

BUDDHI DHARMA UNIVERSITY

THE ANALYSIS OF PLOT IN DENNIS LEHANE'S NOVEL SHUTTER ISLAND

Presented as a partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Undergraduate Program

KAREN NURUL RIZKI

20160600028

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

TANGERANG

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FINAL PROJECT PROPOSAL

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Shutter Island

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STATEMENT OF AUTHENTICITY

I declare that this thesis is my own writing. It is true and correct that I did not take any scholarly ideas or work from other dishonestly. That all citied works were quoted in accordance with the ethical code academic writing.

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Tangerang, June 15, 2020

The writer

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ABSTRACT

This research discusses about the plot in *Shutter Island* novel. The goal of this research is to to construe the five steps of plot from the novel using Freytag Pyramid Theory. The object of the research is Shutter Island novel written by Dennis Lehane. The reason is because Shutter Island novel is one of the novel that has complicated plot. It has an unexpected plot twist that makes the story interesting to read. The writer uses qualitatives research approach to research the object. The writer wants to divide the plot from the novel using Freytag Pyramid (1863). First is exposition, which introduces the background or the beginning of the story, it is the first stage of a story. Second is rising action, when the conflict begins, it is when the conflict in a story start to arise but haven't reach the highest part yet. Third is climax, which the highest part of conflict, it is like the turning point of event in a story. Fourth is falling action, events that lead to the ending, it is when the conflict in the story has reach the end. The last is denouement, when the conflict of the story is resolved, it is the last stage of the story. The result, the writer was able to dechiper each part of *Shutter Island* novel plot and make it easy to understand for the reader.

Keywords: Plot, Novel, Freytag Pyramid.

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#### **CHAPTER I**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

#### 1.1. Background of the Study

In this world, life has a connection with literature because literature involves itself in midst of society life. Literature is a tool to create a literary work from someone's imagination. A literary work can be in oral and written form. The oral form includes drama, film, and song. The written form includes novel, short story, poem, poetry, and prose. Usually, literary work contain a story that happens in the past, now, and future. The story that happens in the past commonly known as folklore. The story that happens now known as contemporary literature. The story that happens in the future known as vision.

The imagination is a good source of literary work because it is endless and any kind of things that does not exist in real life, exist in imagination. Wellek and Warren write: "literature seems best if we limit it to the art of literature, that is, to imaginative literature. Literature is also produced by imagination of the author. Literature is not just a document of facts, it is not just a collection of real events though it may happen in the real life. Literature can create its own world as a product of the unlimited imagination." (Wellek and Warren, 1963: 22). The writer concludes, that literature is not only produced by a set of truth and what happened in real life; but literature can also be made from the author imagination.

Although it is boring to read a novel, in the novel the story are more distinct than film; there is no limit to the length of the story. According to Tarigan (1991), novel or often referred to as romance is a fictional prose story in a certain length, which depicts the characters, movements and realistic scenes that are represented in a plot. Novel are usually made from human experiences. Besides the human experience, novel can be from the author imagination. That type of genre is called fantasy. Fantasy is the things that does not exist in real life. It usually comes from the brain.

Plot arranging a series of events in novel, short story, drama, and film. According to DiYanni (2001: 42) plot is the order of events that are arranged to make a whole story. Plot attracts the reader or audience into the character's lives and helps the reader or audience to fathom the choices that the characters make. However, plot can be complicated. For example, *Shutter Island* novel written by Dennis Lehane in 2003. The plot of the story became the main appeal in the novel. The main character of the novel has some sort of mental disorders that make the plot of the story twist. The reader must read the novel with high concentration, otherwise, the reader will miss out what happened in the novel.

The sequence of story in a novel can be complicated. Especially, if there a plot twist; it is so confusing. Like what is happening? Why is it become like that? The reader must know the root of the problem, if they didn't focused on it then they will get left behind. The writer chooses *Shutter Island* to be the object of this research because of how complicated the story line in the novel is. It's make the reader think harder and confused of what happened in the novel.

#### 1.2.Statement of the Problem

The novel begins with Teddy Daniels who is a Marshall that investigating the case of a missing of the most dangerous patient in *Shutter Island*. But later in the story it turned out that Teddy Daniels is actually the missing patient, which causes the plot twist. The writer is interested in the plot of *Shutter Island*, how the disposition of the story from the beginning until the end.

#### 1.3. Research Question

Based on the statement of the problem, the research question is:

"How does Teddy Daniels affect the plot in Shutter Island novel?"

#### 1.4.Goal and Function

The goal of this research is to construe the five steps of plot from the novel using Freytag Pyramid. The five steps of plot are exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and denouement.

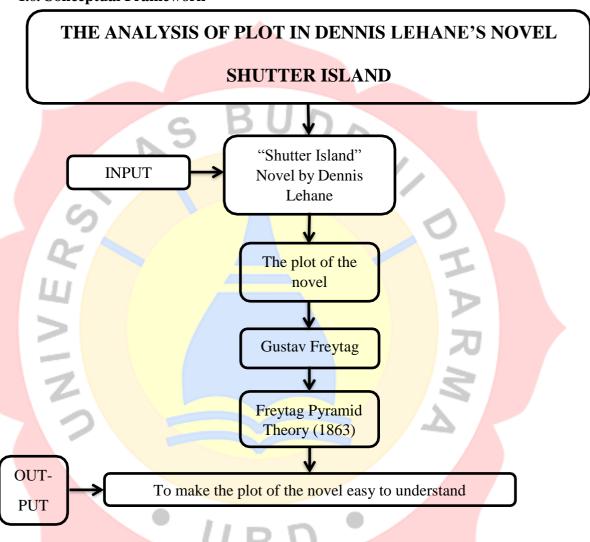
The function of this research are to enlighten to those people who didn't understand the plot of this novel and to be a reference for the next researcher who want to do a same research.

#### 1.5. Scope and Limitation

The scope of this research is the plot of the novel. Although, there are many interesting things to be analyzed; the plot of this novel stood out the most to the writer. The writer will limit the analysis on the plot affected by the main character. The novel tell about a Marshall who is investigating a psychiatric

facility on Shutter Island after one of the patient goes missing. But it turned out that he is actually the missing patient. The writer will analyze the novel by using Freytag Pyramid.

#### 1.6. Conceptual Framework



#### 1.6.1 Conceptual Framework

The conceptual Framework of this research is as follow:

 The writer read the novel by Dennis Lehane titled Shutter Island.

- 2. The writer begins to analyze the novel and finds the plot of the novel kind of tricky and hard to understand.
- In order to make the plot easy to understand, the writer divides the plot with Freytag Pyramid Theory by Gustav Freytag.
- 4. Finally, the writer able to make the plot easy to understand by sort it from the exposition to denouement.



#### **CHAPTER II**

#### THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

#### 2.1 Previous Studies

In this part, the writer compares this research with other undergraduate thesis. There are studies written by Wahyuda Pratama (2014) from University of Sumatera Utara with title "The Analysis of Plot in Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Novel Sherlock Holmes: *The Hound of The Baskervilles*", Johni (2016) from Buddhi Dharma University with title "An Analysis of Plot Arragement in *The Interstellar Movie Script* Written by Jonathan Nolan and Christopher Nolan", Siti Halimah Tussadiyah (2017) from Pasundan University with title "An Analysis of Plot and Characterization in Sparks's *The Choice*" and studies written by Nathaniel (2017) from Buddhi Dharma University with title "The Analysis of Advanced Technology Through The Plot Aspects in *The Snowden* Movie Written by Oliver Stone"

In Wahyuda thesis, he analyzing the sequence of incidents or events in the novel *The Hound of The Baskervilles*. The object of the research is The Hound of The Baskervilles written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's. *The Hound of The Baskervilles* novel tells about how Holmes and his friend Watson solving the mystery of the death of Baskerville heirs that killed by the hound.

In Johni thesis, he discussed about the plot arrangement in the *Interstellar* movie. The goal of this research is to interpret the meaning of the story in each

part of the plot. The object of the research is *Interstellar movie script* written by Jonathan Nolan and Chritopher Nolan. He wants to interpret five part of plot by using Freytag Pyramid.

In Siti thesis, she not only focuses on the plot of the novel but also analyse the characterization of main character using four levels of characterization; that are: physical, social, psychological, and moral.

In Nathaniel thesis, he not only focuses on the plot of the film but also interpret the advance technology that affect human life through the story on the plot in the Snowden film.

In this research, there are similarity and differences compared to the research above. The similarities are the type of the research which is qualitative research, the subject matter, about plot, and some theories. The differences are this research mainly focus on the plot, while the research above focus on different thing, such as, characterization of main character and the advance technology.

#### 2.2 Literature

According to Kennedy (2012) stated that literature is a kind of art, in form of written, that offer pleasure and illumination. From the statement above, the writer conclude that literature is a kind of art from someone imagination that provide pleasure and illumination to the reader who read it.

Literary work such as novel, short, and film consists of intrinsic and extrinsic elements. Both elements are important in order to make a good literary works. According to Semi (1988: 35), intrinsic aspects are including character, conflict, setting, and figurative language, are elements, which build the literary

work itself. The writer concludes that intrinsic elements in literature are the foundation of a literary works itself. It is the primary elements in literary work. According to Semi (1988: 35) extrinsic element is the way to analyze a literary works using related theories and contents in order to get a better understanding between the material and theory that is used to analyze the topic. The writer uses Freytag Pyramid Theory by Gustav Freytag in this thesis.

#### 2.3 Plot

Stanton (1965: 14), suggested the plot is a story that contains the sequence of events, but each incident is only connected in cause and effect, an event which caused or led to the occurrence of other events. In other word this cause and effect is called differences and conflict, the cause is differences and the effect is conflict. The conflict appears in the story is because of the differences. If there are no differences between the story order that can spark a fight, then there will be no conflict.

#### 2.3.1 Cause

In a story there must be a reason to why the conflict happens. What causes the main character to behave in a certain way. For example, in *Joker* film (2019) the main character name Happy, he is a jokester. He entertain people as a clown in order to get money. He has a habit to laugh even when there is no funny event around him, like he even laugh when some woman scold him not to bother his son, when in fact he was trying to make her son laughing. That habit makes him look like a weird people or even a crazy people. Later in the film show why Happy has that habit. It is because the pressure that his mother gave

him, because his mother gave him the name Happy so that he has to act happy all the time even when he feels sad.

#### **2.3.2 Effect**

After the causes there is an effect to the event that occured in a story. What is the effect that the main character get after. For example, in *Joker* film (2019) the main character, Happy, got beaten in a train by some office guy because he thought that Happy was laughing at him. At first, the situation was normal, when he sat in the train he saw a three office guy, one of them was bothering a girl that sat across him. Out of nowhere, Happy was laughing, so that three office guy came to him. That three office guy surround him and one of them asked what is he laughing at. Happy could not stop his laughing, he try to explain it to him about his condition, but they were harassing him. Happy try to defend himself but he got gang up by that three office guy. Happy had enough of it, so he shot that three office guy to death. That is the beginning of Happy became a bad guy and rebranding his name into a *Joker*.

#### 2.4 Freytag Pyramid

The basic plot of literature is introduced by Gustav Freytag. Gustav Freytag was a German novelist and playwright. He was born in Kreuzburg (Kluczbork) in Silesia on 13th July 1816 and died in Wiesbaden on 30 April 1895. In 1863 he developed what is known as Freytag's Pyramid. It consist 5 step of plot: exposition, rising action, climax, falling, and denouement. Each step of plot that builds story to become structured and harmonized. Freytag Pyramid is one of the oldest dramatic structures that developed by Gustav's in the mid 19th

century. Freytag Pyramid sometimes called Freytag's Triangle because it shaped like a triangle. Freytag Pyramid formerly formalized by Gustav Freytag in his book *Die Technik des Dramas* (1863). It has become one of the most frequently taught dramatic structures in the world; for example: in school, university, and writting workshops. Here are the writer will explain each step.

#### 2.4.1 Exposition/Introduction

The Merriam Webster dictionary interpret "introduction" as a part of a book or treatise preliminary to the main portion. An exposition is the important part of the plot, because it is telling the background or the beginning of the story, setting, character and etc. It is the crucial part of the plot, without the exposition the reader must have not know about the background of main character, setting, mood, etc.

In this step, the characters are introduced, what do they do, where do they live, and when is the time (date, month, year, season). This step of plot usually called the calm before the storm. Everything is run smoothly and normaly, there is no conflict whatsoever.

#### 2.4.2 Rising Action

Rising action is when the conflict begins. There are a "differences" that happens in here that will lead to a conflict. In this step, there is something happened with the character or there is another character that will bring out a dissension and make a conflict. In this step, the plot has begun but hasn't quite reached the boiling pont.

#### **2.4.3 Climax**

In *Die Technik des Dramas* (1863), the climax, in the sense of crisis, occurs close to the conclusion of the third act. This is like the turning point of the story. It is the highest part of conflict. After climax, the plot of the story will have some sort of change that will make the end of the story either bad or better.

#### 2.4.4 Falling action

Falling action is like the opposite of Rising action. According to Freytag (1894), the falling action phase consist of events that lead to the ending. It contains resolution to the conflict. This step is when the conflict ended and everything slowly get back to normal.

#### 2.4.5 Denouement/Resolution

Denouement is the last step of plot. The conclusion of the story. This step is when everything get back to its original state. The conclusion after falling action, in which the conflict of the story is resolved.

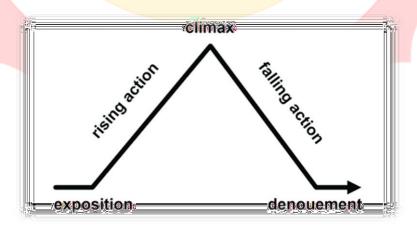


Figure 2.4 Freytag Pyramid

#### **CHAPTER III**

#### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The third chapter is divided into four parts. They are subject matter, research material, research approach, and research procedure. Each part explained the step that the writer done when making this thesis.

#### 3.1 Subject Matter

The subject matter of the reasearch is plot from a novel. The novel the writer uses is *Shutter Island* (2003) written by Dennis Lehane. The writer wants to construe each part of plot using Freytag Pyramid. This novel has a complicated plot caused by the main character. The main character Teddy Daniels has some sort of mental disorder that occured because of his traumatical experience in the past. His mental disorder makes him believe in another reality that his brain make in act of defense mechanism to his traumatical experience. He believes that he is the marshal that investigate the missing patient in Ashecliffe Hospital in Shutter Island. When in fact, he actually the patient there. The investigation is just a play in order to cure Teddy from his insanity.

#### 3.2 Material

In this research, the writer uses Shutter Island novel as the material for the analysis. The writer uses qualitative research approach which not requires the writer to do any research on the field or collecting data by using questionnaire. According to Punch (1998:4) Qualitative research is empirical research where the data are not in the form of numbers. By using qualitative research the writer only

need to do a library research, browsing the internet, reading the novel, and watching the film version in order to more understand the plot of the novel. The genre of the novel is gothic, psychological horror, and crime by American writer, Dennis Lehane and published by Harper Collins.

#### 3.3 Research Approach

There are two types of research approach, qualitative research and quantitative research. The writer uses qualitative research approach to analyse this thesis. Lincoln (2000) claim that qualitative research involves an interpretive and naturalistic approach: "This means that qualitative researchers study things in their natural settings, attempting to make sense of, or to interpret, phenomena in terms of the meanings people bring to them" (p. 3). The qualitative approach enables the writer to interpret the novel by analyzing it. Meanwhile Quantitative research; according to Aliaga and Gunderson (2002), "Quantitative research is an inquiry into a social problem, explain phenomena by gathering numerical data that are analysed using mathematically based methods e.g. in particular statistics". The writer analyzed the novel by reading it carefully to gain some information which is related to the research.

#### 3.4 Research Procedure

The objective of the writer analysis is to construe the plot by using Gustav Freytag Theory. The first step to analysis this research is watching the film version. After that the writer found the plot of the film is kind of tricky and hard to understand. Then, the writer read the novel and found that the plot of both novel and film are similar. Then, the writer collect all many data from many resource, and for the

main theory. After that, the writer collect all the quotation from the novel and relate them to the theory. Finally, the writer made conclusion based on the findings.

