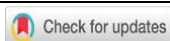


Analysis of Intrinsic Elements in the Novel “Makrifat Cinta” by Candra Malik: Structuralism Theory

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ABSTRACT

Objective: This research aims to analyze the intrinsic elements in the novel *Makrifat Cinta* by Candra Malik, focusing on how these elements interact to convey Sufi values, while also situating them within the broader context of literary discourse. **Method:** This research employs a qualitative descriptive method with a structuralism approach. The analysis was conducted systematically in several stages, beginning with the identification of the intrinsic elements in the novel, including theme, plot, characters, point of view, and language style. **Results:** The results of the analysis show that the main theme of this novel is the spiritual journey of humans to know God through love (*mahabbah*) as a path to *ma'rifah* (knowledge of God). The storyline uses a mixed plot, which moves forward and backward, reflecting a non-linear spiritual journey. The characters in the novel represent Sufistic concepts, where the main character places God as the ultimate goal of his life. The point of view used is first person (confession), giving emotional and spiritual depth to the reader. The language style used combines Indonesian with Sufistic terms and symbolic metaphors, emphasizing the deep meaning of the spiritual journey. **Novelty:** This research lies in the application of Structuralism Theory to examine the connection between the text's structure and the Sufi values presented. This approach offers a valuable contribution to Indonesian literary studies by focusing on the Sufi dimensions, a perspective that is seldom explored in structuralism theory.

INTRODUCTION

Literature is a medium of human expression in understanding, reflecting, and conveying ideas about life (Khan, 2021; Pettersson, 2008; Shankrappa, 2023). As a work of linguistic art, literature not only reflects external reality, but also expresses internal reality in the form of spiritual experiences, emotions, and philosophical ideas (Hagberg, 2022; Kozieva & Chorakulova, 2021). In this case, novels are a form of literary work that has the unique feature of conveying ideas through long, in-depth narratives (Das, 2020; Rasula, 2021). Novels are not only entertaining, but also contain moral, social, and spiritual messages that can raise the reader's awareness (Altuna, 2022; Warren, 2022). Therefore, analysis of the elements that build a novel is an important step in understanding how the work interacts with its readers.

One of the approaches used in literary studies is Structuralism (Sevänen, 2018). This approach focuses on the analysis of intrinsic elements of literary works, such as theme, plot, characters, point of view, and style of language, which form the structure of the work as a whole (Babulal & Gupta, 2024; Levine, 2023; Say, 2022). The Structuralism approach not only helps to describe the elements that build a literary work, but also explains how these elements are interconnected to create meaning (Smith, 2019). By studying the intrinsic structure of a work, readers can understand the work in depth,

without being influenced by external contexts such as the author's biography or socio-cultural situation

The novel "*Makrifat Cinta*" by Candra Malik is one of the literary works rich in spiritual and philosophical content. This novel describes the spiritual journey of humans in knowing God through love (mahabbah) as a path to *ma'rifah* (knowledge of God). With a Sufi background, this novel not only offers a narrative story, but also profound Sufi messages. The main theme of divine love, packed with a mixed plot that reflects a dynamic spiritual journey, depicts how the characters in the novel struggle to achieve a deeper understanding of God and the nature of life.

The first-person point of view used in this novel provides emotional and spiritual closeness between the reader and the main character (Philips, 2019; Zirnīte, 2021), so that the reader is invited to reflect on the Sufi values conveyed. In addition, the language style used by Candra Malik, with a combination of poetic metaphors and Sufism terms, provides a deep aesthetic nuance and enriches the reader's experience.

The appeal of novels with Sufi and spiritual content has encouraged several previous studies in various countries to study it. One of them is the novel entitled "The Power and the Glory" by Graham Greene, which intrinsically contains many psychological conflicts with divine love as a strength (Bosco, 2004). On the other hand, there is also a discussion of the novel "The God of Small Things" by A. Roy, which highlights the spiritual experience of a Christian family in India, combined with social criticism of the caste system (Outka, 2011)

Meanwhile, with a Muslim majority country like Indonesia, there has been a lot of research that examines Islamic Sufism. For example, a study entitled "Semiotic Analysis in The Novel "*Perempuan Berkalung Sorban*" By Abidah El Khalieqy" which examines Islamic semiotics which are very thick in it so that they can strengthen the existence of meaningful Islamic values for readers (Syamsu, 2022). In addition, the novel entitled "*Ziarah*" by Iwan Simatupang which contains literary characteristics that are one of the contemporary literary works of reference in Indonesia (Ridho & Wilyanti, 2022). The most relevant research is from Muslimah, (2020) which specifically explores Sufism values in the novel "*Makrifat Cinta*" by Candra Malik.

From the literature review, there is a research gap, namely the lack of research that examines the intrinsic elements in the novel "*Makrifat Cinta*" by Candra Malik which is a great work in Indonesia, through a deeper approach with Structuralism Theory, along with its relation to relevance. From this, it can be seen that the novelty of this research is the use of analysis techniques in the form of Structuralism Theory which explores the connection between the structure of the text and the Sufi values raised, providing a significant contribution to the study of Indonesian literature with a focus on the dimensions of Sufism that are rarely touched on in studies based on structuralism theory.

This study aims to analyze the intrinsic elements in the novel "*Makrifat Cinta*" using a Structuralism approach, to reveal the interplay of these elements in conveying Sufi values, and to situate them within the broader literary discourse. The elements analyzed

include theme, plot, characters, point of view, and style of language. Through this analysis, it is expected to reveal how these elements are interconnected to build the overall meaning of the novel. In addition, this study also aims to show how the Sufi values that are the core of this novel are conveyed aesthetically through these intrinsic elements.

Thus, this research not only contributes to literary studies, but also opens up insights into the spiritual values contained in modern literary works. Through the Structuralism approach, this research is expected to reveal the working mechanism of the intrinsic elements in "*Makrifat Cinta*", so that readers can understand the deeper meaning of the work.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research uses a qualitative descriptive method with a structuralism approach. The qualitative descriptive method was chosen because this study aims to describe and analyze the intrinsic elements in the novel "*Makrifat Cinta*" by Candra Malik in depth. The intrinsic elements analyzed include theme, plot, characters, point of view, and style of language, which are interconnected to form the structure and meaning of the whole story (Rangkuti & Salamah, 2021; Tartila, Anggraini, & Faizah, 2023; Yanti & Neisya, 2021).

The Structuralism approach is used in this research because this approach views literary works as a structure consisting of building elements that are functionally interconnected (Prušková, 2022; Zhang, 2018). In this approach, research focuses on the analysis of literary texts as a closed system without involving external factors such as the author's background or the socio-cultural conditions when the work was written. Thus, the Structuralism approach provides a deep understanding of how intrinsic elements in the novel contribute to the formation of meaning (Carter, 2021; Sukarismanti, Najamudin, & Sukarismanti, 2023; Tarigan & Harahap, 2024).

This method is particularly effective for examining spiritual themes, as it highlights the interplay of symbolic relationships, recurring motifs, and thematic consistency that contribute to the novel's sufistic essence. Structuralism enables researchers to uncover underlying patterns and structures within the text, revealing how elements such as plot, character development, and imagery work in harmony to express spiritual values and philosophical depth (Levine, 2023; Smith, 2019). By treating the novel as a self-contained entity, structuralism ensures an impartial interpretation, offering valuable insights into how "*Makrifat Cinta*" communicates its spiritual message to readers.

The data source in this study is the text of the novel "*Makrifat Cinta*" by Candra Malik published by Kompas Media Nusantara in 2017. The data collection technique was carried out through literature study, namely by carefully reading and taking notes on the novel text to identify quotations that are relevant to the intrinsic elements being analyzed.

Data analysis was carried out systematically through several stages, starting with the identification of intrinsic elements in the novel, such as theme, plot, characters, point of view, and style of language. Here is the scheme that is applied:

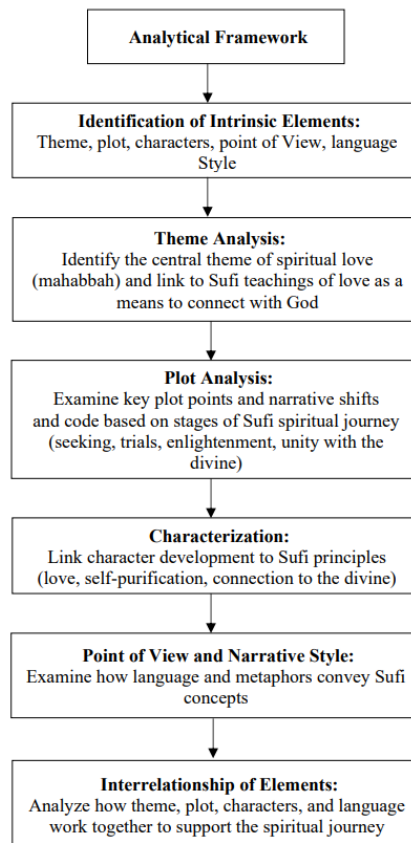


Figure 1. Analytical Framework

Furthermore, the researcher analyzed the relationship between these elements to understand how these elements support each other and create the overall meaning of the story. The results of the analysis are then interpreted to explore the deep meaning and Sufi messages contained in the novel.

With this approach, the research is expected to be able to reveal in detail the narrative structure of the novel "Makrifat Cinta" and how its intrinsic elements represent the Sufi values that are the core of the story.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results

Intrinsic Elements in the Novel "Makrifat Cinta" by Candra Malik

In analyzing the intrinsic elements in the novel "Makrifat Cinta" by Candra Malik, this study aims to reveal how the basic elements in the story interact with each other and form a deep narrative structure. Each intrinsic element is not only important to provide a

complete picture of the story, but is also the key to understanding the messages that the author wants to convey (Panasenka & Petrovičová, 2024; Witczyk, 2018), especially in the context of spirituality and the search for *makrifat* (Knowledge of God). In the structuralism approach, each element is analyzed separately to see how these elements function functionally and are interconnected, but at the same time also form a larger overall meaning.

This study will examine several main intrinsic elements that build the story, such as theme, plot, characters, point of view, and style. Each of these elements has a significant role in creating a flowing narrative structure, as well as in depicting the main character's inner journey that leads to a deeper spiritual search. Theme is the main foundation that forms the direction of the story, while the plot provides the dynamics that describe the quest (Morgan, Evans, & DeFrancesco, 2021; Oludhe Macgoye, 2009).

The main character, who represents humans in their search for knowledge, interacts with supporting characters to enrich the spiritual experience that the novel seeks to express (Madrussan, 2019; Niemiec, Russo-Netzer, & Pargament, 2020). The point of view used, namely the first person point of view, strengthens the emotional closeness and intensity of feelings felt by the main character. The style of language used, which is full of Sufi terms and metaphors, also provides a deeper layer of meaning about the search for Divine love.

Overall, this study aims to show how these intrinsic elements collaborate in expressing the Sufi values that are the core of "*Makrifat Cinta*". Through the analysis of this narrative structure, it can be understood how this novel not only conveys a story about spiritual search, but also guides readers to reflect on the meaning of life, love, and human relationship with God in a higher dimension.

Theme

Theme is the core of the story that gives direction to the plot and character development. In the novel "*Makrifat Cinta*", the main theme raised is the spiritual journey of a main character to know God through divine love. This theme is very thick with Sufi teachings that emphasize the importance of love as a path to a deeper understanding of God. In this novel, love is not only seen as a relationship between humans, but more broadly, namely as divine love (*mahabbah*) that leads to the achievement of *makrifat* (real knowledge of God). The process of the spiritual journey described in the story includes inner searching, deep contemplation, and achieving an understanding of the nature of God and life.

In this analysis, we will discuss how this theme is depicted through various elements in the story, such as characters, plot, and conflicts experienced by the main character. In addition, it will also discuss how the theme of Divine love becomes a bridge in understanding the deep Sufi concept, and how this theme develops along with the journey of the main character in the novel. This theme leads the reader to see love not only as a human feeling, but as something higher and spiritual.

Plot

Plot is a series of events that form the structure of a story and drive the narrative (Caldwell, 2018; Concepción, Gervás, & Méndez, 2020; Lee & Jung, 2019). In “*Makrifat Cinta*”, the plot used is quite interesting because the author chose to use a mixed plot, namely moving forward and backward. The use of this mixed plot reflects the nature of the spiritual journey which is not linear. The main character in this novel experiences various events and contemplations that inspire him to return to the past to seek answers and a deeper understanding of himself and God. This illustrates how spiritual searches often involve reflection and journeys inward, which cannot always be predicted or determined by a straight timeline.

In plot analysis, we will discuss how the events that occur in the story not only depict character development, but also reflect the dynamics of a spiritual search that is not easy and full of challenges. The journey of the main character in overcoming doubt, confusion, and misunderstanding along the way shows a plot full of twists and turns, but ultimately leads to a deeper understanding and acceptance of God. This non-linear plot provides insight into how spiritual experiences are often circuitous and must pass through many layers to reach true depth.

Characters and Characterization

The characters in “*Makrifat Cinta*” play a very important role in depicting spiritual search and divine love. The main character in this novel is an individual who is trying to find a deeper understanding of God through an inner journey and love. Through this main character, the reader is invited to follow the process of searching for knowledge, which involves many inner struggles, searches, and even doubts faced along the way. This main character can be considered a representation of humans who in their search to know God, must go through various challenges, both externally and internally.

On the other hand, the supporting characters in this story, such as the main character's teachers or friends, serve as guides or mirrors for the main character in his search process. They help shape the main character's spiritual path by providing perspectives, teachings, or even experiences that can help the main character to continue to move towards *ma'rifat*. This strong characterization builds relationships between the characters in the story, which reinforces the theme of divine love and a deep search for God.

In the characterization analysis, we will discuss further how the characters in this novel not only develop as individuals, but also as symbols of various Sufi principles. These characters interact with each other, leading the reader to understand that spiritual search is a process that involves many parties and self-reflection.

Viewpoint

Point of view is the way the author conveys the story to the reader (Al-Alami, 2019; Christy, 2018). In “*Makrifat Cinta*” the author chooses the first person point of view (akuan), which allows the reader to get closer to the feelings, thoughts, and inner struggles of the main character. The first person point of view provides a stronger emotional depth, because the reader is invited to see the world through the eyes of the

main character, feeling every confusion, doubt, and spiritual achievement that is experienced.

The use of this point of view allows the reader to enter into the thoughts and feelings of the main character more intimately, revealing the contemplations that occur in the main character's spiritual quest. In the analysis of point of view, we will explore how this first-person point of view gives the reader a more direct experience in following the main character's spiritual quest, as well as how this influences the reader to absorb every aspect of the main character's search for knowledge.

Language style

Style is one of the most important elements in creating atmosphere and nuance in a literary work (Cipriani, 2023; Prashcheruk, 2020; Tyler, 2022). In "*Makrifat Cinta*", Candra Malik uses a distinctive style of language with a blend of Indonesian and Sufi terms, metaphors, and deep symbolism. This style of language is not only intended to convey the story, but also to create a spiritual atmosphere that invites readers to think more deeply. The metaphors used by the author are very effective in describing abstract concepts such as divine love, spiritual search, and inner journey.

This style of language provides a deep nuance, inviting readers to see more than just the story that happened, but also to feel the meanings contained in it. In the analysis of the style of language, we will see how the choice of words and expressions in this novel enriches the reader's experience, creating an atmosphere full of contemplation and spiritual silence. In addition, this style of language also supports the explanation of Sufi principles, connecting readers with higher and transcendent concepts that are often difficult to express with ordinary language.

Discussion

Novel "Makrifat Cinta" by Candra Malik: Structuralism Theory

"*Makrifat Cinta*", by Candra Malik, is a novel that not only tells the story of an individual's journey in finding love, but also contains a deep spiritual dimension. In it, the story that is built functions as a medium to explore Sufi concepts related to the journey to God through Divine love (mahabbah). In this novel, the main character faces various contemplations, searches, and inner experiences that guide readers to understand more deeply the meaning of true love, makrifat, and the ultimate knowledge of God.

With the theory of structuralism, this discussion will describe how the various intrinsic elements in "*Makrifat Cinta*" work together to create a deeper meaning. The purpose of this discussion is to explore how the Sufi themes raised by the author can be conveyed in a very structured way, through the selection of plot, characters, point of view, and style of language that are well integrated. In this process, we will see that each element in this novel does not only stand alone, but complements each other to form a complete picture of the spiritual search and achievement of makrifat, which in turn can open the reader's insight into the concept of Divine love.

Spiritual Journey Towards Divine Love

The main theme in this novel is the spiritual quest to find God through love (mahabbah). In this novel, the main character experiences a deep inner journey, trying to understand the concept of divine love as a way to know God. This theme is depicted very clearly through the reflection of the main character, who begins to realize that true love is not only for humans, but also for God.

"I felt like my life was going nowhere, like something was missing. I searched for the meaning of love in many ways: in a partner, in worldly happiness, even in success. However, I never felt complete. Until finally, I met a different love. Love that connects me to God, that makes me feel as if everything is becoming clearer. This love is an unspoken love, but it is felt in every step of my life."

This quote describes the main character's search for a higher love, namely divine love. Her feelings of loss and confusion in searching for worldly love were eventually replaced by the understanding that God's love was the pinnacle of her spiritual journey.

Structuralism theory is seen in the paragraph through the way the intrinsic elements in the text, such as character, theme, and symbolism, interrelate to form the spiritual journey of the main character (Makibi, Molete, & Hlohlo, 2024). The main character experiences a shift from an unsatisfying search for worldly love to an enlightening understanding of divine love. In structuralism theory, this shift reflects how each part of the text functions in a coordinated manner to depict the character's transformation process. Symbols such as unfulfilling "worldly love" and "love that connects with God" serve as elements that contribute to a larger thematic understanding, namely the spiritual quest.

A Mixed Flow Reflecting a Spiritual Journey

The mixed plot used in "Makrifat Cinta" depicts the non-linear journey of the main character, who must face various experiences and past reflections to achieve a deeper spiritual understanding. The plot moves back and forth, showing that spiritual search does not always go in a straight and easy way (Nangia & Ruthven, 2023).

"I remember the first time I felt disappointed with this world. At that time, everything felt so empty, and I didn't know where to go. At that time, I was at the lowest point in my life, feeling trapped in a never-ending routine. However, now, after this long journey, I began to realize that every step I took was leading me towards enlightenment. I found light in the darkness that I once considered a burden."

In this quote, there is a time transition between the past full of confusion and the present where the main character begins to feel the changes in himself. Past experiences shape the spiritual enlightenment process that is happening in him now. The jumping plot reflects the dynamics of the main character's non-linear spiritual journey.

In structuralism theory, this time shift symbolizes the process of change experienced by the main character (Abualadas, 2019; Huisman, 2023; Leccardi, 2014), where past experiences serve as important elements in shaping his spiritual journey. This jumping plot, from confusion to enlightenment, is part of a narrative structure that shows how the main character begins to find light in the darkness, which was previously considered a

burden. This narrative structure illustrates how intrinsic elements in the text, such as plot and character changes, interact to build a larger spiritual theme of the search for meaning and enlightenment.

Figures: Representation of Sufi Concepts

The main characters in "Makrifat Cinta" are representations of Sufi concepts, especially in terms of the search for divine love and ma'rifat. The main character depicts the inner struggle in understanding the nature of God and the journey towards a deeper knowledge of God. This figure not only tries to understand God's love, but also tries to realize this knowledge in his actions and inner reflection.

"I once asked myself, 'What is the true meaning of love?' I looked for answers outside myself, in everyone I met. However, I realized that the answer was not outside, but in my heart. Love for God is the answer, and I could only find it on a long and challenging inner journey. I know, this is not an easy journey, but I am sure, this love will lead me to ma'rifat, to a deeper understanding of God."

Here, the main character refers to personal experiences and the inner journey required to understand the concepts of divine love and ma'rifat. This dialogue reflects a spiritual journey that is often filled with doubt and searching, but ends in a higher and deeper understanding of God.

Through this dialogue, elements such as the main character's introspective thoughts and the theme of spiritual quest play a role in building the structure of the story that leads to enlightenment. Within the framework of structuralism, this quote can be seen as an integral part of the overall narrative, where each element, be it theme, character, or symbol, functions together to reveal a deeper understanding of divine love and man's relationship with God.

Point of View: First Person Point of View

The use of first person perspective in "Makrifat Cinta" gives emotional and spiritual depth to the story. The reader can feel directly what the main character feels, both in her confusion and her enlightenment. This first person perspective allows the reader to enter the mind of the main character and understand more in the inner journey he experienced.

"I felt my heart beating faster, as if the universe was vibrating with me. In the midst of the crowd, I feel lonely. But in that loneliness, I heard a voice deep inside me, calling me to seek something more. I didn't know what it was, but I knew it was a call to know God more deeply. I had to go, even though there was no guarantee of what I would find there."

This narrative gives a picture of the main character's feelings and doubts as reflected in his spiritual journey (Afrouz, 2023; Ghosh, 2018). The first-person point of view helps the reader feel his confusion and deep desire to find God, which is at the heart of his search.

Style of Language: Symbolic Metaphor and the Combination of Sufi Terms

The language style used by Candra Malik in "Makrifat Cinta" is very distinctive with symbolic metaphors that describe deep Sufistic concepts. The combination of Sufi terms and poetic language creates a profound and mystical atmosphere, which supports the theme of spiritual journey.

"This love is like a light that radiates from within, illuminating every corner of the heart that was once dark. As time went by, I began to understand that every second I lived was part of a journey towards God, and I felt more and more that I was a part of Him, that I was one with Him. This world is only a shadow of the real, and I seek to understand the higher reality, which lies behind all this."

The metaphor of "radiating light" describes the inner experience of the main character who increasingly understands makrifat. The combination with Sufi terms such as "one with Him" and "higher reality" strengthens the spiritual messages that this novel wants to convey.

In structuralist theory, symbols such as light work as intrinsic elements that are interconnected to convey a deeper meaning about the journey towards understanding God or *ma'rifat*. In addition, the use of Sufi terms such as "one with Him" and "higher reality" enrich the structure of the text with spiritual elements that clarify the theme of the search for a higher meaning in life. This narrative structure, which includes symbolism and metaphor, illustrates how the main character begins to realize that the worldly journey is only a shadow of a higher reality, which reflects the unity between himself and God. Structuralist theory allows us to see how these elements function together in the text to construct a meaning about a deeper spiritual achievement.

CONCLUSION

Fundamental Finding: The analysis of the intrinsic elements in the novel Makrifat Cinta reveals how each component of the story interconnects to convey profound spiritual messages, particularly related to the search for makrifat or true knowledge of God. Through themes of divine love, a non-linear plot, characters representing Sufi concepts, and a deep first-person perspective, the novel portrays a spiritual journey filled with search, doubt, and enlightenment. The use of language, rich in symbolism and metaphors, further enriches the reader's experience, illustrating abstract Sufi teachings such as divine love and a higher reality. These elements work together in a well-organized narrative structure to communicate a deeper understanding of spiritual achievement and the human relationship with God. **Implication:** This analysis contributes significantly to both literary and spiritual studies. From a literary perspective, the structuralist approach demonstrates how intrinsic elements in a literary work interrelate to create a greater meaning, in this case, the spiritual quest and attainment of makrifat. The study informs the interpretation of other Sufi literary works, highlighting how spiritual themes, symbolism, and metaphors are used to convey profound mystical teachings. Spiritually, it shows how spirituality can seamlessly integrate into modern literature as a medium for personal reflection and the search for meaning in life. In contemporary literature, works like Makrifat Cinta provide insight into the relevance of

spiritual themes in today’s world, suggesting that spirituality is not just a thing of the past but remains significant in our increasingly interconnected and fragmented world.

Limitation: This analysis is limited to one literary work, Makrifat Cinta by Candra Malik, so that the findings and interpretations obtained may not fully cover the entire spectrum of Sufi literary works. **Future Research:** Another researcher could expand the analysis to other Sufi literary works, both in Indonesian and international contexts, to compare the use of intrinsic elements in depicting the spiritual journey. Such research could provide a deeper understanding of how various Sufi cultures and traditions represent the search for God and ma'rifat through literary works.

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