

CHAPTER I

*INTRODUCTION*I.1 Background of The Study

Discourse is the organization of language above the sentence, or above the clause, and therefore exemplified in larger linguistic units such as conversational exchanges or written text (Stubbs, 1983:1). Discourse comprises written and spoken.

Narrative is one type of discourse, in this case written discourse. Written discourse here including texts. Narrative is a kind of discourse text. A text is " a verbal record of communicative act" (Brown and Yule, 1989: 6). A text has its own specification which is called "texture". In this thesis narrative will be analyzed as a type of text (in written discourse). Texture distinguishes text from something that is not a text. The texture is provided by cohesive relations. The relation is realized by connectivities in a text. In narrative connectivity is important. Every part of the text must have relations and arranged in chronological order. As stated in the same book, Halliday and Hasan said that cohesive relationships within a text are set up where the INTERPRETATION of some elements in the discourse are dependent on that of another. To illustrate the relation in a simplest way, Halliday and Hasan



give an example:

Wash and core six cooking apples. Put them into a fireproof dish.

The texture here is provided by the cohesive relation that exists between them referring to six cooking apples in the first sentence. So we can interpret them as a whole; the two sentences together constitute a text (Halliday and Hasan, 1976: 2; as quoted in Brown and Yule, 1989).

Narrative has already been an interesting subject to the linguists since 1960's. Some reasons why they are interested in literary works especially narrative to be analyzed linguistically, are:

- Narrative is the manifestation which shows one or several events.
- The development of literary study so that it can be analyzed linguistically especially with the structure.
- The development of interdisciplinary approach, especially in the humanism discipline (such as Anthropology, Linguistic, and Literature).

(As quoted from C. Suratno, Tecri Naratif, makalah dalam penataran sastra, 1991)

These reasons, especially the second reason, has attracted the writer to make an analysis on a literary work in this case narrative.

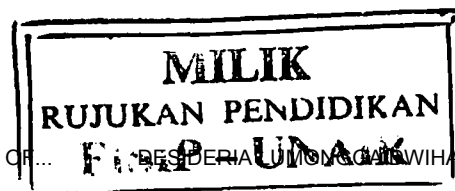


In this thesis, the writer would analyze the structure of Laura Ingalls' work *These Happy Golden Years*. She has found it interesting because most of Wilder's works are related with her life experiences from the time of her childhood until she became a grandmother. So it can be considered as a good example of narrative because of its chronological order or temporal relation. *These Happy Golden Years* especially tells about her experiences when she was 15 and had to be a school teacher until she met her husband. Kaye Webb, the editor, in the preface of *These Happy Golden Years*, said:

This is a story of growing up, for Laura, for her sister, and her friends, of hard work and happy times as well, till Laura is 18 and leaves the dear family she loves so well to be married and make a home of her own. It is also the happy conclusion to the chain of seven books, beginning with *Little House in The Bigwoods*, which chronicle Laura's own childhood and the progress of her father's (1980: 1).

Some available theses have made a study on Laura Ingalls Wilder's work, but most of them deal only with the grammatical problems of the story. For example, the theses which the writer saw at University of Indonesia:

- Pergeseran lima kelas kata (Pronomina, Nomina, Verba, Ajektiva dan Adverbial) Bahasa Inggris dalam Terjemahan Bahasa Indonesia.
- Analisis struktur Ambigu Dalam Bahasa



Inggris dan Penerjemahannya Dalam Bahasa Indonesia.

However in this thesis the writer would see it from a different point of view. That is, she would deal with the theory of narrative structure through discourse analysis study and try to describe the structure of the work in diagrams. So she hoped this thesis would bring new light in analyzing a narrative, and bring another perspective in analyzing a piece of literary work.

1.2. Objective Of The Study

The objective of the study is to present the theory of narrative structure by Labov and apply them to the Wilder's work globally. These Happy Golden Years consists of a number of chapters, all of them are built up into one whole structure of long narrative. We would see how the theory of narrative structure can be applied to this work.

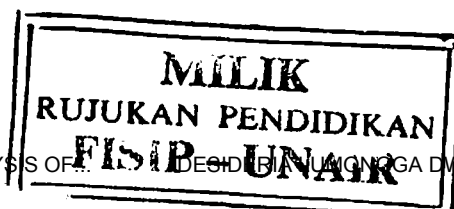
1.3. Significance of the Study

The writer hopes that this research which discusses the application of narrative structure theory and give the description of global organization in this work, will help the readers to understand more about the discourse analysis' activity. what she discusses here is only a small part of the wide range of activities. As

Brown and Yule said in their book, " discourse analysis is used with a wide range of meanings which cover a wide range of activities; it is used to describe activities at the intersection of disciplines in linguistic". And because of what Brown and Yule said, the writer also hopes that this research can give a little contribution to linguistic studies of literary work , at least readers are shown how a piece of literary work can be analyzed linguistically.

1.4. Theoretical Framework

Labov defined narrative as one method of recapitulating past experiences by matching a verbal sequence of clauses to the sequence of events which (it is inferred actually occurred), and a minimal narrative is simply defined as a sequence of the narrative events (Labov, 1986: 31). As the writer stated above in section 1.1 that narrative is one kind of text (which is a written discourse), we would again discuss "text" and see the intention of text. As Halliday and Hasan said that texture in a text is provided by the cohesive "relation", so interpretation can be done if the elements are mutually dependent one on another. The one presupposes the other (Halliday and Hasan quoted in Brown et al, 1989: 191). So we would see that the emphasize in narrative is the relation between sequences



and together built coherence so that the readers understand what the writer wants to tell from it. In a simple statement relations in narrative can be explained in the following: event B happens because or after event A, event C happens after event B, etc. So it can be understood that temporal order and causal order are important because every events happen in proper order and of course makes connection. A number of linguists also found that the connectivity is important in a text as Brown and Yule said (1989: 190); Van Dijk, Gutwinski, De Beaugrande, Halliday and Hasan are concerned with the principles of connectivity which bind the text together and force co-interpretation. The following are the statements made by some of them:

* *De Beaugrande*

- Another way of looking at events or situations is their arrangement in time. Cause, enablement, and reason have forward directionality, that is, the earlier event or situation causes, enables, or provides the reason for the later one (De Beaugrande et al, 1983: 5)
- Coherences are text centred notions (De Beaugrande et al, 1983: 7).

* *Gerald Prince*

- Minimal narrative as discourse where at least one event precedes another in time.
- Narrative is the representation of at least two real or fictive events or situations in a time sequence, neither of which presupposes or entails the other (1982: 4).

The organization of events in a narrative may form a complete narrative in the sense it has a beginning, a middle and an end. Let us turn from texture to the global organization of discourse. Labov proposed that a complete structure of a fully formed narrative may show the following:

1. Abstract
2. Orientation
3. Complicating action
4. Evaluation
5. Result or resolution
6. Coda

Of course, there are complex chainings and embeddings of these elements, but here we are dealing with the simpler forms (Labov, 1986: 363).

- **Abstract**

is a short (usually one or two sentence) summary of the story that narrator generally or encapsulates the story. But abstract is

not always available in a story, sometimes it is omitted.

- **Orientation**

serves to identify in some way the time, place, persons, and their activity or situation. In preface, we would find it at the beginning of the narrative.

- **Complicating action**

is the core of the narrative, together with resolution. In this part the persons in the story face problems which have to be solved.

- **Evaluation**

it is the means used by the narrator to indicate the point of the narrative, its *raison d'être*: why it was told, and what the narrator is getting at. Evaluation is indicating the point or invariants of the story. It is used to answer the reader's question "So what?". The evaluation of the narrative may be found in various forms throughout the narrative.

- **Result or Resolution**

in this part, the narrator says what finally happened, how the problems are solved by the persons.

- **Coda**

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it is one of the many options to the narrator for signalling that the narrative is finished. Codas may also contain general observation or show the effects of the events on the narrator.

For examples:

- a. And that was that.
- b. They lived happily ever after.

According to Labov, we can also look at narrative as a series of answers to underlying questions (p.370):

- a. Abstract: what was this about?
- b. Orientation: when, who, what, where?
- c. Complicating action: then what happened?
- d. Evaluation: so what?.
- e. Result: what finally happened?

In this thesis the writer would use Labov's theory of narrative structure and use it to analyze the work globally. As Dijk said that a discourse is coherent not only at the local level, between sentences, but also at the global level (1980: 10). Notions such as global meaning, global reference are needed to make the relations explicit. Further, he stated that the global meaning of a text organizes by the schematic form (1980: 109). And De Beaugrande confirmed by the saying that using schemas, large story components are "rewritten" as smaller ones (1980: 255). And this will be clear by showing the data in the forms of diagrams. In this thesis the writer would show the diagrams in tree struc-

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ture. So it would be clearer to see the narrative globally and reveal its coherence. Tree structure, according to Beaugrande enables story constituents to be arranged in hierarchy of size, containment, or importance (1980: 255). And Linde said that the content of a discourse is an equally powerful means of activity coherence.

1.5. Methodology

In doing this thesis the writer used the library research method. She would use descriptive analysis in this thesis by applying the narrative structure of Labov and presenting a tree structure of the story.

a. Working Definition

Narrative is an oral or written composition where the events happen chronologically, or we may say that the sequence of events are arranged in proper order ; that is they are interdependent. So relation is the important thing in narrative which make narrative has connectivity. Connectivity in a narrative is realized by coherence. A narrative can be someone's personal experience or just an imaginative story. Histories, children folk tales, epics, legends, myths are simpler examples of

narrative.

Narrative structure is the overall structure of the story itself. There is a very simple structural claim which is relevant here: Stories have beginnings, middles, and ends. And this part made narrative has a structure. And Labov made categories elements in narrative into : abstract, orientation, evaluations, result and coda.

Discourse analysis is the analysis of language in use, language here includes spoken and written. It refers to attempts to study the organization of language above the sentence or above the clause, and therefore to study larger linguistic units, such as conversational exchanges or written text. And narrative is a kind of written text. And it means that discourse analysis is concerned also with language in use in social context.

b. Technique of Data Collection

The technique of data collection that is used in this research:

- Listing

This technique is used to sort the significant events in this story, and arranged them in a simpler way. It means that the arrange-

ment will make the readers follow the story easier and can see how the theory is applied.

- Observation and analysis

This technique is used to analyze the data by applying the theory and categorize the events according to Labov theory.

c. Technique of Data Analysis

- Listing all the events of the narrative.

With this rearrangement the writer knows briefly what happens in Laura's life in *These Happy Golden Years*

- Analysing narrative globally using Labov's theory.

After listing all the events the writer can make an analysis of the narrative globally. So she will see the orientation, complicating action, resolutions, and codas of the narrative.

- Classify the events into major and minor events.

She will analyze some of the more specific events which contain embedding of the elements. *These Happy Golden Years* (THGY) is a long narrative. So the writer will divide Laura's stages in her life to make her analysis easier. One stage in her life can con-

sists of one or more major events and one major events can consists of several minor events. Major events are the events which have more serious consequences for the agent (subject of the story). The writer considered minor events as events which only support major events and don't have important roles. Van Dijk said that a formal distinction between "major and minor" events of a narrative is not easy to make. One possibility is to compare the consequence sets of such events. Formally, then, an event described is more important if it has more and/ or more serious consequences for an agent, i.e., if it maximally (in-) consistent with his highest ranked preferences (e.g. stay alive, become rich, etc) (1976: 557).

- Draw the tree structure of the narrative.

As Beaugrande said which the writer already quoted that by using schemas, large story components are "rewritten" as smaller ones. The writer will draw the tree structure according to components of the narrative.

CHAPTER II

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE OBJECT OF THE RESEARCH