

## ABSTRACT

This research aims to reveal Sean Townsend's motivation on killing Nel Abbott and the suitable theme in Paula Hawkins' *Into The Water* novel. He is Detective Inspector who is handling the case of two death women in the Drowning Pool. Some allegations emerged after the death of Nel Abbott, but the mystery then led to the involvement of the Townsends. It appears that Sean is the real killer of Nel Abbott from some of the evidence strengthened by his confession at the end of the story. However, the motive behind the action was accidental. Sean also had an affair with Nel before they finally separated. To reveal Sean Townsend's motivation on killing Nel Abbott the researcher applied new criticism theory in analyzing the data regarding the character's motivation. In order to formulate the theme, the researcher applied qualitative descriptive approach focuses on the formal elements comprised of settings, plot, symbol, character, and characterization. The results showed that Sean Townsend's motivation in killing Nel Abbott was accidental because he was trapped in his unconscious unable to distinguish the reality and his alternate reality. Thus, the theme of this research is Townsend's covert motive in killing Nel Abbott.

Keywords: *new criticism, formal elements, plot*

## ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menyingkap motivasi Sean Townsend dalam membunuh Nel Abbott dan mengungkap tema yang cocok dalam novel Paula Hawkins berjudul *Into The Water*. Sean Townsend adalah seorang Inspektur Detektif yang menangani kasus dua wanita yang meregang nyawa di Drowning Pool. Beberapa dugaan muncul ke permukaan setelah kematian Nel Abbott, namun misteri ini kemudian mengarah kepada keterlibatan keluarga Townsend. Nampaknya Seanlah sang pembunuh Nel Abbott yang sebenarnya dari beberapa bukti yang dikuatkan bersumber pada pengakuan sang detektif di akhir cerita. Rupanya, motif dibalik pembunuhan yang dilakukan ternyata karena ketidaksengajaan. Sean sendiri juga telah berselingkuh dengan Nel sebelum mereka akhirnya berpisah. Untuk mengungkap motivasi Sean Townsend dalam membunuh Nel Abbott, penulis penelitian ini mengaplikasikan teori New Criticism dalam menganalisa data perihal motivasi pembunuhan oleh karakter dalam novel. Dalam rangka merumuskan tema novel, penulis penelitian ini mengaplikasikan pendekatan deskriptif kualitatif yang berfokus kepada elemen-elemen formal yang terdiri dari latar, alur, simbol, karakter, dan karakterisasi. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa motivasi Sean Townsend dalam membunuh Nel Abbott ialah murni ketidaksengajaan karena Sean Townsend terjebak dalam alam bawah sadarnya, tidak mampu membedakan realitas dan realitas alternatifnya. Demikian dirumuskanlah bahwa tema dari penelitian ini adalah motivasi tersembunyi Sean Townsend dalam membunuh Nel Abbott.

Kata kunci: *new criticism, elemen formal, alur*