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**ANALYSIS OF MAIN CHARACTER, PLOT AND CONFLICT IN THE**  
**NOVEL *THE WITCH OF PORTOBELLO* BY PAULO COELHO**



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# ANALYSIS OF MAIN CHARACTER, PLOT AND CONFLICT IN THE NOVEL THE WITCH OF PORTOBELLO BY PAULO COELHO

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## Abstract

This Thesis is entitled "Analysis of main character, plot and conflict in the novel *the Witch of Portobello* by Paulo Coelho. Novel *The Witch of Portobello* by Paulo Coelho as the objects of the research. The aim of this research is to describe characterization of main character, plot and conflict. Analysis on this research descriptive method, because it can be used to increase understanding and knowledge about behavior and thought processes of people. The primary source of data is the novel *The Witch of Portobello*. Secondary source of data were taken from the library, book, journal, article and internet. This analysis focuses on main character, plot and conflict. (1) Main character, Athena is being rude, being offended and being religious. (2) Plot begin when Heron Ryan doing the journey to Transylvania and meet with Athena in the insignificant foyer of a still more insignificant hotel. In the end of conflicts which occurred in this story, Athena asks Ryan to promise to save and listen the voice record to other people after she dies. (3) Conflict, Athena always felt there is blank space in herself, by the dance that she do, Athena found a quiet and took her trance in the novel *the Witch of Portobello* by Paulo Coelho, Seen from structuralism theory by Endraswara, approach toward literature texts that emphasize entirety in relation between many element of text, the writer analyzes the way of story that happen in the novel *the witch of Portobello* by Paulo Coelho such as exposition, rising action, climax, falling action and resolution.

**Keywords:** *Character, Main Character, Plot, Conflict, Structuralism*

## Abstrak

Penelitian ini berjudul "Analisis karakter utama, plot dan konflik dalam novel *Witch of Portobello* oleh Paulo Coelho. Novel *The Witch of Portobello* oleh Paulo Coelho sebagai obyek penelitian. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menggambarkan karakterisasi tokoh utama, plot dan konflik. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif, karena dapat digunakan untuk meningkatkan pemahaman dan pengetahuan tentang perilaku dan proses berpikir orang. Sumber utama data adalah novel *The Witch of Portobello*. Sumber data sekunder yang diambil dari perpustakaan, buku, jurnal, artikel dan internet. Penelitian ini fokus pada karakter utama, plot dan konflik. (1) karakter utama, Athena yaitu kasar, mudah tersinggung dan beragama. (2) Plot dimulai ketika Heron Ryan melakukan perjalanan ke Transylvania dan bertemu dengan Athena di lobi sederhana di sebuah hotel yang paling sederhana. Pada akhir konflik yang terjadi dalam cerita ini, Athena meminta Ryan berjanji untuk menyimpan dan mendengarkan rekaman suara ke orang lain setelah dia meninggal. (3) Konflik, Athena selalu merasa ada ruang kosong di dirinya, dengan tarian yang dia lakukan, Athena menemukan perasaan tenang dan mencapai trance-nya dalam novel *Witch of Portobello* oleh Paulo Coelho, Dilihat dari teori strukturalisme oleh Endraswara, pendekatan terhadap teks sastra yang menekankan keseluruhan dalam hubungan antara banyak unsur teks, penulis menganalisis alur cerita yang terjadi dalam novel penyihir dari Portobello oleh Paulo Coelho seperti eksposisi, aksi yang meningkat, klimaks, aksi jatuh dan resolusi.

**Keywords:** *karakter, karakter utama, Plot, konflik, Structuralisme*

## **A. Introduction**

Literature is an expression which reflects our interaction, our problem that we faced in society; therefore, we could not separate literature from human being. Literature is a term used to describe anything from creative writing to more technical or scientific works of the creative imagination, including works of poetry, drama, fiction and nonfiction (Lombardi, 2001).

In literature, there are elements which is involves theme, setting, character, conflict, and plot. Theme is the general idea or message about life that is revealed through a work of literature. Setting is the time and place of a story. Character is a person, animal, or imaginary creature in a story, play, or another literary work. Conflict is a struggle between two opposing characters or forces. A plot is the organization of character and action in a work or narrative or drama in order to achieve certain effects. Plot is constituted by its events and actions, as these are rendered and ordered toward achieving particular artistic and emotional effects (Abrams, 1999:224). Foster defined a plot as the cause and effect relationship between events in a story (Katie: 2011:320).

Plot and character are connected. The plot of a story has a lot to do with the characters, because in a way, it can be improve the developments of a character. Plot and character cannot be separated because plot is the result of the actions of the characters and character is a reflection of how they react to the events in the plot. As the plot moves forward, the plot expresses the character's qualities. It includes the character's action, beliefs, attitudes and motivation for all of thing that compose character in characterization that help to move the plot forward.

Novel is one of various literary works as a part of prose fiction. As a prose fiction, novel offers various matters about human and humanity. Based on the statement, novel is created by the author who imitated the real world which is combined with his/her imagination. By reading a novel, people can get pleasure and also much understanding about human characters. As a part of literature, a novel gives us knowledge which is rich in psychological aspects is one of important

element in fiction, especially in novel *The Witch of Portobello* by Paulo Coelho. This novel is portrayed the condition of a women's life in search her identity. This novel also portrayed the sacrifice and love.

Athena is the main character in this story who becomes the major of this research. Athena is the common name but she is different because has a supernatural which has no others. Athena is born in Transylvania where her mother is a gypsy tribe without wedlock. At the age of less than 3 months, Athena was adopted by wealthy Beirut and brought back to the country in the Middle East and was named Sherine Khalil. However, on the advice of her uncle who knows that the Arab-sounding name would bring the problems in future, they call her little girl with a name that tends to be neutral. Athena's name refers to the goddess of wisdom, intelligence, and the battle for the Greeks. Since she was a child, Athena has a different habit with the other girls. She had a strong religious tendency, she always said if she is surrounded by a bunch of invisible friends, and she could predict long divisions in Beirut. The prediction came true. Therefore, Athena and family were migrating to England. Athena conducts to get married at the age of 19 and have a baby. However, she divorced after two years of marriage and became a single mother of one son was named Viorel. Athena always looks for an empty space inside. By the dance that she do, Athena found a quiet and take her trance.

This is interesting to study further because this novel can give the knowledge for the readers especially in the novel. For example, the reader can take learning how to survive in this life although only by our self and do not burden the people around us, and the last is the sacrifice is very needed as the alternative way to found our happiness.

Thus, considering the plot of the story of the main character, the writer focuses the study in “Analysis of Main Character, Plot and conflict in the Novel *The Witch of Portobello* by Paulo Coelho.

## **B. Review of Related Literature**

There are several researchers in line with this study. The first study is Ullynara Zungga V. S (2013) in thesis “Woman Construction In *Paulo Coelho’s the Witch of Portobello*” This research analyzes how woman is constructed in Paulo Coelho’s *The Witch of Portobello*. This novel tells about a woman called Athena, born in Transylvania, an orphan, who is later adopted by a wealthy Lebanese couple. In this novel, Athena as the main character in the novel considered that it is important to think about her in being a woman and how to manage her womanliness. This novel uses narrative style, which means that Athena’s life is told through the stories of the characters which also play important roles in her life. This research aims to gain an understanding on how woman in the novel is constructed based on three points: woman’s characteristics, nature and position.

This thesis uses feminist perspective in understanding the form of femininity and language indirection based on Irigaray’s theory. Since this research is a qualitative research, a documentary method is used to collect the data. The primary data are the facts and information about woman construction in *The Witch of Portobello*, which are told by the characters, while the secondary data are collected from Paulo Coelho’s own perception about woman and femininity in an interview with BBC. The secondary data are used as the background in understanding the construction in the novel, and also to support the analysis. An inductive method is used to analyze the subject matters, it means that a movement of thought is expressed or implied for the specific to the general. This method is helped by discourse method to map the constructions of

woman through the lives of the characters in the novel. The information of the constructions leads this research to examine woman's nature and position. The result of this research shows that women in the novel are described to have choices in their lives. Thus, they can choose whether they want to be in the domestic place or show themselves in the public space, interacting with the society. Their nature is determined by their sexual function. Therefore, a woman becomes a receptor of whatever comes out from a man, especially in the reproduction activity. In Coelho's perspective, a woman can be an active subject of her passivity, because accepting what men expect from women in a full consciousness is one way to be a post feminist.

The second study comes from Kadek Lilis Suryatini (2010) in her thesis entitled "Analysis of English Transitivity Process with Reference To *The Witch of Portobello* By Paulo Coelho". This research tells about Thesis with the title Process

### **C. Purpose of The Study**

The study is intended:

1. To describe the characterization of the main character in the novel *The Witch of Portobello* by Paulo Coelho.
2. To describe the plot in the novel *The Witch of Portobello* by Paulo Coelho.
3. To describe the conflict that presented in the novel *The Witch of Portobello* by Paulo Coelho.

### **D. Research Method**

In this study, the writer uses descriptive method. Descriptive method is used when researcher wants to describe specific behavior as it occurs in the environment. This method is used to describe the object, events and phenomenon to create Athena's character. Descriptive

research can be used to increase understanding and knowledge about behavior and thought processes of people.

#### **E. Method of Collecting Data**

Primary data of this study were taken from the novel *The Witch of Portobello* by Paulo Coelho publisher in 2006. Secondary data are taken from books, internet and library research.

Data collection is by reading through the novel and finds some references relating to the theme of this thesis by finding expressions, phrases and statement in the novel. The writing of this thesis is entirely done through library research to gain more detailed information to support the content of this thesis. The writer obtained the data directly from the novel "*The Witch of Portobello*" itself. Then the writer used internet media as the resource of data.

#### **F. Method of Analyzing Data**

In terms of analysis data, this thesis uses theory of structuralism where the researcher focuses only on the intrinsic elements of novel. Due to that, there are several steps/ techniques to do it in line with the theory. Those steps are:

- a. Read the novel of *The Witch of Portobello* by Paulo Coelho and identifying the characterization of the main characters by considering the plot of story.
- b. Identifying the problem which is related with the statement of the problem
- c. Drawing the development of plot in the story.
- d. Drawing the conflicts of each part of the story.

- e. Classify the sentences or paragraphs which described the main character, plot and conflict in the story
- f. Concluding the result of the discussion.

**g. Conclusion**

Concerning with the topic discussed in the preceding chapter, the writer focuses on the main character and plot. Hence, the writer finds several important conclusions from the analysis. The main character in the novel is Athena. In her experience, she found some conflicts which affect in plot. The conclusion found by the writer relating to analysis is that Athena, the protagonist of this novel faces many conflicts in the story, such as with her family, with the church, and society. I believe that those conflicts show that the author wants his readers to understand that there is a person who finds the courage to be different and is persistent to get her true aim of life, even though the society is against her. At the end of the novel, Athena is said to manage to get everything that she wants in order to fulfill her true aim of life, which is to know her true self. Opinions about her through their points of view and narrate their experiences with her, so that the readers will be able to look at Athena's conflicts more closely.

Conflict is "the opposition of person or forces upon which the action depends in novel. Conflict is divided into three, i.e. social, psychological & physical conflict In this thesis, writer specifically discuss the social conflicts found in the story. Social conflict is a "protagonist's struggle against society. In this novel, the social conflicts become clearer because the novel is written in a collection of interviews with the people who are directly or indirectly related to Athena. Moreover, those people give their opinions about her through their points of view and

narrate their experiences with her, so that the readers will be able to look at Athena's conflicts more closely.

## **G. Suggestion**

Coelho tells us how we find the courage to always be true to ourselves even if we are unsure of whom we are. I would recommend the book for people to read and analyze so that they may make their own conclusion.

Lastly, I hope that this thesis could give some contributions to the readers for one who interest in this kind of research, especially for the students' of FKIP of Mataram University.

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