object of study and explore the data

findings. This research uses a structural approach that is used to examine intrinsic elements. In general, the types of research are divided into two, namely quantitative and qualitative research (Meleong, 2015). Bogdan and Biklen state that qualitative research emphasizes descriptive data in the form of words, sentences, or even in the form of pictures (Sugiyono, 2017). The descriptive method of analysis is a way of finding facts that will be analyzed (Ernawati *et al.*, 2024). The main data source used is a novel entitled Laut Bercerita by Leila S. Chudori, published in 2022, the 29th print published in Jakarta by PT Gramedia (Chudori, 2022). The data collection techniques used are listening, data, and documentation. Miller Huberman's data analysis techniques start with data reduction, data presentation, and conclusions.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The following is a description of the structural aspects of the novel Laut Bercerita by Leila S. Chudori, including theme, characterization, characterization, and conflict (Talitha, 2022).



Figure 1. Novel Cover (source: gramedia.com)

Description of Theme in the Novel Laut Bercerita by Leila S. Chudori

The theme is the main point that becomes the core of the story. According to Fatmawati (2021), the theme is the basic meaning, also called the main idea, that builds literary works. Themes appear repeatedly in the story implicitly. Themes are divided into two types, namely major themes and minor themes.

a. Major Theme

A major theme is a story's most common theme or main idea. Major themes are implied in most stories. The novel Laut Bercerita by Leila S. Chudori contains a major theme of determination. Laut and his friends fought against the new-order government. Here are the data.

Data 1

Seeing that I was silent, Kinan bombarded me with a series of difficult questions: "What do I imagine Indonesia will be like in 10 years? Will we continue to let Soeharto's regime rule forever, or do I want to do something about it?"

(LB/2022/001/24)

The analysis of data 1 shows that Laut begins to think about how he plans to try to stop the New Order government regime that tortures the small people because they fear being free to speak out.

Data 2

We are against the New Order, that's clear. It was a vile regime.

(LB/2022/002/57)

Data 2 can be analyzed; Winatra activists fought and strongly opposed the government in the New Order because it was considered vile and frightening. The dictatorial government forced the small and weak people to be oppressed for the greed of the people in power.

b. Minor Themes

Minor themes support and emphasize the major themes. Leila S. Chudori's novel Laut Bercerita is about the grief of losing a loved one.

Data 3

We began to chew and wait. Waiting for Biru Laut, who might suddenly appear in front of the door, or who knows, he might jump through the window. My tall brother, smelling of the sun, was sweaty and hungry.

(LB / 2022/003/234)

Data 3 illustrates that the entire Laut family eagerly awaits Laut, his parents' eldest son, who will be present on Sundays to sit and eat together as usual. They are sad because they miss Laut, who disappeared somewhere.

Description of Actors in the Novel Laut Bercerita by Leila S. Chudori

A character is an actor in a story. Character is an important component useful for moving the story or making it more vivid by conveying the message or everything that wants to be transferred to the reader.

a. Main Actor

1. Biru Laut

In the novel Laut Bercerita, Biru Laut is the main character. Laut joins a student activist group called Winatra. He is a smart and critical student. He aspires to save Indonesia from the misery of the New Order era.

Data 4

I decided to answer honestly that I wanted to meet and exchange ideas with young Indonesians who chose to gather at UGM and express big ideas.

(LB/2022/004/23)

Data 4 illustrates that Laut tried to express his reasons for choosing to study at UGM Yogyakarta to channel his ideals of wanting to exchange big ideas among students with goals and ideals.

2. Asmara Jati

Asmara is Biru Laut's younger brother. She is a doctor and studied medicine at UI. Asmara is a brave and smart girl.

Data 5

Asmara is a city kid and an orderly schoolgirl, while I am a random kid who always gets the highest score in class since elementary school. From a young age, Asmara often said she wanted to be a doctor or a lawyer, professions that were cool and helped people, while I had no idea what I wanted to be.

(LB/2022/005/21)

Data 5 illustrates that Laut explained from the beginning that their talents and interests were diametrically opposed and had different aspirations. Asmara has always wanted to be a doctor, a profession that plays a role and helps many people. Laut also states that Asmara is an orderly, diligent, and disciplined student.

b. Companion Figure

1. Anjani

Anjani is the woman loved by Laut. She is an ISI Yogyakarta student majoring in fine arts and a member of the Taraka Artists group in Yogyakarta. She is an independent, beautiful, and brave girl. The following is a description of Anjani's character.

Data 6

Many years ago, I saw a Taraka artist carrying a brush bigger than her body. This girl skillfully painted the mural on the back wall of the headquarters in Seyegan.

(LB/2022/006/215)

Data 6 explains that Laut describes Anjani as a beautiful, independent, and flexible female artist who attracts many men to her. She did not hesitate and dared to help Winatra, an organization that always had dangerous missions in carrying out actions against the government.

2. Alex

Alex Parazon is Laut's Blue friend as well. The four friends, Laut, Sunu, Alex, and Daniel, were inseparable from the beginning. Alex is a Philosophy major from Flores who is passionate about photography. He is also the lover of Biru Laut's younger brother, Asmara. Here is the data.

Data 7

"Alex Perazon, he's a son of Flores, ma'am. A coastal boy who is economical with words, sensitive, and very talented. His photos are more about solitude...."

(LB/2022/007/77)

In data 7, Biru Laut describes his best friend, Alex. Alex is from Flores and is very talented in photography. All of his shots are meaningful and distinctive.

Description of Characterization in the Novel *Laut Bercerita* by Leila S. Chudori

Characterization consists of protagonists and antagonists. Protagonists are characters who are kind, compassionate, patient, and friendly. Antagonists are characters who tend to be evil, cunning, angry, and vindictive.

a. Protagonist

1. Biru Laut

Biru Laut is the main character who has a protagonist character. He loves his family very much and is willing to make sacrifices. Whenever he goes far away, he often remembers his family.

Data 8

Wrapped in a dry sarong on a cot in that cage, I only have a warm memory of home in Solo and Jakarta, about Mother and Father...."

(LB/2022/008/222)

Data 8 explains that Biru Laut loves his family very much. For him, his family is very compact and always provides a beautiful and happy memory while at home so that whenever and wherever he is, he will always remember his family.

2. Asmara

Asmara Jati is the younger sister of Biru Laut. She is the main character, who has a protagonist. She has loved her brother very much since she was a child. Until the end of the story, he still tried to find his brother, who was believed to have been missing for years due to the forced arrest of activists. He did this because he felt the loss of his favorite brother. The following is a description of Asmara's character.

Data 9

It was Asmara's turn to be more concerned about my behavior, which "felt like saving Indonesia," she always quipped.

(LB/2022/009/86)

Data 9 explains Asmara's concern for her favorite brother. She fears losing her brother because Biru Laut often performs dangerous actions, so she usually feels worried.

b. Antagonist

1. Gusti

Gusti Suroso is a Winatra member who looks generous and caring, but Gusti is a traitor behind it all. He often donates to the needs of Winatra members. However, he is also the mastermind of leaking Winatra's action plans to the authorities. The following is the data about Gusti.

Data 10

....when I realized who Gusti Suroso was, realized how stupid I had been in suspecting Naratamayang, who only had a big mouth but turned out to be very loyal and virtuous, realized that Gusti and the flash were the epitome of all the treason that helped make the building of Indonesia more rusty.

(LB/2022/010/222)

Data 10 explains how Gusti's cunning and evil nature lied and fooled Winatra's friends, who thought Gusti was part of those who wanted to save Indonesia. It turned out that Gusti was an enemy disguised as a friend.

2. Colonel Martono

Colonel Martono was the military leader of the Bungurasih area who arrested and tortured Laut and his comrades after they staged demonstrations at the DPRD office and corn planting in Blangguan. He was a cruel and sinister figure. Here is the data.

Data 11

"Every time you answer chaotically or every time I'm not satisfied with your answer, I hit you in the face with this ruler." Then, casually, still sitting on the chair before me, he slapped the ruler against my right cheek.

(LB/2022/011/167)

Data 11 describes the cruel and sinister attitude of Colonel Martono, who tortured Laut and his comrades who were being interrogated. For every answer that was not to his liking, he would slap Laut and his friends on the cheek with his iron ruler until they were battered.

Description of Conflict in the Novel Laut Bercerita by Leila S. Chudori

Conflict is the problem experienced by the characters in a story. Characters often trigger conflicts between themselves to add color to the story. In general, conflicts in novels are divided into internal and external conflicts.

a. Internal Conflict

1. Biru Laut

Biru Laut feels guilty and worried when his father and mother discover his activities while studying in Yogya. Because of the proximity of their residence, their father and mother always asked about Laut's activities. Because he did not want his parents to worry and fear, Laut did not intend to tell them about his activities as an activist in Winatra because they were considered dangerous. The following is an explanation of the internal conflict experienced by Biru Laut in the novel Laut Bercerita by Leila S. Chudori.

Data 12

I deliberately didn't tell her I now live in the Seyegan Haunted House and rarely stop by the boarding house near campus. I might be moving completely soon because living in two places could be more wasteful. The less information about my activities with Winatra, the better for the family's safety.

(LB/2022/012/69)

Data 12 explains that Biru Laut kept a secret from his father and mother. He had long considered this decision for the safety of his family.

b. External Conflict

1. The Red Eye man tortured Laut

When Laut and his two friends were on the run, they lived in a flat in Klender, Jakarta. At that time, there was an arrest and forced confinement. Four mysterious men visited Laut. The four men also tortured him. The following is an explanation of the external conflict experienced by Biru Laut in the novel *Laut Bercerita* by Leila S. Chudori.

Data 13

"Now, do you remember where Kinanti is? Jakarta? Yogya? Solo?"

"No idea."

This time, the electric whip struck my legs and back. The pain was nerve-racking.

(LB/2022/013/110-111)

Data 13 describes Laut's conversation with Si Mata Merah who was interrogating Kinanti's whereabouts. When Laut gave a wrong answer, the torture would come and hurt her body.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of data analysis of structural aspects, character personalities, and character education values that have been carried out in the novel *Laut Bercerita* by Leila S. Chudori, it can be concluded as follows. The structural aspect has major and minor themes, actors, characterization, and conflict. The novel *Laut Bercerita* has a major theme of struggle. Laut and his friends have a strong determination to oppose the New Order. The minor theme in *Laut Bercerita* is the sense of loss. Next is the characterization in the novel *Laut Bercerita*, with the main cast being Biru Laut and Asmara Jati. The companion cast consists of Anjani and Alex. Then there is a protagonist character, Biru Laut and Asmara. The antagonist character is Gusti Suroso and Colonel Martono. The conflicts contained in the novel are internal and external. The internal conflict is experienced by Biru Laut who harbors guilt and worries about his activities during college and even participates in dangerous activities, namely becoming an activist. External conflict occurs in Asmara and Alex who face an argument in their relationship. Overall, the novel *Laut Bercerita* is a means to introduce the historical events of the Indonesian nation, more precisely during the New Order period. In this regard, this research focusing on structural aspects will be an insight for all readers or researchers who conduct similar study topics.

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