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DOI : 10.32734/lwsa.v7i3.2116
Electronic ISSN : 2654-7066
Print ISSN : 2654-7058

Volume 7 Issue 3 – 2024 TALENTA Conference Series: Local Wisdom, Social, and Arts (LWSA)



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Plot Analysis in Novels *Another I* and *Another II* By Ayatsuji Yukito

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Abstract

The research is descriptive qualitative research that aims to reveal the stages of the plot and analyze the relationship between the plot, the setting, and characterization. The approach used in this research is a structural approach that begins by examining one of the dominant elements in a literary work, namely the plot and its stages, which are then connected to other elements, namely setting and characterization. The results of this study show that the plot stages in *Another I* and *Another II* novels have progressive stages that progress. The events in them occur coherently. The plot stages begin with the stage to the stage of completion. The elements of setting and characterization in *Another I* and *II* have an important role in driving the plot. Then, the characters who play a role in this story have characterizations that support the storyline in *Another I* and *II* novels.

Keywords: Structural; Plot; Setting; Characterization

1. Introduction

Literary works are used by the author to describe what the author captures about real life. Abrams (in Nurgiyantoro, 2018: 5) mentioned that literary works have two forms: fiction and nonfiction. Fiction refers to narrative prose, in this case, a novel, even fiction is often considered the same as a novel. Hidayat (2021: 2) argues that novels are fictional prose that presents many stories that raise the issue of human life in interaction with the environment and others. Novels are based on two elements, namely intrinsic and extrinsic. Intrinsic elements in novels are elements that directly build the story. The intrinsic elements are theme, character and characterization, setting, point of view, language style, and plot.

One of the essential elements in creating a novel is the plot. Nurgiyantoro (2018: 209-210) distinguishes the stages of the plot into five parts, namely: the setting stage, the conflict emergence stage, the conflict escalation stage, the climax stage, and the resolution stage. In addition to the plot, the setting is also one of the essential elements in making a novel. Nurgiyantoro (2018: 314-330) differentiates setting into four main elements, namely place setting, time setting, socio-cultural setting, and anachronism. The three main factors in a story setting are place setting, time setting, and socio-cultural setting. Another important element in creating a novel is characterization. Characterization is also often referred to as characterization. Characterization and characterization indicate the placement of certain characters in a story (Nurgiyantoro, 2018: 246). Characterization also leads to the technique of characterization and development in a story.

Another I and *Another II* are horror mystery novels written by Ayatsuji Yukito and published in Japan on 30 October 2009 for the first edition and on 25 November 2011 for the second edition by Kadokawa Shoten Publisher. They have been translated into Indonesian. Haru Publisher published both novels with the same title in August 2018.

Another I and *Another II* novels tell about a curse in North Yomiyama Junior High School, especially class 3-3, caused by dead people who infiltrate or come back to life. Class 3-3 has a rule that they must consider one person as non-existent every year. The rule is made so that no one dies because every year, there is definitely a dead person who infiltrates the human world. However, no one knows who the dead person is. The resolution of the problem in the storyline of *Another II* has an unexpected plot, where the dead person who infiltrated the human world is Sakakibara's aunt, the younger sister of his mother, and his teacher at school. This novel successfully answers all the questions that arise at the story's beginning so that there is satisfaction when reading it.

Previous research using *Another I* and *Another II* as research objects is still relatively limited. However, several relevant studies use the same approach as this research, namely the structural approach. The first relevant research was conducted by Jacklyn Juliet Efendy in 2018, titled "The Plot in the Novel *Yogisha X No Kenshin* by Keigo Higashino (A Structural Review)." Juliet examines the plot stages and the background and characterization elements in the novel *Yogisha X No Kenshin*. The second relevant research was conducted by Antina Dwijangge in 2019 with the title "Plot Analysis in the Novel *Here Love First Blossomed* by Mira. W". Dwijangge examines the stages of the plot, namely, the initial stage, the middle stage, and the final stage using a structural approach.

2. Method

This research uses the library research method. Library study is a method of collecting data through literature in the form of books, documents, previous reports, notes, and various other written sources. In this study, the written sources used are *Another I* and *Another II* novels by Ayatsuji Yukito. After collecting the data, examine and analyze using the descriptive analysis method.

In understanding the meaning of a literary work such as a novel, it is necessary to conduct a structural analysis. Structural analysis has several sequential steps to determine the relationship between elements and aspects in literary works. The theory of literary structuralism is an approach to literary texts that emphasizes the overall relationship between the various elements of the text. A literary text consists of ideas, themes, mandates, settings, characters and characterizations, plot incidents, and language styles (Taum, 1997: 38-39). In researching *Another I* and *Another II* novels, the author uses a structural approach in examining some of the intrinsic elements of the work, in this case, the plot, setting, and characterization.

3. Results and Discussions

Plot is one of the intrinsic elements in short stories and novels that are associated with cause and effect and are not simple. *Another I* and *II* use a progressive plot based on the sequence of events. It is shown through the stages of the plot contained in the novels *Another I* and *Another II* progress or the events in them occur coherently.

3.1. Plot stages data

In this plot stage data, the research discusses the data results of each plot stage contained in *Another I* and *II* novels. Based on Nurgiyantoro's plot theory, *Another I* and *II* novels have five plot stages, from the setting to the resolution stage.

3.1.1. The Beginning Stages

The beginning stage in *Another I* and *Another II* begins by telling the origin of the curse in class 3-3 of North Yomiyama Junior High School 26 years ago. A popular student named Yomiyama Misaki. One day, Yomiyama Misaki was rumored to have died. Everyone turned away from Yomiyama Misaki's death and assumed that Yomiyama Misaki was still alive. As in the following excerpt:

- クラスのぜんいん; 全員がその後も一貫して、「ミサキは生きている」というふりをしつづけることにしたの
せんせい ぜんめんてき きょうりよく
さ。先生も全面的に協力したっていう。

(アナザー 上, 2009 :11)

The whole class, all agreed to keep pretending Misaki was alive. Reportedly the teachers participated.

(Another I, 2018 :13)

The result of the above excerpt, which is the treatment of class 3-3 towards the dead Yomiyama Misaki, is that every year there will be a dead person who infiltrates class 3-3, then there will be a death disaster. The death disaster continued until 1998. The year 1998 is the year when the main character in this novel named Sakakibara Kouichi became a transfer student at North Yomiyama Junior High School.

3.1.2. Rising Conflict Stages

The conflict arising stage in *Another I* and *Another II* begins with the death of the vice president of class 3-3, Sakuragi Yukari, as a result of the interaction between Sakakibara and Misaki Mei, a student who is considered "non-existent". As in the following excerpt.

- 恐る; 恐る踊り場まで降りて行って、ぼくは目の当たりにした。傘の先端が桜木ゆかりの喉を突き破り、
ね ふかぶか つ とげ せんけつ あふ で
根もとまで深々と突き刺っているさまを。おびたしい; 鮮血が、そこから溢れ出ているさまを。

(アナザー 上, 2009 :208)

I timidly climbed down to the balcony, and I saw it. Sakuragi Yukari's throat was embedded in the metal at the end of the umbrella, the tip of the metal deeply embedded all the way to the base. Blood gushed and flowed.

(Another I, 2018 :178)

Based on the excerpt above, Sakuragi Yukari became the first victim of the class 3-3 death disaster who died after falling down the school stairs with an umbrella iron stuck in her throat.

3.1.3. Escalation Conflict Stages

The stage of escalation conflict occurs when the victims of the death disaster in class 3-3 are increasing, both members of class 3-3 themselves and family members of class 3-3- also become victims of the death disaster. Therefore, the countermeasure to the death disaster is to make Sakakibara also occupy a position like Misaki Mei, which is considered "non-existent".

- 「でもね、^{こんご} ;今後もしも何かいやな目に遭うことがあっても... ^{がまん}我慢してほしいの」

(アナザー 上, 2009 :297)

"But, in case there are unpleasant things at school... Be patient."

(Another I, 2018 :250)

3.1.4. Climax Stages

The climactic stage occurs when the situation of the camp at a shrine that some 3rd-3rd graders conducted as a way to deal with the disaster of death and curse becomes increasingly chaotic. There were acts of killing and injuring each other until a fire broke out in their lodging. As in the following excerpt.

- 「だめだ……もう」
「だめって、^{なに} ;何をきみ」云いかけて、^き やっと気がついた。^{かれ き} 彼が着ている^{しろ} 白い^{しゃつ} シャツの、^{せなか} 背中から^{こし} 腰にかけ
^{くろぐろ} てが黒々と^{よご} ;汚れていることに。^{ちぬ} 血に濡れてずくずくになってしまっていることに。

(アナザー 下, 2011 :296)

"I can't."

"Can't? What-" I finally realized. The white T-shirt he was wearing was blackened from the back to the waist. I realized it was soaked in blood.

(Another II, 2018 :243)

The above excerpt is the scene when Sakakibara helps one of his classmates named Maejima who was stabbed by the owner of the inn they were staying at. Maejima became one of the victims who died due to the catastrophic death experienced by class 3-3.

3.1.5. Resolution Stages

The resolution stage in *Another II* is marked by the success of Sakakibara and Misaki Mei in killing "others". More precisely, returning the dead to death. Killing "others" is a way to stop the disaster of death. As in the following excerpt.

- 「やめて!」という^{れいこ} ;^{ひめい} 怜子さんの^{れいこ} 悲鳴も(……怜子さん)、^{みみ} もはや ;^{はい} 耳には入らなかった(さよなら ;^れ レ・^い コ、さん)。

(アナザー 下, 2011 :339)

"Stop it!" Reiko-san's shout at that time (...Reiko-san) couldn't even enter my ears. (Goodbye, Reiko-san.)

(Another II, 2018 :278)

The above excerpt is the scene where Sakakibara kills Mikami Reiko, his aunt and teacher at North Yomiyama Junior High School who was a dead person who infiltrated the year Sakakibara was in the 3rd-3rd grade of North Yomiyama Junior High School.

3.2. Plot Relation Data with the Setting

Nurgiyantoro (2018: 314-330) suggests that the three main factors in a setting are place setting, time setting, and socio-cultural setting. In *Another I and II*, the setting has an influence on the development of the story.

3.2.1. Setting Location

In *Another I*, we are told that Sakakibara moved from Tokyo to Yomiyama City because his father was doing research in India. This also requires Sakakibara to spend his last year in grades 3-3 at North Yomiyama Junior High School. Sakakibara had many horrible experiences while attending North Yomiyama Junior High School. As in the following excerpt.

- 「^{はちじはん} ;^{あさ}八時半から^{ほむるむ}朝のホームルームです。^{くらす}クラスの^{しょうかい}みんなに紹介しましょう」

(アナザー 上, 2009 :52)

"Homeroom starts at half past nine. I'll introduce you to your classmates."

(Another I, 2018 :49)

The above excerpt is a description of Sakakibara's first day as a transfer student at North Yomiyama Junior High School. During homeroom, Sakakibara introduced himself to his classmates in grades 3-3. Sakakibara also told them why he was late for school because he was hospitalized on April 20th.

3.2.2. Setting Time

In *Another I and Another II*, the time setting also greatly influences the development of the plot. Sakakibara is a transfer student from Tokyo, which was in 1998. Sakakibara was exposed to many horrific events that occurred at North Yomiyama Junior High School. Where the incident began 26 years ago, precisely in 1972. In 1973 the disaster of death first began due to the curse caused by the "dead" in 1972. As in the following excerpts.

- 「^{にじゅうごねんまえ} ;^{さんねんさんくみ}二十五年前の^{はじ}三年^お三組で^{ふしぎ}初めて^{できごと}起こった、ある不思議な出来事」

(アナザー 上, 2009 :338)

"A strange incident that happened for the first time in 3rd-3rd grade, that was 25 years ago."

(Another I, 2018 :283)

The excerpt above is the first year of the catastrophic deaths due to the curse that occurred in the previous year, precisely in 1972. The "dead" infiltrated normal human life starting in 1973. Based on this, every year North Yomiyama Junior High School faces the death disaster.

3.2.3. Setting Socio-Cultural

In *Another I and Another II*, the basis of the plot's relationship with the socio-cultural setting is the tradition of considering someone "non-existent" in grade 3-3. This tradition is always carried out every year. The purpose of this tradition is to replace the position of people who should have died to prevent catastrophic deaths that occur due to "others" who infiltrate. As in the following excerpt.

- 「^{ほしょう} ;^{ほうほう}保証はないかもしれないけど…でも、もしもその^{さいやく}方法で^と〈災厄〉が^{かのうせい}止まる可能性が^{しょう}少 ^{おも}しでもあ
るのなら、それでいいじゃない。そもそもわたし、そう ;^{やく}思ったから ^{ひう}〈いないもの〉の ;^う役を引き受けたと
ころ、あるの」

(アナザー 上, 2009 :394)

"Although it is uncertain, if there is even the slightest possibility that this method could successfully stop this disaster, wouldn't it be worth doing? Thinking like that makes me want to become this non-existent person."

(Another I, 2018 :326-327)

The above excerpt describes Misaki Mei's state of acceptance of herself being considered a "non-existent" person by class 3-3. Misaki Mei also thinks that by considering herself "non-existent", she can successfully prevent the disaster of death. This tradition is what those who are considered "non-existent" inevitably have to carry out.

3.3. Plot Relation Data with the Characterization

Characterization is also often referred to as characterization. Characterization and characterization indicate the placement of certain characters in a story (Nurgiyantoro, 2018: 246). In *Another I* and *Another II* novels, characterization also has an important role in carrying out the plot. With the existence of characterization, the plot contained in *Another I* and *Another II* novels can develop well by creating conflicts related to the character of each character. Some of the characters that play an important role in the development of the plot are evidenced in the following quotations.

3.3.1. Sakakibara Has a Strong Sense of Curiosity

Sakakibara Kouichi is the main character in *Another I* and *Another II*. This novel uses the point of view of I, which is played by Sakakibara himself. Sakakibara's curiosity about Misaki Mei triggers the conflict arising stage in the previous data. Sakakibara's curiosity is evidenced in the following excerpt.

- そんな ^{なか} ;中で一つ、どうしてもやはり気がかりなのは—。見崎鳴という存在を巡る、なかなかその“形”を ^{ひと} ^き [—] ^{みさきめい} ^{そんざい} ^{めぐ} ^{かたち}
めいかく ;明確に掴みきれない違和感。^{つか} ^{いわかん}

(アナザー 上, 2009 :174)

There's one thing that's stuck... an odd feeling about Misaki Mei that I still can't understand.

(Another I, 2018 :151)

The above excerpt, in addition to the characterization's relationship with the plot, is also a trigger for the conflict emergence stage. Sakakibara's curiosity makes him dare to interact with Misaki Mei without caring about the warnings always given by his other classmates.

3.3.2. Misaki Mei the Mysterious Girl

Misaki Mei is also one of the main characters in *Another I* and *Another II*. Misaki Mei's characterization is described as a mysterious female student. Her cold and mysterious attitude managed to make Sakakibara curious. Misaki Mei's mysterious attitude is caused by her being a talisman for class 3-3, namely by considering her "non-existent" to prevent catastrophic death. As in the following excerpt.

- 何とか ^{なん} ^{かいわ} ;会話をつなげようと焦るぼくから視線をそらして、彼女は音もなくベンチから立ち上がる。^{あせ} ^{しせん} ^{かのじょ} ^{おと} ^{べんち} ^た ^あ

(アナザー 上, 2009 :74)

The girl looked away from me, even though I was trying to carry on a conversation. Then, without a sound, she stood up.

(Another I, 2018 :69)

The above excerpt describes Misaki Mei's cold figure. Sakakibara tries to keep communicating with her. Misaki Mei knew that if she continued to engage Sakakibara, the spell of preventing catastrophic death by becoming a "non-existent" person might not work. That's why Misaki Mei continues to be indifferent and cold towards Sakakibara.

3.3.3. Mikami Reiko Becomes a Loving Aunt Figure

In the novel *Another II*, it is explained that Mikami Reiko is a dead character who infiltrates class 3-3 as a vice homeroom teacher. Mikami Reiko is Sakakibara Kouichi's biological aunt. At school she is familiarly called Mikami-*sensei*. At home, Sakakibara would call her Reiko-*san*. Mikami Reiko has a caring and loving personality. When Sakakibara was hospitalized, Mikami Reiko took the time to visit Sakakibara even though she was tired after work. As in the following excerpt.

- 「ごめんなさいね、 ^{こういち} ;恒一くん、なかなかお見舞いにこられなくて」^{みま}

(アナザー 上, 2009 :22)

"I'm sorry, Kouichi-*kun*, I was just able to come."

(Another I, 2018 :23)

Based on the excerpt above, it can be seen the care given to Sakakibara. Her caring and compassionate attitude made Sakakibara hesitate to kill Mikami Reiko at the completion stage.

3.3.4. Chibiki-san as a Responsible Teacher

Chibiki-san is a responsible person, but she is also timid. The timidity here is more about the fear of death. By being in the second library, Chibiki-san will not be involved with the death disaster, as it only applies to grades 3-3. Chibiki-san's attitude of responsibility is evidenced in the following excerpt.

- 「きゆうきゆうしゃ ;救急車を!」 ^{ちびき}千曳さんは ^{み の}かがめていた ^{おおごえ めい}身を伸ばし、大声で命じた。

(アナザー 下, 2011 :242)

"Call an ambulance!" Chibiki-san ordered sternly as she straightened up.

(Ayatsuji Yukito, 2018 :199)

In the excerpt above, it can be seen that Chibiki-san was very alert in handling one of the students who was sick due to a relapse of his asthma, and he even took him to the hospital. Not only that, Chibiki-san also saved Sakakibara's life when someone wanted to stab him in the inn. Because of Chibiki-san's help, Sakakibara survives and manages to kill the infiltrating dead man. This also triggers the success of the resolution stage in *Another I* and *Another II*.

4. Conclusions

Based on the results of the research conducted on *Another I* and *Another II* by Ayatsuji Yukito, it can be concluded that this novel has a complete and progressive plot stage. Event after event is revealed by the author coherently until the completion stage. The tension and various mysteries presented by the author in this story add to the reader's curiosity so that the reader is willing to follow this story to the end.

Based on the analysis results, the setting and characterization in *Another I* and *Another II* are essential in running the story. The setting starts from class 3-3, which is a cursed class and the strange tradition carried out by class 3-3, namely by considering someone "non-existent" to avoid the death disaster. Then, the characters who play a role in this story have characterizations that support the course of the story in *Another I* and *Another II* novels.

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