

## Analyze The Intrinsic Elements in D.H. Lawrence's Short Story "The Rocking-Horse Winner"

<sup>1</sup>Febby Okta Novrianti

<sup>1</sup>Universitas Dehasen Bengkulu

[Febby.okta.94@gmail.com](mailto:Febby.okta.94@gmail.com)

(082281531626)

### ABSTRACT

This research discusses the intrinsic elements in short stories. A short story is a literary work that is characterized by a short and concise story length. This study uses the theory of Wellek and Austin in analyzing the intrinsic elements of a literary work in the short story "The Rocking-Horse Winner" by D. H. Lawrence. In analyzing the intrinsic elements of a literary work, this theory can be used to understand these elements more deeply. The method used is descriptive qualitative. Intrinsic elements that are usually analyzed include theme, setting, character, characterization, plot, language style, point of view, and mandate. As a result, the researcher found the intrinsic elements of the short story "The Rocking-Horse Winner" in the form of The theme raised in The Rocking-Horse Winner short story is family love. The plot used uses forward flow. The characters obtained in this short story are Paul, Paul's Mother (Hester), Paul's Father, Oscar Cresswell, Bassett, Joan, and Nurse. The setting in The Rocking-Horse Winner is a large house located in England in the early 20th century. The point of view used in The Rocking-Horse Winner is the third person or observer's point of view. The analysis provides valuable insights into the intrinsic components of "The Rocking Horse Winner," highlighting its central themes of greed and longing for love.

**Keywords:** *Intrinsic Elements , Literature, Short Story*

### INTRODUCTION

Literature is an imaginative work produced by someone to give a message to everyone. In most cases, literature is meant by all written expressions with the limitation that not all written documents can be classified as literature in a more precise sense (Klerer 2004). Literature is an expression of experiences, thoughts, feelings, ideas, passions, beliefs in the form of concrete images that increase the charm of language tools (Awaxi, Pamungkas, Fauziya, & Siliwangi, 2018). Literary works are a combination of reality and the author's creativity, providing a reflection of society and a means of expressing ideas and experiences that have aesthetic value as a form of creative and productive activity. Literary works can also be called works of fiction because stories can be based on experience, imagination and ideas. Literary works are examined and analyzed extensively for their literary techniques, themes, and cultural significance and are highly valued as valuable forms of artistic expression that expand our understanding of the world. Literary works refer to any written or oral material that has artistic or intellectual value. Literary work is a form of free writing. This shows that literature is the entire written expression in works of fiction that interprets the meaning of nature and life, the desire to understand, express, and ultimately share experiences. Literary works are often characterized by the use of language, style, and structure to convey meaning and evoke emotions in readers or listeners. Literary works have grouping types, there are 3 types of literary works, namely

poetry, prose and drama according to Ahyar (2019, p.1). It covers various genres such as poetry, drama, fiction, non-fiction, and many more.

According to (Nurgiyantoro, 2012) prose is a form of free writing. Prose is a form of written or spoken language that becomes poetry with the most common form of writing and has various genres such as short stories, novels, essays and articles. Prose can be characterized by the use of sentences or paragraphs to convey meaning, not just the use of rhyme or rhythm. Process is often also used to express opinions, tell stories and provide information. One thing that will be discussed regarding prose in this article is short stories. Short stories are a form of prose fiction in the form of narratives and tend to be more concise and to the point than novels. In Webster's New World Dictionary Third College Edition (1214) a short story is a work of prose fiction and is shorter than a novel with its characteristic short story developing a central theme with a limited scope of only a few characters and a focus on one incident. Webster's Dictionary (1989:1319) states that a short story is a piece of literary fiction that is under 10,000 words. Short stories are one of the popular and familiar ones in the category of literary works and literary forms. Short stories are literary works written and created that contain elements and have moral messages and impressions that make readers not just read but gain knowledge and learning. Whether a short story is interesting or not can be seen from its constituent elements, such as the characters presented by the author.

Basically, short stories are built by two elements, namely extrinsic elements and intrinsic elements according to Milawasri (2017, p. 88). Extrinsic elements are elements that are outside the literary work but can influence the building or structure of the literary work. New Knowledge Book Vol.11, 2006:258-259) explains that short stories have essential elements like novels, namely plot, theme, point of view, setting, characters as well as characteristics and symbols. Because short stories are shorter than novels, writers must compress the intrinsic elements of the story in choosing each word very carefully. Short stories can be analyzed using various methods. Intrinsic elements that are usually analyzed include theme, setting, characters, characterization, plot, language style, point of view and message. Analyzing these elements can help readers understand the work better by appreciating its intellectual and artistic value. In a short story, the intrinsic elements usually vary depending on the story writer himself. For example, analyzing the intrinsic elements of literary works in the short story "The Rocking-Horse Winner" by D. H. Lawrence.

This research aims to analyze the short story "The Goyang Horse Winner" by D. H. Lawrence. This story depicts the obsession of a child who wants to win money to satisfy his mother's greed, which presents a complex problem, and this is what makes this research so interesting. This story educates parents, families, and individuals about the impact of household problems on mental health. This influence can cause personality disorders that can lead to death. Therefore, it is very important to address these problems to prevent their bad effects.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

For this research, qualitative descriptive methods were used to collect data from papers written by other people. The qualitative descriptive method is a research approach used to describe or explain a phenomenon or event in detail and in depth. This method aims to understand a phenomenon or event holistically and thoroughly, so that the resulting data is descriptive and qualitative. According to Moleong (2005), the qualitative descriptive method is a research approach where the data collected is in the form of words, pictures, etc. Qualitative analysis was carried out and the results were explained descriptively using Wellek and Austin's theory in analyzing intrinsic elements in literary works. According to Rene Wellek and Austin Warren (in Nurgiyantoro, 2018), intrinsic elements are elements that form a literary work that originate from within the work itself. The intrinsic approach in Wellek and Warren's literary theory emphasizes the importance of understanding the intrinsic elements in a literary work to be able to understand the meaning and message the author wants to

convey. Therefore, when conducting qualitative descriptive research on literary works, it is important to pay attention to the intrinsic elements contained in the work. The scope of this research is short stories which are a type of prose found in literary works. The data source for this research is the short story *The Rocking-Horse Winner* by D. H. Lawrence. The data collection tool in this research is the author himself, while the data collection method uses the observation method by reading the short story thoroughly and paying attention to its essential elements. The short stories were obtained online on the internet for analysis.

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Findings**

After obtaining the research data, analyze the intrinsic elements of the short story in the form of theme, characters, plot, setting, point of view and moral message. The following is an analysis of the intrinsic elements in the short story *The Rocking-Horse Winner* by D. H. Lawrence.

#### **a. Theme**

Theme is the central idea or ideas that form the basis of a story. Tarigan (1993:125) defines theme as a certain view of life, a certain feeling towards life or a certain value system that forms or builds the basis or main idea of a literary work. Theme is the main statement put forward by the author and is the basis of the story, which includes the moral message or lesson that the author wants to convey through narrative. A theme may include a particular outlook on life, a particular emotion about life, or a collection of different principles that form the foundation or main concept in a literary work.

#### **b. Characters**

Characters are individuals or creatures who play a role in the story. : They are developed by the author through their psychological traits and can be categorized as central or peripheral, and have different dispositions and characteristics. Characters in literature function as individuals or entities who participate in the narrative. These characters can also be seen as players in a narrative, which is important for the overall story construction (Suwardi, 2008).

#### **c. Plots**

According to Aminidin (1987:83), plot is a sequence of events that form a story, so that there is a development of events that form a narrative. The plot line consists of stages of events that form a series of stories, which allows the development of events to form a story. Plot is the structure of events in a story which are arranged in functional interrelation, marking the sequence of parts in the whole fiction. Plot is a construction of logically and chronologically connected events that are causally related. Plot is an important component of a story because it can shape the reader's understanding and reaction to the story.

#### **d. Setting**

According to Mido's opinion (in Sehandi, 2016: 56), setting is a description of the place, time and situation where an event occurs. Setting is an important element in a story because it can influence how readers understand and respond to the story. The clearer and more interesting the setting the author describes, the higher the quality of his work will be.

#### **e. Point of View**

Aminudin (1995) believes that point of view is the way an author presents the characters or actors in the fairy tale that is being told or can be told. Point of view is the author's position or point of view in describing the story. Point of view can make it easier for the author to convey the subject of the story to the reader. Point of view can also be interpreted as the author's way of presenting the characters or actors in the fairy tale that is being told or can be told. Point of view is an important element in a story because it can influence how readers understand and respond to the story.

#### **f. Moral message**

The message or moral message is the message or value that the author wants to convey through the story he writes. The message or moral message can be in the form of a life lesson, moral values, or a certain view of life that the author wants to convey through the story. The message or moral message is an important element in a story because it can influence how readers understand and respond to the story. According to Russiana [1982:74], a message is a moral teaching or message that the author wants to convey to the reader. The solution to the problem or the end of the problem in the story can be called a message. The message is a reflection that is presented again by the reader.

## **Discussion**

The following is a discussion of each aspect of the intrinsic elements in the novel *The Rocking-Horse Winner*:

### **a. Theme**

The main theme of "The Rocking Horse Winner" is the destructive impact of greed and materialism. This story shows that the pursuit of wealth and possessions can lead to dangerous fixations that ultimately destroy a person's life. The characters in this story are driven by their greed for money and possessions. This story takes place in a rich environment, where a person's status is determined by the possessions he owns. Symbolically, the rocking horse represents Paul's obsession with making money. The story centers on Paul's unrelenting pursuit of wealth, and his mother's insatiable desire for wealth. As time went on, Paul developed a talent for accurately predicting horse race winners, which only encouraged his mother to continue chasing money. Tragically, this obsession ends in Paul's untimely death, revealing the destructive nature of their family's pursuit of wealth. The story serves as a cautionary tale about the dangers of greed and materialism, illustrating how the relentless pursuit of wealth can result in a dangerous fixation that ultimately destroys one's life.

### **b. Characters**

In the short story "The Rocking-Horse Winner" by D.H. Lawrence features several characters, each with their own unique characteristics. Here are some of the main characters and their characteristics:

#### **1) Paul**

Paul is the main character in the novel "The Rocking Horse Winner" by D.H. Lawrence. He is a boy who is very focused on earning money to satisfy his mother's dissatisfaction with their family's financial condition. Paul is described as an emotionally responsive and imaginative child, sensitive to the feelings of those around him. He was deeply affected by his mother's dissatisfaction and felt an urgent need to alleviate her distress. Paul became increasingly obsessed with earning money until it dominated his thoughts and behavior. Paul is willing to do anything to achieve his goals, even if it means sacrificing his own health. Despite facing various obstacles, he is determined to succeed in his quest to earn money. He was resourceful and creative in his methods, using his talent for predicting horse races to place bets and collect large sums of money. However, Paul's obsession with winning money ultimately led to his downfall. He became increasingly ill and eventually died, leaving a large sum of money to his mother. He displays a lack of awareness of his own limitations, as shown through his insanity. His tragic fate serves as a cautionary tale against the dangerous pursuit of status and wealth at the expense of personal well-being and relationships.

#### **2) Hester**

Hester is Paul's mother in the short story "The Winner of the Rocking Horse" by D.H. Lawrence. He was dissatisfied with his family's financial status and wanted more wealth. Lawrence depicts Hester as highly materialistic, fixated on money and status, and always seeking more. Additionally, Hester is emotionally detached from her children, including Paul, because she is unable to express affection or love. Hester is a selfish individual who puts her own needs and

desires first, and is even willing to endanger the happiness and well-being of her children in order to achieve her own goals. Similar to Paul, Hester's dependence on money and status ultimately leads to her downfall. He was unable to find satisfaction or joy in his life, and ultimately lost everything he had. Hester's husband fails to live up to her potential, convincing her that she has had an "unfortunate" life. Although he believes he desires wealth, he values appearances more, often squandering his earnings on frivolous expenses rather than paying off his debts.

**3) Paul Father**

In "The Rocking Horse Winner" by D.H. Lawrence, Paul's father is an unnamed minor character. The text depicts him as passive and ineffective, consistently absent from his family's affairs. As a result, he was unable to provide for or protect his family from the negative consequences of their financial difficulties. Paul's father is depicted as ineffective and helpless, unable to improve his family's situation. He is overshadowed by his wife's domineering personality and is unable to assert himself. He was largely absent from his children's lives, appearing distant and uninterested in their well-being, failing to provide the emotional support and guidance his children needed.

**4) Oscar Cresswell**

Oscar Cresswell is a character in the novel "The Rocking-Horse Winner" by D.H. Lawrence. He is Hester's brother and Paul's uncle, who lives in London as a symbol of the luxury Hester desires. Oscar lives a very luxurious life in London with no financial stress, portraying a distant figure with little involvement in his family affairs, he is not emotionally connected to his sister, Hester, or his children, and is only involved with them when they serve as a source of entertainment or satisfaction. Oscar has a cynical disposition and doubts Paul's ability to accurately predict the winner of a horse race, considering Paul's obsession with making money a trivial and stupid activity. Additionally, Oscar embodies the opulence and opulence that Hester desires. Hester's pursuit of wealth and status is highlighted as empty and futile due to her distant and uncaring attitude.

**5) Bassett**

Bassett is a character in "The Rocking-Horse Winner" by D.H. Lawrence. He works as the family gardener and helps Paul with his betting on horse races. He is described as a loyal friend who supports and helps Paul in his efforts to win money. Bassett has extensive knowledge of horse racing and the ins and outs of the gambling world, demonstrating a practical approach to gambling. Bassett provides Paul with guidance on placing bets to increase his chances of winning. However, Bassett is portrayed as a self-serving character who exploits Paul's desire for money. He seizes the opportunity to make a profit by assisting Paul in placing bets and is willing to take risks to do so.

**6) Joan**

In "The Rocking Horse Winner" by D.H. Lawrence, two characters serve as Paul's sisters and are not considered main characters in the story. They are portrayed as ordinary children who are largely unaware of their family's financial difficulties. One of Paul's sisters, Joan became irritated with his rocking horse's riding style. Paul's sisters are portrayed as innocent children who are largely isolated from the adverse consequences stemming from their family's financial difficulties. Paul's sisters are depicted as ordinary children who enjoy playing and having fun, rather than thinking about their family's serious problems, such as their mother's unhappiness and their brother's obsession with making money. Despite their family ties, the sisters remain uninvolved in the plot and events of the story.

**c. Plots**

The Rocking-Horse Winner uses a forward or linear plot. The storyline begins by introducing the characters and the setting of the story, then continues with the conflict faced by the main character, Paul, namely the desire to win money in order to satisfy his greedy mother. The conflict then develops

to a climax when Paul discovers his supernatural ability to predict the winner of horse races. The storyline reaches its peak when Paul sacrifices his life to win the money his mother wants. After that, the storyline descends towards the resolution of the story, where Paul's mother realizes her mistake and regrets the death of her son.

**i. Events**

It tells the story of a beautiful woman married to someone she loves, it turns out that marriage is not as beautiful as imagined after giving birth to her three children. Many thought that she was a good mother, and it turned out that she wasn't that good. He feels that the finances in the family are not enough, and he also attaches importance to a luxurious life and is unrestrained in shopping for goods. Her husband was also not so lucky when looking for work in the city. He tried something that could make him money, but he wasn't that lucky and failed. On Christmas Eve the children get birthday gifts including their son Paul, a rocking horse and a racetrack. Paul asked his mother about luck, his mother explained that he married an unlucky father, and it is better to be born of luck than rich because if you are lucky you always get money while if you are rich you can spend money. And it was in Paul's mind that he couldn't see this, and he continued to pursue luck because it was the thing that his mother cherished the most.

**ii. Conflict**

Paul met his uncle, Oscar, who often helped his mother pay off uncontrollable debts. He tried to place a bet on who was the winner of the horse race and it turned out to be a win, several times he placed a bet that always won and always got money while playing on a rocking horse. Suddenly one day he guessed wrong and suffered a lot of losses, finally Paul felt depression in his mind he wanted to remain a lucky child in his mother's heart so that he could appreciate the affection and love of his mother. Paul believes that if he rides enough rocking horses he solves all the family problems—he can basically free his mother from her worries by taking it upon herself. One day his mother wants Paul to go to study but Paul doesn't want him to watch a horse game and win a bet and this mother doesn't like it because it's about horse racing and gambling. Here it is told that it turns out that Paul was too over with his rocking horse to take the bet while shouting "Malabar" while using a whip. Paul's secret is revealed that all this time he got the inspiration by using rocking horses to win bets.

**iii. Climax**

That night his mother wondered who the malabar was and finally asked Oscar's uncle. It turns out that malabar is the name of one of the horse racers in the gambling match. And his mother was angry when she found out that her son was already too ambitious in gambling, when the family servant was going to meet Paul at first his mother did not allow and finally allowed to meet Paul. At that time, Malabar won the horse racing competition. And Paul responds that he can finally prove that he's a lucky kid. But after he won and earned money, Paul died before getting his mother's love and affection.

**d. Setting**

The setting of the story in the short story *The Rocking-Horse Winner* is a large house located in England at the beginning of the 20th century. The house is inhabited by a family consisting of mother, father and three children, including the main character of the story, Paul. The family lived in difficult financial circumstances and Paul's mother was always dissatisfied with the family's financial situation. The setting of this story reflects the social conditions of that time, where wealth and social status were highly valued and became important factors in people's lives. The setting of the story depicted in this short story also influences the characters and actions of the characters in the story, especially Paul's mother who is obsessed with wealth and social status.

**e. Point of View**

The point of view used in the short story *The Rocking-Horse Winner* is a third person point of view or observer's point of view. In this story, the narrator is not directly involved in the story and only observes and tells what happens to the characters in the story. The narrator provides an objective description of the events that occur in the story and provides a neutral point of view towards the characters in the story. By using a third-person point of view, readers can see the story from different points of view and understand the feelings and actions of the characters in the story in a more objective way. The reader understands the mother's frustration with her own economic situation and the sense of disconnection she feels towards her own children. Additionally, the reader is able to understand Paul's desire to please his mother through an omniscient perspective. And from this we can see that greed is never satisfied—as long as greed itself exists, no amount of money can ever satisfy it. and the mental health of child psychologists is important.

#### **f. Moral message**

The moral of this story is that wealth and money cannot bring happiness. The family in this story has a lot of money, but they are unhappy because they always feel short of money. Paul played wooden horses to help his mother meet the family's financial needs, but he continued playing even after he won a lot of money because he felt he had to continue playing to support his family. Eventually he died of exhaustion, and his family remained unhappy. Therefore, the moral of this story is that happiness cannot be bought with money and we must learn to be satisfied with what we have. The message of this short story is that greed causes loss of property and has a negative impact on family members, and another message is that someone becomes too obsessed with doing something to the point of ignoring much more important things without considering the negative impacts, small impacts up to death.

## **CONCLUSION**

### **Conclusion**

This short story is entitled "*The Rocking-Horse Winner*" which tells the story of a child who is obsessed with winning money to fulfill his mother's greed. "*The Rocking-Horse Winner*" is a famous short story that was first published in 1926. By using a descriptive qualitative method, the setting in *The Rocking-Horse Winner* which is in a large house located in England in the early 20th century. The characters in this short story are Paul, Paul's mother (Hester), Paul's father, Oscar Cresswell, Bassett, Joan, and the nurse. This analysis is made so that readers can find out what elements make this story interesting.

### **Suggestion**

There are several suggestions to be taken from reading "*The Rocking-Horse Winner*" by D.H. Lawrence, this story explores themes of wealth, happiness, and obsession. The characters in this story are very complex and have many layers. As previously mentioned, the moral of this story is that wealth and money cannot bring happiness. As a reader, reflect on this moral message and apply it to everyday life. Don't regret it later.

## REFERENCES

- Amalia Yunia Rahmawati. (2020). 濟無*No Title No Title No Title*. July, 1–23.
- Cahyaningrum, I. O. (2021). An Analysis Of Intrinsic Elements And The Portrayal Of Anxiety In Linkin Park's Song Lyrics. *JELLE : Journal Of English Literature, Linguistics, and Education*, 2(2), 12–17. <https://doi.org/10.31941/jele.v2i2.1529>
- Indriani, D., Sili, S., & Ariani, S. (2019). An Analysis of Intrinsic Elements in Mama Film by Andreas Muschiatti. *Jurnal Ilmu Budaya*, 3(1), 13–24. <http://repository.usu.ac.id/handle/123456789/24148>
- Literature, E., Program, S., & Bumigora, U. (2023). *Analysis of Intrinsic Element Found in It Ends With Us by Colleen Hoover*. 2(1), 46–58.
- Literature, E., Program, S., Languages, F. O. F., & Science, C. (2022). *An Analysis of Big Hero 6 Disney Movie through Its Intrinsic Elements Presented as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement ENGLISH LITERATURE STUDY PROGRAM*.
- Mokoginta, S., Palar, W., & Weng kang, T. I. M. (2022). Kajian Unsur Intrinsik Novel I Am Sarahza Karya Hanum Salsabiela Rais Dan Rangga Almahendra Dan Implikasinya Pada Pembelajaran Sastra Di Sekolah. *Kompetensi*, 2(8), 1545–1555. <https://doi.org/10.53682/kompetensi.v2i8.5513>
- Rahmatiah, H. A., Simaibang, B., & Sari, A. P. (2021). The Intrinsic Elements and Motives for Teen Suicide Depicted in the Novel Entitled Thirteen Reasons Why by Jay Asher 2007. *Wiralodra English Journal*, 5(2), 71–89. <https://wej.unwir.ac.id/index.php/wej/article/view/143>
- Sari, E. M. (2023). *ANALYSIS OF STUDENTS ' LITERACY SKILLS IN IDENTIFYING INTRINSIC ELEMENTS OF MORAL VALUES IN FOLKTALES AT*. 07(02), 564–570.





Susanto, S. (2019). an Analysis on Intrinsic Elements of Kungfu Panda 3 Movie. *Journey (Journal of English Language and Pedagogy)*, 2(2), 156–164. <https://doi.org/10.33503/journey.v2i2.513>