

THE ROMANCE FORMULA IN LISA KLEYPAS RAINSHADOW ROAD

Nurul Safitri, Ratna Sari Dewi

Fakultas Sastra, Universitas Muslim Nusantara Al-Washliyah Medan
ratnasaridewi@umnaw.ac.id

Abstract

This thesis analyzes the novel entitled Rainshadow Road by Lisa Kleypas. The purpose of this study is to describe the romance formulas that exist in popular literary novels. In analyzing this thesis, the process of searching for data and information uses library and journal methods from the internet. The theory that guides the work of this thesis is the theory of popular romance literature by John G. Cawelti. The results of the analysis show that the novel contains elements of the characters and the plot of the romance is built into a romance formula.

Keywords: *Romance Formula, Character, Element, Plot*

Abstrak

Tesis ini menganalisis novel yang berjudul Rainshadow Road karya Lisa Kleypas. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menjabarkan formula-formula romansa yang ada pada novel sastra populer. Dalam menganalisis tesis ini, proses pencarian data dan informasi menggunakan metode perpustakaan serta jurnal dari internet. Teori yang menjadi pedoman pengerjaan tesis ini adalah teori sastra populer romansa oleh John G. Cawelti. Hasil analisis menunjukkan bahwa novel tersebut mengandung unsur karakter tokoh dan alur kisah percintaannya terbangun menjadi formula romansa.

Kata Kunci: *Formula Cinta, Karakter, Unsur, Alur*

1. INTRODUCTION

Relationship between a man and a woman, attraction to the opposite sex, and stories love is always the spice that gives colour and makes life a literary work, be it short stories, novels, poetry, dramas, or popular literary works such as films. Each literary work has its characteristics that differ from one another. (Todd Creager : 2017 : 40). In popular literature, these characteristics are called formulas. One such formula is the Romance Formula. Formula is a combination of some specific cultural conventions and expressed in the form of a story more universal (Cawelti: 1977 : 6). Romance is a state of mind. It is a way of looking at your partner, life and even the world in such a manner that allows you to savor whatever is good in your life. (Mirella Debonni : 2018). Romance Formula is narrative structure in a work of love that is born from the experience of the character.

This research will focus on the Romance Formula contained in the plot and the main characters of several characters who form a love story that makes the Romance Formula form, including the characters Lucy and Sam who take up a love story with a slightly complicated plot. They love each other but hesitate to say it. Then Kevin's character destroyed Alice when he was left married and chose to leave her life. The adaptation of author Lisa Kleypas, *Rainshadow Road* tells the story of a girl who is cheated on and has problems with her sister then falls in love with a man who does not believe in commitment and ends up committing together with him who has many obstacles to love. Therefore, the research aim in making this study was to find out the *Rainshadow Road* storyline which was reflected by the Romance Formula and the character construct using the Romance Formula.

2. METHODOLOGY

This research is a qualitative research. The research used is descriptive qualitative research. Descriptive qualitative research is to analyze, describe, and summarize various conditions, situation and various data collected in the form of interviews or observations regarding the problem to be studied. (I Made Winartha, 2006:155). The data the researcher use for this research are in the form of excerpts from the novel *Rainshadow Road* and some excerpts from experts. There are some steps that are used in collecting data for this research : Reading the novel *Rainshadow Road* to get full understanding about the story and Determining or identifying the Formula Romance in the novel. Before writing this study, the writer had to understand the kind of study. The ways of data analysis by the writer consist of :

- a. Reading Rainshadow Road that written by Lisa Kleypas for many times and understanding the novel.
- b. Finding out and analyzing the data based on related journal to the subject matter.
- c. Describing the plot of Rainshadow Road reflect of romance and the character construct of Romance Formula
- d. Drawing conclusions
- e. Giving suggestion

3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

The data result was taken from the analysis process through data concerning about the Romance Formula in Lisa Kleypas Rainshadow Road. This chapter showed about what are the plot of Rainshadow Road reflect the romance and what are the character of Lisa Kleypas Rainshadow Road reflect the romance. These things will be analyzed which is how the plot reflect romance and the main characters build the romance formula.

a. The Plot of Rainshadow Road

Rainshadow Road plot in Lisa Kleypas' novel is done by looking at the plot. According to (Chersti Nieveen : 2018:39) editor of multiple NYT bestsellers, Plot is an incredibly complex thing. It is a key element of establishing your book in the literary community and into the hearts of readers. The plot consists of parents love, first meeting, love children and power of love. Therefore the writer discusses the plot one by one. In Parents Love cannot be measured by anything. Like in the novel when Alice fell ill, her parents panicked, her child had a fever, his neck was stiff and covered in red spots, so her parents took her to the hospital to get well soon. When in the car, even her mother was willing to carry Alice who was five years old so that she could sit comfortably.

"Find your shoes, Lucy. Hurry." Her father's voice, always so calm, had splintered on the last word. His face was skull-white.

"What's happening?"

"Your mother and I are taking Alice to the Hospital." (Rainshadow Road, 2012:02)

*Her mother was holding
Alice, smoothing her hair.
"The important thing is that
no one was hurt."
(Rainshadow Road,
2012:12)*

From what we see above, it proves that the love of parents for their children cannot be measured in every way. It is parent's love that forms the romance formula, even though parents act differently with their children, their affection is still equal. In first meeting the main character's first meeting when Lucy was heartbroken by her lover's affair brought her footsteps to meet Sam on the edge of a cliff consisting of limestone and red basalt. Seeing Sam with a bulldog swimming on the beach makes Lucy nervous, Lucy turns to the path that leads to a bend in the road, but she stumbles and Sam helps her.

*"Take it easy, will you?" He said curtly.
"I've got a first-aid kit in my truck."
"Put pressure on it with your other
hand," the man said. His mouth tightened
as he surveyed her. "I'll walk up the trail
with you."
"Why?"
"In case you fall again." It's steep
ground. And from what I've seen so far,
you're not exactly sure-footed."
"Sam Nolan. Live at False Bay, lets'get
moving." (Rainshadow Road, 2012:27)*

In love children have an attraction that makes people fall in love easily, not to mention the boys who are known to be rigid in taking care of small children. Nolan's family is a man who rarely comes home, but one day when his brother died, their child was raised by them. The love they give is like their own child. Since Holly lived with the Nolan family they took turns taking care of Holly. Nolan family already considers Holly his daughter, they buys clothes, toys, jokes, cooks food, etc.

In Power of Love, Love can be a source of one's strengths and weaknesses. As a power, love is extraordinary. Many things, even beyond common sense, are done in the name of love. Love can turn an 'ordinary' person into a strong person, who is brave and confident to do anything for the sake of those he loves. It could be, love is the greatest

power that humans have in living the process of life. Like what Sam and Lucy did. Sam doesn't believe in commitment because he has a troubled family but as time goes on with Lucy, Sam changes the principle he instilled since childhood to not marry into the opposite.

"I changed my mind. I figured out the flaw in my reasoning. I told you it was more romantic not to get married, because then you just stay with each other for the good times. But I was wrong. It only means something when you stay during the bad times. For better or worse." (Rainshadow Road, 2012:314)

From the conversation above, the last power of love is to give a happier life. This is a tremendous benefit because happiness is not sold anywhere and we have to find it ourselves. From the statement above, we can see that the plots have been described one by one. then the conclusion is the Rainshadow Road plot, namely the main character ends happily and is united in marriage bonds.

b. The Character construct Romance Formula

Every human being has a character that is different and unique from one another. The appearance of character in a person, is not obtained at birth. W.B. Saunders, (1977: 126) explains that the characters are real and distinct properties shown by individuals, a number of attributes that can be observed in individuals. Human character is formed through environmental factors and the people around the environment. In this thesis there are several characters who build the Romance Formula, they are Lucy Marrin and Sam Nolan.

Eudorphins. If everyone wants me to be happy, I'm all for it. So give me a shot of your best, grade A mood enchancing endorphins." (Rainshadow Road, 2012:125)

"My hair. I cant wash it by myself. Would you mind to coming in here? I cant reach the sampoo bottle, and my right arm is aching, and its hard to wash all this hair with only one hand." (Rainshadow Road, 2012:178)

From the above conversation, Lucy asks Sam for help because she can't do it herself. so we can see that Sam is a good guy but likes too mature things. Lucy really admired Sam's figure who was caring and willing to help her when she fell but it was difficult to take a shower and Sam led her to the bathroom.

"I love you," Sam said, and set his mouth against hers, and broke off the kiss because he had to say it again. "I love you."It is about sex... sex with your mind, sex with your soul, sex with the color of your eyes, the smell of your skin. I want to sleep in your

bed. I want you to be the first thing I see every morning and the last thing I see at night. I love you the way I never thought I could love anyone." (Rainshadow Road, 2012:312)

" I change my mind. I figured out the flaw in my reasoning. I told you it was more romantic not to get married, because then you just stay with each other for the good times. But I was wrong. It only means something when you stay during the bad times." (Rainshadow Road, 2012:314)

The past would always lock Sam up like the iron bars of a prison, and he never understood that he had the power to get out of there at any moment. Not only did he suffer the consequences of his parents' sins, but he also voluntarily took on them. But why would he want to spend the rest of his life burdened with fear, hurt, and secrets, when if he wanted to let it all go, he could be freer to achieve what he wants most. He could have Lucy. He could love Lucy with all his heart and soul, without any limitations.

And in the end the power of their love broke Sam's principle. Sam's character depicts a love that has to sacrifice the principle he has instilled since childhood that true love does not exist but all of that is broken by Lucy. Sam's character forms the Romance Formula where his love story with Lucy has many obstacles.

4. CONCLUSIONS

There are four plot of Rainshadow Road reflect the romance. The first is parents love, it tells about parents who love their children with all their heart without limits, when they are sick the mother will always be by her side. The second is first meeting, it tells about the beginning of the first meeting of the main characters so as to form a romance formula. The romance between them requires a lot of obstacles and they can do that and be together forever. The third is love children, it tells about take care of a cute and adorable child, and they learn to be both good uncles and fathers to Holly. Holly is an orphan who was abandoned by her parents due to an accident that they experienced, so the Nolan Family took the place of Holly's parents. The last is power of love, it tells about the power of love between Lucy and Sam when doubts between them occurred but they were able to resolve the doubts of their hearts and they ended happily.

There are two main characters construct Romance Formula. The first is Lucy Marrin, she is a great glass artist who is heartbroken by her boyfriend's affair and ends up falling in love with a winery owner. They live a complicated relationship because the man does not want a serious relationship between them, but Lucy breaks Sam's principle that true love exists. The second is Sam Nolan, he was a famous vineyard owner. He's a playboy who likes to play women in nightclubs. Sam's character is the dream of men in Friday Harbor. He does not believe in a commitment that leads to marriage, because his

parents made Sam not marry because it would be destroyed like his parents did, but Lucy came into his life and broke that principle.

5. REFERENCES

- Cawelti, John. 1976. *Adventure, Mystery, and Romance Formula Stories as Art and Popular Culture*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Creager, Todd. 2017. *What is Romance?* <https://goodmenproject.com/sex-relationships/what-isromance-cmtt/>.
- DeBoni, Mirella. 2021. *Romance What Men & Women Really Want*. <https://www.whitesundayprofessionalcounselling.com/romance-for-men-women/>.
- Kleypas, Lisa. 2012, 28 February. *Rainshadow Road : A Friday Harbor Novel*. Amerika Serikat, St. Martin's Paperbacks.
- Nieveen, Chersti. 2018. *What is Plot? An Author's Guide to Storytelling*. <https://blog.reedsy.com/what-is-plot/>.
- Saunders, W.B. 1977. Definition of the Characters. <http://dwiyana94.blogspot.com/2013/03/definisi-karakter.html?m=1>.
- Wirantha, I Made. 2006. *Pedoman usulan penelitian, skripsi dan thesis*. Yogyakarta: Andi