

THE INTRINSIC ELEMENTS IN WILLIAM FAULKNER'S *AS I LAY DYING*

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Abstract

This study aims to identify the intrinsic elements of the novel As I Lay Dying. The data are from the story As I Lay Dying. This research uses qualitative research method. The results there are some elements found of intrinsic elements. There is characterization which is described from the story was Cash Bundren. Then, there is a plot that describe the condition of America in that time. There is a complication relates the Addie's corpse. Then, there is a falling action that describe the Addie's buried. Then, there is a climax relates to the Darl's arrest and leads to the end of the trip and themes relates to the economic conditions in America.

Keywords: *Intrinsic Element, Literary Work, Novel.*

Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi unsur intrinsik dalam novel As I Lay Dying. Datanya diambil dari cerita As I Lay Dying. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode penelitian kualitatif. Hasilnya terdapat beberapa unsur yang ditemukan yaitu unsur intrinsik. Ada penokohan yang digambarkan dari cerita Cash Bundren. Lalu ada plot yang menggambarkan kondisi Amerika saat itu. Ada kerumitan terkait jenazah Addie. Lalu, ada aksi terjatuh yang menggambarkan Addie terkubur. Kemudian ada klimaks terkait penangkapan Darl dan mengarah ke akhir perjalanan serta tema berkaitan dengan kondisi perekonomian di Amerika.

Kata Kunci: *Elemen Intrinsik, Karya Sastra, Novel.*

1. INTRODUCTION

A novel is a created prose narrative that often consists of a long, intricate story that primarily deals with human experience through a series of interconnected events. Fictional or semi-fictional subject matter, prose style, and length are the qualities that most characterize a novel. It conveys its story in prose instead of verse, unlike epic poetry, and it tells a long narrative instead of a condensed selection, unlike short stories. Nonetheless, the novel has further distinguishing features that make it stand out as a distinct literary genre. Both intrinsic and extrinsic components support the structure of the book (Zainuddin, 2020). Novel stories have components that are intrinsic. Subsequently, the novel's essential element highlights all aspects associated with the narrative. Extrinsic components are those that aren't directly related to the plot of the book. Themes, narratives, characters, backgrounds, points of view, and language are examples of intrinsic aspects that are employed to assess a piece of fiction literature (Nurgiyantoro, 2015 in Andari, 2019). In the novel *As I Lay Dying*, the intrinsic element would be analysed.

The story began with the death of Addie Bundren and her poor, rural family's quest and motivations noble or selfish to honor her wish to be buried in her hometown of Jefferson, Mississippi. Addie is alive, though in ill health. Addie and others expect her to die soon, and she sits at a window watching as her firstborn, Cash, builds her coffin. Anse, Addie's husband, waits on the porch, while their daughter, Dewey Dell, fans her mother in the July heat. The night after Addie dies a heavy rainstorm sets in; rivers rise and wash out bridges the family will need to cross to get to Jefferson.

The family's trek by wagon begins, with Addie's non-embalmed body in the coffin. Along the way, Anse and the five children encounter various difficulties. Anse frequently rejects any offers of assistance, including meals or lodging, so at times the family goes hungry and sleeps in barns. At other times he refuses to accept loans from people, claiming he wishes to "be beholden to no man", thus manipulating the would-be-lender into giving him charity as a gift not to be repaid. Jewel, Addie's middle child, tries to leave his dysfunctional family, yet cannot turn his back on them through the trials. Cash breaks a leg and winds up riding atop the coffin. He refuses to admit to any discomfort, but the family eventually puts a makeshift cast of concrete on his leg. Twice, the family almost loses Addie's coffin — first, while crossing a river on a washed-out bridge (two mules are lost), and second, when a fire of suspicious origin starts in the barn where the coffin is being stored for a night. After nine days, the family finally arrives in Jefferson, where the stench from the coffin is quickly smelled by the townspeople.

In town, family members have different items of business to take care of Cash's broken leg needs attention. Dewey Dell, for the second time in the novel, goes to a pharmacy, trying to obtain an abortion that she does not know how to ask for. First, though, Anse wants to borrow some shovels to bury Addie, because that was the purpose of the trip and the family should be together for that. Before that happens, however, Darl, the second eldest, is seized for the arson of the barn and sent to the Mississippi State Insane Asylum in Jackson. With Addie only just buried, Anse forces Dewey Dell to give up her money, which he spends on getting "new teeth", and marries the woman from whom he borrowed the spades (Faulkner, 1930).

From the explanation above, this research has an objective to find out the intrinsic elements of the novel *As I Lay Dying*.

2. METHODOLOGY

The processes of gathering and evaluating data, formulating and revising theories, clarifying or refocusing research questions, and identifying and removing risks to validity are all typically carried out more or less concurrently, with each action impacting the others in a qualitative study (Maxwell, 1996: 3). Then, the data will be evaluated both qualitatively and descriptively because this study employs a qualitative descriptive method. Intense and/or extended interaction with participants in a realistic environment is used in qualitative research to study the ordinary and/or extraordinary lives of people, groups, societies, and organizations.(Miles, Huberman, and Saldaña: 2014). The data in this research are the descriptions of the intrinsic elements in the novel. In collecting data, researchers used documentation techniques. After collecting the data, the researcher analyzed the intrinsic elements of the novel.

3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

The analysis presents the structural elements the novel and they are characterization, plot and theme.

1. Characterization

Characterization is a literary device that used by step in literary work to highlight and explain the details about characters, while character is one of the elements in building the story. Therefore, character is a person in a story who plays a role in human activities of functions in a work of fiction. According to the researcher, the character who made an impression in the story was Cash Bundren. He made a coffin for the dying Addie Bundren. Addie kept an eye on

Cash as he was making coffins to keep from loafing by the window. Cash is a skilled carpenter who can make anything. On the way to his mother's homeland, Cash had an accident and was seriously injured. In this very bad condition, Cash persisted in accompanying his father and siblings to fulfill his late mother's wish.

2. Plot

The novel begins with Addie Bundren, wife to Anse Bundren and mother of their children, on her deathbed. The rest of the family waits around for Addie's impending death and vaguely discuss their eventual plans to cart their mother's corpse forty or so miles to the town of Jefferson, where she has requested to be buried alongside her family. The oldest son, a level-headed carpenter named Cash Bundren, spends the days preceding Addie's death outside her window, dutifully constructing a coffin. This gesture upsets Jewel, who thinks the rest of his family is vindictively rushing Addie to her death. Despite initial reservations from Anse, who believes Addie is going to die any minute, Darl and Jewel leave home to run an errand for their neighbor Vernon Tull. Anse's fears come true, and Addie dies just after the two leave. After Addie's death, Anse orders his children to make preparations. Cash finishes the coffin and Dewey Dell prepares the fish that the six-year-old Vardaman caught earlier that day. Vardaman cannot help but confuse his mother and the fish, as he understands that the fish is no longer alive, and hence explains Addie's death through comparison.

Yet Vardaman still does not have a full grasp of the material realities of death, and worries that his mother won't be able to breathe nailed into her coffin. In the night Vardaman drills holes in Addie's coffin in an attempt to provide her with air. Inadvertently in the process, Vardaman bores holes in the face of Addie's corpse. As the family members mourn and make preparations for their journey to Jefferson, Dewey Dell finds herself distracted by her potential need for an abortion, as she fears her recent intercourse with a farmer named Lame got her pregnant. Darl and Jewel return after the funeral service has already been held. Darl notices buzzards over the Bundrens' home. With Darl and Jewel back home, the family begins to make preparations to leave for Jefferson. Anse repeatedly explains to himself, to the family, and to others, that they are traveling so far to fulfill Addie's wish, though he also excitedly thinks about the fact that he will be able to buy a new pair of false teeth in town. As they prepare to leave, Cash obsesses over the fact that the coffin he so carefully built is

unbalanced on the wagon, but the other family members ignore his meticulous request to balance it. Instead, Jewel charges in and carries the coffin onto the wagon by himself. Afterward, Jewel saddles up on his beloved horse and insists that he will follow the Bundrens as they ride in the wagon. Darl is angered by Jewel's decision, and thinks to himself about how Jewel secretly worked each night to buy himself the horse, and how Addie supported it, making the other children do Jewel's chores for him as he worked. The Bundrens set off on their journey and stay with a local farmer named Samson and his family. Samson tells the Bundrens that the bridge that they plan to use to get over the river has been submerged from recent rains, and that they should re-route their journey. The Bundrens attempt to cross the river at a ford, but as they try to cross a log comes down the river on the current and knocks the coffin off the wagon, breaks Cash's leg, drowns the Bundrens' team of mules, and throws Cash's prized collection of tools into the water. Jewel, with help from the Bundrens' on-looking neighbor Vernon Tull, retrieves the coffin from the flood and dives down into the river to rescue Cash's box of tools.

3. Complication

When transporting the recently deceased Addie to her burial site, the Bundren family struggles against the forces of nature and injury in its river-crossing and the aftermath. The Bundrens struggle internally as Darl begins to question the logic of carrying Addie's body all the way to Jefferson. As the Bundrens depart on their journey to bury Addie, they find the bridges are washed out, forcing them to ford the river. In the process, the team of mules is lost, and the slowness of their journey means that Addie's corpse begins to rot.

4. Falling Action

Addie is buried, Darl is apprehended by officers from a mental asylum, Anse Bundren remarries.

5. Climax

Darl's burning of the barn functions as the climax. This action leads to Darl's arrest and leads to the end of the trip. Although Addie's burial might seem like the climax, it is more or an anti-climax. Faulkner barely even mentions the event. Addie's burial is only a climax for Anse, her burial allows for Anse to get his teeth and a new wife.

6. Themes

Novel *As I Lay Dying* is a novel that describes the impact that occurs to society because of great depression. The economic conditions that concern people cannot get ahead, they have to struggle to meet their basic needs. The impermanence of existence and identity, the tension between words and thoughts, the relationship between childbearing and death. Through the above events it can be concluded the plot of *As I Lay Dying* is deceptively simple. The mother, Addie, is dying, and wants to make sure that her dying request is granted, namely that she be buried with her family in Jefferson. She also wants to make sure that the coffin is made well, so she has Cash build it right outside her bedroom window. Once she dies, the family proceeds to take her body to Jefferson. Jewel rescues the coffin after it is nearly lost in the river; Cash breaks his leg during this episode. Darl tries to burn the coffin later on and Jewel rescues it again. They finally reach Jefferson and Addie is buried. Dewey Dell turns Darl in and he is sent to prison. Dewey Dell is tricked into having sex with MacGowan in exchange for an abortion drug, but he gives her a placebo. Anse buys new teeth and finds a wife.

4. CONCLUSIONS

After analysing the data of the novel *As I Lay Dying*, it could be drawn that there are some elements found of intrinsic elements. There are characterization, plot, complication, falling action, climax and themes found in this novel.

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