

Plot Concept Analysis of Montgomery's Novel

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Abstract

This study analyzed one of the intrinsic elements in the novel entitled Anne of Green Gables written by Lucy M. Montgomery. To analyze this novel, the researcher used the theory of Nurgiyantoro (1995) especially analyzing the novel plot. It was used to get more understanding the plot of the Anne of Green Gables novel. Plot, or storyline, was often listed as one of the fundamental elements of fiction. It was the rendering and ordering of the events and actions of a story. In this research, plot will be divided into three those are; a beginning, middle, and an ending.

Keywords: Intrinsic element, novel, literature

INTRODUCTION

Wellek and Warren (1989: 3) stated that literature is one realization of creative ideas which has the characteristics and totally dependent by the authors themselves. Literature also represents the life in large measure. It can be concluded that literature is one of the realizations of the creative ideas that have the characteristic. One of the literature result types is novel. Generally, novels always describe the author's imagination with a strong spirit and is a reflection of human life because the novels are written based on experience, fantasies and feelings. It is also stated by Ade (2008: 24) that novel is along narrative whose imaginary characters and events are presented in a realistic, true-to-life manner. The story of novel lifts various phenomena of life which are reflected by the author through a fictional character.

There are two elements in the novel, those are; intrinsic and extrinsic element. According to Robert (as cited in Setiawati, 2016) Intrinsic element is the analysis of the literature itself without looking the relation with the external aspect. It means that the element builds a literary work itself. The intrinsic element of a novel can be classified into plot, character, theme, setting, point of view, language or style, and etc. But this research only focused on the plot.

According to Stanton in Nurgiyantoro (1995: 113) stated that plot is the story that contains a sequence of events, but each event is connected in causal, an event is caused or led to the other events. Nurgiyantoro explained there are three stages of the plot. Plot consists of beginning, middle, and end. According to Wellek and Warren (1989: 262) plot is formed by smaller episode or events. Meanwhile, according to Nurgiyantoro (1995: 114) the events in the story or plot is manifested through actions, behaviors, and attitudes from the characters in the fiction. In addition, Pawar et al (2012) stated plot is a literary term defined as the events that makes up the story, particularly as they relate to one another in a pattern, in a sequence, through cause and effect, or by coincidence. Generally, the event that displayed in the fiction is none other than actions and behaviors both verbally and non-verbally, physically and mentally. Event, conflict, and climax, are essential elements in developing the plot in the story. The existence of the plot is determined by those three elements. According Stanton (1965: 16) in Nurgiyantoro (1995: 127) there are three stages; those are:

1. Beginning Stage

According to Nurgiyantoro (1995: 142-146) beginning is the introductory stage of the fiction. The purpose of the beginning to give information related to background and characterizations. Mostly this stage shows the setting of the story such as name of places, time of the story happened, and the surrounding.

2. Middle Stage

Middle stage is also known as showdown stage. Middle stage shows the conflict one by one. This stage is the longest stage than the other two. This stage presents the main story, the important events are told, and the conflicts keep developing and reach the climax.

3. Ending Stage

The last stage is the ending. This stage is known as resolution stage. Mostly there are two kinds of ending which are happy ending or sad ending.

Meanwhile, according to Ali (2014) the most important part of the play is the plot. It covers the overall story, conflict is introduced in it and it is logically sequenced. A plot consists of five basic parts: Introduction, Rising Action, Climax, Falling Action, and Resolution.

METHODOLOGY

According to Abrams in Wiyatmi (2012:2) stated that literary criticism is a study regarding limitations, classifying, analyzing, and evaluation of literary work. In other word, literary criticism is a branch of literary studies that are directly related to the literature through interpretation, analyzing, and evaluating of a literary work.

In this study, the researcher used qualitative research design. Semi (1993: 28) stated there are two kinds of research design in literature which is quantitative and qualitative research design. Quantitative researches do verification process through measuring and analysis that qualified by using mathematic and statistic data. Qualitative research does not consider number as most important, but prioritizes the depth to the interaction of the concept that being studied. In qualitative research, the writer usually produces descriptive and narrative information. According to Yin (2011:130) data collection procedures can be done with interviewing, observing, collecting and feeling.

RESULT

Plot Analysis of *Anne of Green Gables* Novel

A. Beginning Stage

This novel started with the event when Matthew found a young girl was waiting for him when he planned to pick up an orphan young boy to be adopted by his sister, Marilla. Matthew had no choice but to bring Anne with him and let Marilla explained the situation to Anne. Initially, Marilla resisted to not keeping Anne even Matthew asked Marilla to. But after meeting Mrs. Spancer and Blewett family, Marilla decided to adopt her. It was in chapter eight Marilla told Anne that she could live with them in Green Gables. See data 1 below:

Data 1

Yes, you can stay here and we will try to do right by your. You must go to school; but it's only for a fortnight till vacation so it's worthwhile for you to start before it opens again in September."

(Montgomery, 1908: 70)

Anne's real life in Green Gables started in chapter nine. Two weeks after Marilla decided Anne could stay in Green Gables, she took out her anger to Mrs. Rachel Lynde because Mrs. Rachel Lynde commented Anne's appearance and Anne got really resentful. Anne hated when someone told that she had red hair even though it was really red. See the following data 2 below:

Data 2

"She's terrible skinny and homely, Marilla. Come here, child, and let me have a look at you. Lawful heart, did anyone ever see such freckles? And hair as red as carrots! Come here, child, I say.".... "How dare you call me skinny and ugly? How dare you say I'm freckled and red-headed? You are rude, impolite, unfeeling woman!"
(Montgomery, 1908: 83)

Anne got punished by Marilla by staying in her room and not allowed to go out until Anne decided to apologize to Mrs. Rachel Lynde. But Matthew came to Anne and told that the downstairs was really lonely without her. Right after that, Anne came to tell Marilla she was ready to apologize. It can be seen data 3 below:

Data 3

'There, there, get up, child,' she said heartily. 'Of course I forgive you. I guess I was a little too hard on you, anyway.'
(Montgomery, 1908: 94)

Mrs. Rachel was not the only one who said Anne as the main character had red hair as carrot, but Gilbert Blythe also said the same thing. Anne hated it so much when someone mocked her hair because she thought that having red hair is incredibly awful. Gilbert tried to apologize since then but Anne would never forgive Gilbert. This incident marks the beginning of a rivalry between Anne and Gilbert, the two smartest pupils, which lasts until the end of the novel. It can be seen in the data 4 below showing when Anne threw her anger to Gilbert.

Data 4

Gilbert... said in a piercing whisper: "Carrots! Carrots!" Then Anne looked at him with a vengeance! "You mean, hateful boy!" she exclaimed passionately. "How dare you!" And then—thwack! Anne had brought her slate down on Gilbert's head and cracked it—slate not head—clear across.... She slung herself into her studies heart and soul, determined not to be

outdone in any class by Gilbert Blythe. The rivalry between them was soon apparent; it was entirely good natures on Gilbert's side. (Montgomery, 1908: 141-173)

Anne never mentioned Gilbert's name in front of everyone. Anne swore to Diana that she would never forgive Gilbert. Anne decided that she would never going to school anymore. Anne told Marilla about this and of course, Marilla did not agree about Anne decision. But as Mrs. Rachel advice, Marilla let Anne to stay at home. Not long after incident with Gilbert, Anne threw herself in danger in next chapter, chapter sixteen. Anne made Diana whom she loved the most drunk wine instead raspberry cordial. It was clearly seen in data 5 below.

Data 5

You went and gave Diana currant wine instead of raspberry cordial.'No; and oh, Anne, she says I'm never to play with you again. I've cried and cried and I told her it wasn't your fault, but it wasn't any use.
(Montgomery, 1908: 162-167)

Anne went to Diana's house to apologize but it did not work out. Then, they did not play together anymore. But Anne still promised to Diana that no one would ever able replace Diana in her heart. Diana also did the same. They exchanged letter at school to communicate. But the sorrow soon disappeared from those young girls. In chapter eighteen of this novel, Diana went to Green Gables and told Anne that her little sister Minnie May was very ill. No one at home at that time and Diana asked Anne's help. Anne hurried going to Diana's home and treated Minnie May very well. Anne knew a little bit how to treat a sick person. Soon, Minnie May was saved. Matthew came and brought the doctor with him. The doctor praised Anne that it was the first right step to do. Next afternoon, Anne got news from Marilla that Mrs. Berry came. Mrs. Berry said thank you and forgave Anne.

Data 6

She says she knows now you didn't mean to set Diana drunk, and she hopes you'll forgive her and be good friends with Diana again.
(Montgomery,1908: 184)

Anne got very excited going to Diana's house to meet Mrs. Berry. Mrs. Berry kissed Anne's cheeks and made her embarrassed. She was glad everything went back to normal. The third mess was when Anne dyed her hair for the first time. It was included in chapter twenty-seven. Anne really wished to have black hair like Diana so she decided to buy the dye from the peddler. But it turned out to be green. Anne felt really miserable and decided not to go out for a week. Then Marilla had no choice but to cut her hair short.

Data 7

'Anne Shirley, what have you done to your hair? Why, it's GREEN!'
(Montgomery, 1908: 272)

Anne never was being grateful with her appearance. She always thought that red hair was very bad. But after this accident, Anne promised herself that she would always accept her red hair. This was shown in chapter twenty seven of this novel. In chapter twenty-eight, there was a time when Anne got saved by her enemy, Gilbert Blythe. Anne played role as lily maid, Eleina with Diana Barry, Ruby Gillis, and Jane Andrews. She was laying down on the bottom of the small wooden flat and pretending to be dead. But suddenly the flat began to leak and Anne almost sank to the water. But before the flat sank, Anne clung to the slippery old pile with no way of getting up or down. She was waiting the help from the girls but they did not show up until Gilbert came and helped her immediately Gilbert did not want to lose chance to apologize for what happened long ago. Anne hesitated to forgive Gilbert, and she refused to be friend with him. But after saying that, Anne felt sorry for what she did. She should have forgiven Gilbert instead. See data 8 below:

Data 8

'Anne,' he said hurriedly, 'look here. Can't we be good friends? ...'No,' she said coldly, 'I shall never be friends with you. Gilbert Blythe; and I don't want to be!'
(Montgomery, 1908: 284-285)

Data 8 shows that Gilbert tried to ask Anne to be friend again and explained that he did not mean to mock her, he was joking only but Anne did not want to be friends with Gilbert. In the end, Gilbert said that he would not apologize again nor be friends with. From the explanation, it can be concluded that the novel started in early June and took place in Avonlea. The events that indicate in beginning stage were in chapter one to chapter twenty nine. Those were when Anne got adopted by Marilla and Matthew, Anne took her anger to Mrs. Rachel and Gilbert because saying her hair as red as carrot, Anne poured wine to Diana's drink, and Anne dyed her hair into green.

B. Middle Stage

Middle stage in this novel can be seen when Anne started to think about her future. Marilla and Matthew decided to let her go to Academy Queen to be a teacher. Her beloved teacher, Miss Stacy, recognized Anne's intelligence and encouraged Anne to join a special group of students preparing for the entrance exam to Queen's Academy. The middle stage happened in chapter thirty of this novel.

Data 9

'Well, Miss Stacy wants to organize a class among her advanced students who mean to study for the entrance examination into Queen's....What do you think about it yourself, Anne? Would you like to go to Queen's and pass for a teacher?'....'Oh, Marilla!' Anne straightened to her knees and clasped her hands. 'It's been the dream of my life
(Montgomery, 1908: 305)

Mrs. Stacy came to Green Gables to talk with Marilla about asking permission for giving extra lesson hour after school. Marilla did not mind because it was good for Anne to study seriously to pass the Academy Queen. It was Anne's dream to be a teacher and that was great opportunity. Anne got very excited knowing that Marilla approved her to be a teacher. Anne never mentioned her dream to Marilla because she thought it was expensive and Anne did not

want to burden Marilla and Matthew more than what they had done. Finally Anne took the entrance exam in Queen Academy in Bright River. Anne felt so nervous on the first day. The following day, Anne had Geometry exam and she doubted that she did well. Geometry was her weakness while Gilbert mastered the Geometry. Diana encouraged Anne that she would pass. Anne had hidden wish that she hoped she would a 'pass high' for Marilla and Matthew as Matthew had declared that she would beat the whole island. After long awaits, the result of entrance exam had come out. See data 10 below:

Data 10

'Anne, you've passed,' she cried, 'passed the VERY FIRST—you and Gilbert both—you're ties—but your name is first. Oh, I'm so proud!'

(Montgomery, 1908: 332)

Diana brought a newspaper of Bright River from her father that showed the graduation list. Anne got the highest rank as Gilbert in entrance exam. Before Anne going to Bright River to attend the class in Academy Queen, Anne had a concert at the White Sands Hotel. It happened in chapter thirty-three of the novel. But soon the fright had gone as she saw Gilbert. She felt that she should not lose to Gilbert no matter what. However, Gilbert smiled to Anne because she looked so beautiful up there. Anne mistook his smile as mocking her. Without realizing that, the fear disappeared and Anne performed well. Anne did not aware that Gilbert just saved her again.

Data 11

Gilbert was merely smiling with appreciation of the whole affair in general and of the effect produced by Anne's slender white form and spiritual face against a background of palms in particular Josie Pye....She WOULD NOT fail before Gilbert Blythe—he should never be able to laugh at her, never, never! Her fright and nervousness vanished; and she began her recitation, her clear, sweet voice reaching to the farthest corner of the room without a tremor or a break.

(Montgomery, 1908: 342)

From this point, it can be seen that Gilbert got captivated by Anne's beauty. There were no anger or hatred feelings toward Anne. But Anne mistook Gilbert smile as irony. Anne long-standing competition with Gilbert Blythe changed to an affectionate and familiar rivalry when,

after four years of mutual silence. Anne and Gilbert both went to Queen's Academy. During the year of the school, Anne missed her home deeply. There were moment when she got home sick, but Josie Pye came and cheered her up. Anne devoted herself to her studies wholeheartedly, striving to make Matthew and Marilla proud. Anne aimed to win the Medalist or Avery Scholarship. Anne believed that she had no hope to win Avery because everybody said that Emily Clay would win until that moment came, when announcements were made.

Data 12

'Hurrah for Blythe, Medalist!'....And then! Somebody called out: 'Three cheers for Miss Shirley, winner of the Avery!' 'Oh, Anne,' gasped Jane, as they fled to the girls' dressing room amid hearty cheers. 'Oh, Anne I'm so proud! Isn't it splendid?
(Montgomery, 1908: 364)

In data 12 above, Gilbert name was out first. When Anne hear Gilbert's name, she felt defeated and disappointed. But right after gilbert's name called out, Anne got herself won the Avery Scholarship. Anne would make sure to make Marilla and Matthew proud. It was happened in chapter thirty-six. On the day of commencement, Marilla and Matthew came to see their beloved girl, Anne. They could not feel happier and more proud than this. Anne came home with Marilla and Matthew that evening. Anne could not wait a day to be in Green Gables, her home. The next morning, Anne saw that Matthew did not feeling well. Anne worried then she asked Marilla about it. Marilla explained that recently Matthew got heart attack due overworking. Then they hired a man to help Matthew working. Marilla hoped as Anne was home, she would always cheer up for Matthew. Not only Matthew, Marilla was growing old as well. Marilla asked whether Anne had heard any news about Abbey Bank. Anne said that the bank was shaky lately. They got worried because all their savings were in Abbey Bank. But Mr. Russell said to Matthew that the bank was all right. Anne went with Matthew for the cows in the evening. Anne said to Matthew it would have been good if she were a boy so she could help him. But Matthew said

that he rather had Anne than a dozen boys. Matthew smiled at Anne and said that he was very proud at her little girl. Anne took the memory with her that night.

Data 13

‘Oh, Marilla,’ she said gravely. ‘I don’t think—we can do anything for him.’ ‘Mrs. Lynde, you don’t think—you can’t think Matthew is— is—’ Anne could not say the dreadful word; she turned sick and pallid. ‘Child, yes, I’m afraid of it. Look at his face.’
(Montgomery, 1908: 372)

Data 13 shows when Matthew got heart attack. Marilla found him and asked Anne to call Martin, the young boy who helped Matthew to call a doctor. But it was too late. Matthew passed away. When the doctor came he said that death had been instantaneous painless. It was caused by sudden shock. The secret of the shock was discovered to be in the paper Matthew had held and which Martin had brought from the office that morning. It contained an account of the failure of the Abbey Bank. The Matthew death spread quickly in Avonlea. Everyone came to Green Gables to send their condolence. Anne and Marilla cried a lot. The several days had passed after Matthew death. Marilla went to town to meet the doctor for checking her eyes in the morning. It was getting worse each day so Anne forced Marilla to go. Marilla went back to Green Gables in the evening. Doctor told Marilla to stop reading and sewing and to not cry. If Marilla did not do what the doctor told, she probably would be blind in six months. Anne comforted her that everything would be all right until Marilla told Anne something. See data below.

Data 14

‘He heard that I was going to sell Green Gables and he wants to buy it.’ ‘Buy it! Buy Green Gables?’ Anne wondered if she had heard aright.
(Montgomery, 1908: 382)

Data 14 above was about a few days later when Marilla told Anne that Mr. Sadler wanted to buy Green Gables. Marilla decided to sell Green Gables because they cannot afford to live. But Anne resisted to never selling it. Anne loved Green Gables as deeply as she loved Matthew and Marilla. It was their home and she would not bear to lose Green Gables.

C. Ending Stage

Anne of Green Gables novel ended when Anne found her resolution so she would not leave Marilla alone.

Data 15

‘You won’t have to stay here alone, Marilla. I’ll be with you. I’m not going to Redmond.’
(Montgomery, 1908: 383)

Anne decided that she would not take her scholarship because Anne did not want to leave Marilla. Anne told Marilla her plans. Anne would apply for the school in Avonlea and Carmody School. But she did not put much hope for Avonlea School due Gilbert already had been trusted to teach in there. But Marilla did not want Anne to give up her dreams and be ambitious as ever. Marilla did not want to be pitied but Anne insisted. She matured already because she was sixteen and half she said.

Data 16

‘We are going to be the best of friends,’ said Gilbert, jubilantly. ‘We were born to be good friends, Anne.’
(Montgomery, 1908: 389)

As soon as Gilbert heard Anne applied for Avonlea School, he withdrew and let Anne to be the candidate teacher. Anne said thank you full heartedly and she made confession to Gilbert that actually she already forgave him long ago when Gilbert saved her in the pond. Anne admitted that she was stubborn at that time felt sorry. Gilbert said that they were going to be best friend and they could help each other.

DISCUSSION

Plot Analysis of *Anne of Green Gables* Novel

The beginning stage of *Anne of Green Gables* novel started from chapter one to chapter thirty of the novel. Anne of the Green Gables novel started with introduction of additional character, Mrs. Rachel Lynde. In middle stage, *Anne of Green Gables* novel started when Anne as main character began to think about her future as teenager and decided to enter Academy Queen which left her no choice but to leave Marilla and Matthew in Green Gables. This stage occurred in chapter thirty-one to thirty-seven of the novel. In ending stage, *Anne of Green Gables* novel started when Anne decided to stay in Green Gables with Marilla after Matthew died. Anne gave up the scholarship to continue her study. This stage occurred in chapter thirty-eight as the last chapter of the novel.

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