

## PLOT IN BAZ LUHRMANN'S THE GREAT GATSBY MOVIE

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### ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze plot as one of the intrinsic elements of literary work in the form of a film entitled "The Great Gatsby". The data for this study came from Baz Luhrmann's film, which was released in 2013. The approach of this study was the descriptive qualitative method. There are several questions that researcher wants to find, they are focused on the plot laws and structure of plot is applied in the movie proposed by Kenney in his book entitled *How to Analyze Fiction* (1966). The findings of the research show that there are six sections for plot laws, which include plausibility, surprise, suspense, plot and unity, plot as unity, and plot as expression. only the subplot is not found in the movie. For the plot structure, there are five plot stages proposed by Kenney, which consists of the beginning of the story, the middle of the story which is divided into three parts, namely conflict, complication and climax.

Keywords: analysis plot, literature, plot laws, structure of plot

### ABSTRAK

*Studi ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis plot sebagai salah satu elemen intrinsik dari karya sastra dalam bentuk film berjudul "The Great Gatsby". Data untuk penelitian ini berasal dari film Baz Luhrmann, which dirilis pada tahun 2013. Pendekatan penelitian ini adalah metode kualitatif deskriptif. Ada beberapa pertanyaan yang ingin ditemukan peneliti, mereka berfokus pada hukum plot dan struktur plot yang diterapkan dalam film yang diusulkan oleh Kenney dalam bukunya yang berjudul *How to Analyze Fiction* (1966). Temuan penelitian the menunjukkan bahwa ada enam bagian untuk hukum plot, yang meliputi masuk akal, kejutan, ketegangan, plot dan persatuan, plot sebagai kesatuan, dan plot sebagai ekspresi. Untuk penataan plot, ada lima tahap plot yang diusulkan oleh Kenney, yang terdiri dari awal cerita, tengah cerita yang dibagi menjadi tiga bagian, yaitu konflik, komplikasi dan klimaks.*

*Kata kunci: plot analisis, literatur, hukum plot, struktur plot*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Literature as a medium for communicating thoughts. Compositions that describe stories dramatize situations, show emotion, analyze and promote ideas are considered literature as a means of communicating thinking. It means that writing is a type of composition rich in

expression and idea because it results from the writer's creative mind (Roberts). Furthermore, according to Hardjana (1991:10), literature is born as a result of human beings' basic desires.

Two essential elements can be analyzed in a literary work. Extrinsic elements and intrinsic elements are the two

types of elements. Intrinsic elements (objective elements) are elements of a literary work that contribute to its structure. Plot, character, setting, theme, point of view, style, and style are essential aspects of the substance or script; various film techniques to describe the story or record. Thought is paid to sound, music, lighting, camera focuses, and changing. What is critical is to focus on how all the segments are used together in making a nice film.

A plot is an arrangement or basis for a story, situated in clashing human inspirations, with activities coming about because of trustworthy and reasonable human reaction. It implies that a contention is the fundamental part that should be made to build up a bunch of occasions in shaping the story. A contention will decide the following activity or circumstance. It will be the determinant factor to make a significant structure of the story. Along these lines the plot of a story is the foundation of a contention and the outcomes, varieties, and advancements that originate from (Roberts and Jacobs, 2004, p. 9). In view of the assertion, plot is significant in making the course of action of the story. Plot is the possibility that decides how the story will stream. Plot will relate one activity to another to make a decent association of the story. In a very much plotted story, nothing is insignificant; everything is connected. In the story, time is significant not just on the grounds that one thing occurs after another, but since one thing happens in light of another.

In addition, the plot determines the actor's state. Except for the plot's change of setting in each scene, the plot has a role that makes the story structured and entertaining. Every stage can represent the actor's state and how his or her personality and feelings develop over time.

Several studies have been conducted related to the plot topic, the undergraduate thesis (Siahaan, 2018), (Yuliana, 2014), (Irawan, 2015). In addition, there are two

articles in international journals by Maia (1981), (Elsner, 2012).

In this research, the writer chose the film "The Great Gatsby" directed by Baz Luhrmann. The Great Gatsby is a legendary novel written by F. Scott Fitzgerald. The epic was simply sold out under 25,000 copies as long as Fitzgerald died in 1940 (44 years of age). However, this epic has over and over distribution in 1945 and 1953. After two and third distributions Fitzgerald and his novel became famous and became the best novel in the world. On May 10th 2013 "The Great Gatsby" novel got a movie adaptation with Baz Luhrman as the Film Director. The Great Gatsby movie was also nominated for more than five awards, including AACTA Award for Best Film 2014, Academy Awards for Production Design 2014, and AACT Award for Best Editing Film 2014. All in all, this 2013 variation has the entirety of the energy and excitement the past two transformations were deficient. In this paper the author just clarifies one of five components, just spotlights on plot.

In view of the information above, the author chose to compose this exploration entitled "Plot in Baz Luhrmann's Movie Entitled The Great Gatsby (2013)"

## II. RESEARCH METHOD

To obtain an exact and factual outcome in data analysis, a research technique must execute a study scientifically using scientific processes. As a result, the research method, as one of the study's aspects, includes collecting and analyzing for scientifically presenting data. This study is discussed on identifying the plot laws

The data source is from The Great Gatsby movie directed by Baz Luhrmann's and published on May 10th 2013. The Great Gatsby Movie content composed by F. Scott Fitzgerald, It is an American romantic drama movie based on a 1925 romance novel. For the secondary data in this manner content is downloaded online. The information of this exploration are as expressions created by the

primary characters in “The Great Gatsby” movie script, the main characters in that movie are Nick Carraway, Jay Gatsby, Daisy Buchanan, Tom Buchanan, and Dr. Jack Thompson.

In this study the data was gathered through observation and documentation methods alongside the note-taking technique. (Yin, 2016, pp. 155–156) states that by deciding the object, you need to apply extraordinary consideration in choosing which articles merit your consideration and the measure of time you will give to their assortment. Then the techniques applied in collecting the data was including the following steps: 1) Watch the movie intensively from the beginning until the end; 2) Marked some events as parts of plot structure and addition events in plot; 3) Read the movie script carefully from beginning to end; 4) Match the collected data of plot construction from the movie with the script for the better understanding; 5) Some conversations were marked to identify as the data of plot laws; 6) Rewatch the movie to ensure the marked plot construction and the plot laws occurred in the movie.

To analyze the data, the descriptive qualitative method was used. The analysis was that of the types found in *The Great Gatsby Movie* (2013). The analysis is based on the theory proposed by (Kenney, 1966) inside his book *How to Analyze Fiction* it applies to grouped and dissect the plot laws inside the picked film. There are four stage strategies to dissecting the gathered information, which; 1) the gathered information are distinguished to coordinate the structure of the plot and the plot laws; 2) the extra data that found to help the plot grouped to be referenced to cause the perusers to comprehend simpler; 3) the information will be grouped in understanding to structure of plot; 4) the information that distinguished as plot laws were named the plot laws.

The method that was used in this study is the descriptive method in presenting the analysis. According to Bogdan and Biklen (2009), qualitative research is a

descriptive in which the data is gathered as words or pictures as opposed to numbers. To solve the problem in this study, the researchers used the books *How to Analyze Fiction* purposed by (Kenney, 1966). The data to identify the plot laws is based on the theory stated by Kenney, the data was explained descriptively marked with bold and pictures.

### III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The analysis of this study using theory according to (Kenney, 1966) in his book entitled *How to Analyze Fiction*. He divided the plot laws into seven parts which are plausibility, suspense, surprise, plot in unity, subplot, plot as unity, and plot as expression.

#### 3.1 Plausibility

The first element of plot laws is plausibility. Plausibility has an important role in making a story. The story makes sense if it's true to itself. Which means a story has to be convincing in its terms. As long as the story makes sense with enough reasons, it can be categorized as plausibility. As revealed in the data (3-8) the law of plausibility presented below.

Nick : It's a strange coincidence, isn't it? Gatsby's house being just across the bay... Jordan whirls round-

Jordan : It's no coincidence. He bought that house to be near her, he threw all those parties hoping she'd wander in one night. He constantly asked about Daisy... I was the first one who knew her.

Nick takes this in; as if seeing Gatsby for the first time.

Nick : All that for a girl he hasn't seen in five years...? And now he just wants me to have her for tea...? (to himself)

Jordan : Kind of takes your breath away, doesn't it?

From the statement above, Jordan clarified a fact that hid that from Nick. Nick questions the purpose of Gatsby throwing a lavish party every week at his house with all

the money spent. From the conversation, Gatsby finally knows the purpose and purpose of holding the party, namely for a woman named Daisy, who he hopes will appear someday. The possibility said by Jordan managed to convince the audience that in reality, in the real world, no one regularly holds lavish parties just for a woman, but this story is different. This statement is said to make sense because the continuity of the story is needed.

### 3.2 Surprise

Surprise is a plot law that plays a significant role in setting a story, with a story that lacks anything unexpected or mysterious tending to be boring. The Great Gatsby is full of surprises, as evidenced by data (3-15)

NICK : What's wrong with you!? How could you!?

GATSBY : Please... Keep your voice down, old sport.

NICK : Tom was right! You're nothing but a goddamn coward!

GATSBY : Keep your voice down... There. Was. No. Point. In. Stopping.

NICK : NO POINT!?

GATSBY : It, it killed her instantly. I--

NICK : Yes, I was there. I saw! It ripped her open!

GATSBY : I understand-- It was... my fault. This woman just rushed out, as if she wanted to speak to us... It all happened so quickly. She-- I... tried-- to turn the wheel.

NICK : She? It was Daisy?

Finally, and very slowly, Gatsby admits.

GATSBY : You see, after we left New York, she was very nervous. She thought driving would steady her. But this woman, she just rushed out at us.

GATSBY : It all happened so quickly. It wasn't her fault... (MORE)

GATSBY : It was my fault. I should have taken the wheel..

According to the findings, Nick questioned what happened until Myrtle died when he was hit by a Gatsby car. Nick holds Gatsby responsible for his carelessness. This statement is demonstrated in the dialogue, "Tom was correct!" You're nothing more than a coward!"

Furthermore, Nick is still clueless about what occurred at the moment, until a bewildered Gatsby begins to retell the situation, concluding in the confession that Daisy is driving Gatsby's car. The audience was shocked when they learned that it wasn't Gatsby who killed Myrtle but Daisy.

### 3.3 Consultative Style

The third law that governs plots to make a good plot is to create suspense. Suspense is defined as an expectation of the story's outcome. It includes awareness, and it is usually concerned by the clue that the author gives. In The Great Gatsby Movie it could be seen as the following data:

NICK : Did you get an invitation?

JORDAN : People aren't invited to Gatsby's.

NICK : Well I was... I seem to be the only one. Who is this Gatsby?

A haughty East Egger, TEDDY, interjects...

TEDDY : He was a German spy during the war.

JORDAN : Teddy Barton. Nick Carraway.

NICK : A German spy...?

NELSON : No, no, no, no. He's the Kaiser's assassin.

LANGUID GIRL : I heard he killed a man once.

NELSON : Its true!

LANGUID GIRL : You look at him sometimes when he thinks no one's watching... I'll bet he killed a man.

TEDDY : Kills for fun! Free of charge.

NELSON : Well he's already richer than God.

NICK : You don't believe he killed a man do you...?

JORDAN : Let's go find him, and you can ask him yourself...

The data presented above question who Gatsby is, shrouded in mystery because no one knows his factual background and occupation. Jay Gatsby is considered a millionaire who likes to throw big parties openly to anyone who wants to come. Many rumors about who Gatsby is aroused the curiosity of the audience.

### 3.4 Plot and Unity

Plot and Unity are the most basic demands in a story that has the right coordination from the beginning, middle, and ending. Following plot laws, plausibility, surprises, and problems must have Unity. The Great Gatsby's plot has Unity where there is a beginning, conflict, complication, climax, and the end of the story that shows each stage. In addition, The Great Gatsby also follows existing laws such as plausibility, surprise, and suspense which we can see in the data 3-8, 3-15.

### 3.5 Subplot

The subplot has an attachment to the main plot, for example, as an analogy to the main plot, which means a sequence of events that is different, at least in part, from the main plot. The Great Gatsby has no subplot because the plot focuses on a Gatsby who wants to reclaim his past, Daisy.

### 3.6 Plot as Unity

Plot as unity means that an action must have a complex structure so that it can make a good story that can be easily understood. Thus, a plot is composed of the beginning, middle, and end of the story. To prove the plot as unity, the thing to pay attention to is to see the whole story.

In The Great Gatsby, at the beginning of the story, the introduction of the characters and the setting of the story are shown. This section also explains the background of the story, then continues with the middle plot, which contains conflict,

complications. This part begins with the emergence of new facts, which eventually lead to the climax of the story of The Great Gatsby—followed by The End of the plot, which is the last part of the plot structure. The Great Gatsby is identified as having a plot as unity, as evidence that this story has followed the form in detail.

### 3.7 Plot as Expression

Plot as expression is the last part of plot law. Plot as expression describes the experience and what meaning the readers or viewers can take from the story. To find out what caused the failure of a Gatsby, we must recognize the story's meaning. The Great Gatsby is a story about how Gatsby wants to return with Daisy and how the story contains the meaning of sacrifice, life, romance, struggle, honesty, lies, desires, and other topics. Although Gatsby fights for his love to get back with Daisy and get rid of Tom by making himself worthy and equal to be side by side with Daisy, it cannot make Daisy choose him. That's because Daisy also loves Tom as much as Daisy loves Gatsby, but Gatsby demands too much and makes Daisy uncomfortable. This struggle of Gatsby is what makes The Great Gatsby story interesting.

## IV. CONCLUSION

This chapter describes what was presented and analyzed in chapter three. As a result, it is reasonable to conclude that plot is one of the story's most crucial elements. There will be no story without a plot because a story without a plot is distasteful and uninteresting to the reader. The plot serves to drive the story's events along, create a problem, and then solve it. The plot is something that occurs in every work of Fiction. This study looks into the story problems in the movie script for The Great Gatsby. The main issue of this study is to find the plot laws in the movie.

Plausibility, surprise, suspense, plot and unity, plot as unity, and plot as



expression are the six plot laws found in The Great Gatsby.

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