

## A STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS OF RUPI KAUR'S SELECTED POEMS *IN THE SUN AND HER FLOWERS*

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### *Abstract*

*Poetry, as a type of literary work, is a form of imaginative art that serves not only to entertain readers but also to educate or inform them about certain subjects. The primary data for this study came from Rupi Kaur's book *The Sun and Her Flowers*, specifically the poems *Legacy*, *To Witness a Miracle*, *Timeless*, *Introvert*, and *Ode to Raymond Douillet's A Short Tour and Farewell*. The primary objective of this study was to ascertain the intrinsic and extrinsic elements present in the poems. Secondary data sources included journals and a few works of literature. The structural approach was chosen for this study because it is commonly used to describe intrinsic and extrinsic elements. This research employed a qualitative approach. The research discovered intrinsic elements such as theme, figurative language, diction, symbolism, and imagery, while extrinsic elements provided context for the poem's creation. This research was intended to serve as a guide for those interested in conducting research on the intrinsic and extrinsic elements found in poetry.*

**Keywords:** *Structuralism, Poetry, Intrinsic and Extrinsic Element*

### *Abstrak*

*Puisi sebagai salah satu jenis karya sastra merupakan jenis seni imajinatif yang tidak hanya berfungsi untuk menghibur pembaca tetapi juga untuk memberikan semacam pendidikan atau pengetahuan tentang hal-hal tertentu. Data primer dalam penelitian ini adalah menganalisis puisi-puisi terpilih Rupi Kaur dari buku *The Sun and Her Flowers* yang berjudul *Legacy*, *To Witness a Miracle*, *Timeless*, *Introvet* dan *Ode to raymond douillet's a short tour and farewell*. Tujuan utama dari penelitian ini untuk mengetahui unsur intrinsik dan ekstrinsik yang digunakan dalam puisi. Data sekunder diambil dari jurnal dan beberapa buku kepustakaan. Pendekatan structural dipilih dalam penelitian ini karena pendekatan struktural digunakan sebagai tol dalam menggambarkan unsure intrinsik dan ekstrinsik. Metode yang digunakan dalam tugas akhir ini adalah metode kualitatif. Temuan dalam penelitian ini tentang unsur-unsur intrinsik seperti tema, bahasa kiasan, diksi, simbolisme, citraan dan unsur-unsur ekstrinsik akan menjelaskan tentang keadaan sosial pada saat puisi itu dibuat. Skripsi ini diharapkan dapat menjadi referensi bagi yang ingin meneliti tentang unsur intrinsik dan ekstrinsik yang terkandung dalam puisi.*

**Kata kunci :** *Strukturalisme, Puisi, UnsurIntrinsikdanEkstrinsik*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Literary work is an imaginative world which is the creation of the author after reflecting on the social environment of his life. Literary works are divided into three forms, namely: Prose, Poetry and Drama. In this study, the writer will discuss one of literary works namely poetry. Suminto A. Sayuti (2008) in Anindita (2016) stated that poetry is an imaginative, emotional, and intellectual writing that is taken individually and from social life; expressed by a certain choice of technique, so it can evoke certain experiences in the reader or audience. To understand the meaning of a poem, the reader must be able to interpret generally what is implied in the poetry. Readers must unite their thoughts and feelings in order to understand the poetry itself.

In this research would be analyze Rupi Kaur's poems in her book *The Sun and Her Flowers*. *The Sun and Her Flowers* is Rupi Kaur's second work published in 2017, the genre in this Poem is romance. This types of poem is free verse, free verse poetry has no rhyme scheme and no fixed metrical pattern. Some free verse poems are so short, they might not resemble poems at all. Craven (2018) Free verse is a modern idea, but its roots reach into antiquity.

There are various theories that can be used as an approach in an effort to express the ideas contained in a literary work. These theories range from the oldest Structuralism theory to the theory of Feminist Literary Criticism. As Culler (1975) said, in analyzing literary works with a structuralism approach, one must focus on the linguistic basis of study. The aspects of literary works that are studied in this structuralism approach are the theme, plot, background, characterization, writing style, and the relationships between the aspects that make it a literary work.

There are many differences of opinion about structuralism itself so that structuralism can be divided into three types namely formalis structuralism, genetic structuralism, and dynamicstructuralism. But in this study the writer will only discuss the teory of structuralism genetic. Accordong to Ratna ( 2004 ) definitively genetic structuralism is a structural analysis by paying attention to the origins of literary works. This means that it can be concluded that genetic structuralism also pays attention to extrinsic analysis, because genetic structuralism is also defined as a literary research method that emphasizes the relationship between literary works and their social environment.

In this research, the problem that will be discussed about the structural analysis of Rupi Kaur's poems. Structural analysis in poems can be divided into intrinsic and extrinsic elements. So, the writer will focus more to find out the intrinsic and extrinsic elements in this poems. There are several titles of poetry taken from Rupi Kaur's poetry

book, such as: *Legacy*, *To Witness a Miracle*, *Timeless*, *Introvert* and *Ode to raymond douillet's a short tour and farewell*. Each title of this poem will describe the intrinsic and extrinsic elements contained in the poem. Such as figurative language, diction, imagery, symbols, themes and extrinsic elements such as social background, feminism, social circumstances at the time the poem were made and religious background.

## **2. METHODOLOGY**

Data Analysis is the process of systematically applying statistical and/or logical techniques to describe and illustrate, condense and recap, and evaluate data. Types of data including of two elements there is qualitative data and quantitative. The writer use the method of qualitative date According to Denzin and Lincoln (1994) in Siti Angreini Arbi (2018), “qualitative research focuses on interpretation of phenomena in their natural settings to make sense in terms of the meanings people bring to these settings. Qualitative research is any which does not involve numbers or numerical data. It often involves words or language, but may also use pictures or photographs and observations. This research is make tipe qualitative research. So by using qualitative method the researcher want to know more about the intrinsic and extrinsic in Rupi Kaur's Poems, and the researcher used structural approach or more specific is objective approach. The techniques of data collection are as follows, Reading the poetry several times, analysis data based on related journal, set the data into several groups based on its theoretical category. In this research the writer uses some steps. The first step is the writer described the structuralism approach. Second, the writer explained the intrinsic and extrinsic elements. Third, the writer analyzed the data more deeply and detail. Fourth, the writer made the conclusion from the result of analysis which gave detail description the data.

## **3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS**

There are two findings that will be discussed in this research the first finding about intrinsic and the second finding about extrinsic, in these selected poems of the Rupi Kaur's poems book entitled: *Legacy*, *To Witness a Miracle*, *Timeless*, *Introvert* and *Ode to raymond douillet's a short tour and farewell*. The first findings is intrinsic elements such as: Theme, Figurative language, Diction, Symbolism, Imagery. The second finding about extrensic will be explain about social background, social circumstances at the time the poem were made, feminism and religion background. For more explanation will be discussed below.

### **a. Legacy**

### 1) Theme

The theme of poetry is The Sacrifices of Women. Because, this poem tells about a struggle and sacrifice. Many women before us sacrificed their lives for the happiness of their children in the future. And now the children have grown to be strong and sturdy so that they continue to struggle.

### 2) Diction

Diction is the selection of words used in the poem, and it, of course, has some purposes. It could be to make it better in terms of sound, or to give a sensitive expression to the idea being conveyed. Diction also shows the individual characteristic or style of the work, besides providing meaning to the reader. The words that can be identified as specific diction in this poem below :

Line 2 : On the sacrifices

The words *on the sacrifices*, suggests that she has an obligation to continue this struggle. Struggle in the form of appreciating the sacrifices that have been made by people in the past.

Line 3 : of a million women before me

The words *of a million women before me*, many of them faced difficulties and dark times, but that did not make them weak and silent, but they continue to struggle without stopping.

Line 6 : To make this mountain taller

The words *To make this mountain taller*, and now that struggle is paying off so that generations after them can continue that screams even higher.

### 3) Figurative Language

Line 6 : *to make this mountain taller*

This sentence using the expression of personification. The word "taller" used to describe a mountain that is already high as if will be made even higher, like a very big hope.

### 4) Extrinsic elements

Legacy tells the story of women. This poem describes the struggle and the sacrifices of women in the past only for the welfare of their children and grandchildren in the present. Rupi Kaur's is a poet from Canada but she has a background in life from India. With her background that has Hindustan blood she has published many poems that describe her country of origin, such as this Legacy. In India, women and men are very different from the social environment, work, domestic violence, and even acts of violence that often occur to women such as rape. Rape cases in India may have always been a hot topic,

which since ancient times this case has always happened even to minors. Of the many social movements and the many women who are involved in fighting for the right to gender equality, such as holding demonstrations, carrying banners in the hot sun, and even willing to clash with state security. This legacy poem tells the story of one of the women who are willing to fight to uphold their rights in the social sphere, at work, and in the household.

**b. To Witness a Miracle**

1) Theme

The theme of this poetry is Mother. The author of this poem describes the story of a child who wants to go back in time to see a miracle from her mother, she wants to know how her mother's life in the past, she wants to talk with teenage version of her mother and ask about her dreams. This is a reason why the theme of this poem is a Mother.

2) Figurative Language

**Line 2** : *Document her in a home movie so my eyes can spend the rest of their lives witnessing a miracle.*

This poet using the expression of hyperbole. "my eyes can spend the rest of their lives witnessing a miracle" this sentence has an exaggerated meaning like the sentence "my eyes can see about miracles forever.

**Line 7** : *Even to be a single thread of her cotton dress would be the greatest gift.*

This poet using the expression of hyperbole. The word "greatest gift" explained how valuable it is to be a thread from the clothes used by her mother in the past. The word "single thread" and "greatest gift" show that this poet using expression of hyperbole.

**Line 5 – 7** : *Become her pleated braid. The black kohl caressing her eyelids. The flour neatly packed into her fingertips. A page in her schoolbooks.*

This sentence is a form of depersonification figure of speech, this figure of speech describes humans as objects, animals or other objects. As in this sentence "Become her pleated braid" "The black kohl caressing her eyelids" this show that she really wants to be her mother's hair tie, to be her mother's makeup tool so she can see how beautiful her mother was when she was young. "The flour neatly packed into her fingertips" even to become flour she is willing to be there when his mother is cooking, to see how her mother is very painstaking and good at cooking food. This sentence "A page in her schoolbooks" even as a sheet of his mother's school book she really wanted

to see how her mother was very diligent in doing her school assignments, how her mother was very diligent in studying.

### 3) Symbolism

**Line 2 :** *Document her in a home movie so my eyes can spend the rest of their lives witnessing a miracle.*

The word “witnessing a miracle” has a hidden meaning, the word "miracle" explains how precious her mother's in the past.

**Line 6 :** *The flour neatly packed into her fingertips.*

This sentence has a hidden meaning. Like she wanted to see how persevere and diligent his mother was in doing household chores.

**Line 6 :** *The black kohl caressing her eyelids*

This sentence describes how beautiful and graceful his mother is so he wants to see how beautiful his mother.

### 4) Extrinsic elements

To Witness a Miracle describes the story of a child who wants to go back in time to see a miracle from his mother, she wants to know how his mother’s life in the past. Judging from the life background of Rupri Kaur's parents, Rupri Kaur's parents are Indians who immigrated to Canada as described in his social media post (instagram). Rupri Kaur's grew up in Canada and this a new environment for her, this made her interested in his mother's past life, how her mother spent time with her friends as a child. So he made this poem which tells about admiration for his mother. And from the life of Rupri Kaur's who comes from India, girls in India are indeed closer to a mother, because the average woman in India must be able to cook and learn how to manage the household. With this situation, Rupri Kaur's is curious about how her mother was when she was young, whether her mother also experienced the same thing as other women. And whether her mother also have to give up her dream to take care of her family. With the current situation where they are far from their home country, Rupri Kaur's wants to know more about his mother, especially her mother's life in childhood, adolescence, until finally deciding to get married.

#### c. Timeless

##### 1) Theme

The power of woman is the theme of this poem. This poem tells about women who always lose to the power of men, women who will be eliminated by the younger generation. However, in this poem, what happens in this world, nothing lasts forever. And here it is also explained that the woman will shine at the age of fifty years and the age of

twenty is only the beginning. It is all not what people think, women have their own power so that power will be seen at the right time.

2) Figurative Language

**Line 6 :** *i ripen with age*

This used depersonification figure of speech, depersonification is the antonym from personification. The word "ripen" it means mature, but the word ripen is more commonly used for fruits, while in this poem ripen is shown to someone.

**Line 8 :** *I do not come with an expiration date*

This used depersonification figure of speech, "expiration date" she describes herself on the nature of an object, "expiration date" is usually only used for food that can no longer be eaten. With those words, she explained that she was living her life at an early stage, so she still had time to prove that she would successfully compete with the younger generations.

3) Symbolism

**Line 7 :** *How can I leave before the party's started*

The meaning of party in general is a celebration, but in this poem party here means success, the success she will achieve. This means that she can not possibly back down before she gets what she wants.

**Line 9 :** *For the main event*

The word "event" here means that her real life has not yet started and it will all happen when she fifty years old, that is when she just started her life journey and proves to her surroundings that she will still exist even though she already has an age.

4) Extrinsic elements

The intrinsic element that will be discussed in this poem is in terms of religious background. In this poem, a woman defends her self-respect and good name. when they get older they look down on those around them, but they have the opposite view of men, which men will be more powerful and authoritative as they get older. In this poem the author pours out all his complaints about differences in views and equality.

#### 4. CONCLUSIONS

Rupi Kaur's poems are indeed very few in one poem, but after being described, this poem has a very broad and deep meaning. After analyzing this poem, it can be concluded that the intrinsic and extrinsic elements contained in this poem are still quite a lot,



figurative language and theme is most widely found in part of intrinsic elements and the part of extrinsic elements, these poems tell more about women from various points of view such as from the point of view of the author's background, feminism, social background, the background of the content of the poem, and the background of religion.

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