

**PLOT ANALYSIS IN *THE GIVER* NOVEL BY LOIS LOWRY**

Ni Putu Anggriani, Komang Dian Puspita Candra, I Wayan Juniarta  
[putuanggriani01@gmail.com](mailto:putuanggriani01@gmail.com)  
Faculty of Foreign Languages, Mahasaraswati Denpasar University

**ABSTRACT**

Plot is the literary term that describes the element of a story. This research concerns to analyze about plot elements in the novel entitled "*The Giver*" by Lois Lowry. Observation method are used in collecting the data by following several steps those are by finding the keyword belongs to each elements of plot, reading repeatedly, understanding the story while taking note. In this study, the data were analyzed descriptive qualitatively by using the theory from Freytag as cited in Macewan (1900). The finding of this research show that this novel applied dramatic plot which are consists of several elements namely rising movement, climax, falling action, and resolution. Exposition is talking about Jonas who are in eleven years old and become twelve in December live in community with his parents and little sister, but they all do not have blood relation because all children born from biological mother. He was frightened, but he decided not frightened but to apprehensive to happening in December. Rising movement happened when Jonas have assignment from Chief Elder to become a receiver of memory, climax happened when Jonas realizes his father "releases" the newchildren actually that Kill. Falling action happened when Jonas escape from Community to take Gabriel in order to save Gabriel from being "Release" and the last catastrophe or resolution happened Jonas and gabriel ride to another place he sees distance light and hear people singing.

Keyword: plot, plot type, The Giver novel

**ABSTRAK**

*Alur adalah istilah sastra yang menggambarkan unsur cerita. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis elemen yang menyusun alur cerita dalam novel Lois Lowry "The Giver". Peneliti ini menggunakan metode observasi dalam pengumpulan data dengan menerapkan langkah-langkah yaitu mencari kata kunci yang menunjukkan bagian dari elemen-elemen, membaca berkali-kali, memahami cerita, dan mencatat. Penelitian ini dianalisis secara deskriptif kualitatif menggunakan teori dari Freytag yang dikutip dari Macewan (1900). Jenis plot yang diterapkan dalam novel adalah plot dramatis yang terdiri dari beberapa elemen yaitu cerita permulaan, penanjakan, klimaks, ketegangan menurun, dan peleraian. Permulaan diawali dengan memperkenalkan karakter cerita ketika Jonas berusia sebelas tahun yang menjadi dua belas bulan desember tinggal di Komunitas bersama orang tua dan adik perempuannya, yang mereka tidak memiliki hubungan darah karena semua anak lahir dari ibu kandung. Ia takut, dan ia berusaha tidak takut tapi bersemangat untuk menunggu apa yang terjadi dibulan desember. Cerita penanjakan terjadi saat Jonas mendapat penugasan dari Chief Elder menjadi penerima memory, klimaksnya terjadi saat Jonas menyadari ayahnya "melepaskan" anak-anak baru itu sebenarnya membunuh. Ketegangan menurun terjadi saat Jonas melarikan diri dari Komunitas untuk mengambil Gabriel untuk menyelamatkan Gabriel dari "Lepaskan"*

*dan pertikaian atau pelecehan terjadi ketika Jonas dan Gabriel naik ke tempat lain, Ia melihat cahaya di kejauhan dan mendengar orang bernyanyi.*

*Kata Kunci: alur, jenis alur, novel The Giver*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Literature is mirror of human life that portrays human feeling, through imagination, and perception which can be viewed based on personal judgement. Literature is the study of books valued as works, such as prose fiction, poetry, and drama (Wellek and Warren, 1948). Novels, short story, romances, parables, myths is including prose fiction. Novel as part of the fiction can be defined which tells story or interaction with the environment and each other uses incidents to dramatize human experience and individual character. Literature can be used to convey the different languages of feeling to make difficult to understand. Feelings that cannot be expressed in language but can written in other word. Literary works are used to entertain, to convey meaning, to teach moral lesson and the more importantly to make the readers awake of some aspect in human condition.

Novel is a work of fiction that is a fictional story based on reality. According to Morner and Rausch (1991:149), novel is lengthy fictional narrative in prose dealing with character, incidents, and setting that imitate those found in real life. and setting story in the novel is a work of imagination that discusses the problem of a person's life and various character. The story in the novel begins with the emergence of a problem experienced by the character and end solving with problem. Novel had the intrinsic and extrinsic elements. The intrinsic element in the novel such as character, plot, point of view, theme, setting, style. Some people who like to read novels, novel practically give

pleasure inspired them to resolve problems in their life.

Plot is an essential element in fiction because it facilitates our understanding of the content of fictional story. According to Kenney (1966: 14) "plot as the events shown in the story that is not simple, because the author compiled the events based on causal link. Plot is bone in a story. plot moving all other elements were contained in story in order to establish a concrete step and certainly makes the story come alive. There were several types plot that writer found; dramatic or chronological plot, episodic plot, and flashback plot. Dramatic plot or as known as Freytag's Pyramid presented five elements, there are introduction, rising movement, climax, falling action, and catastrophe Macewan, (1900). Episodic plot is one incident or short episode is linked to another by common character or a unified theme (Lukens as cited in strategies for Educational Improvement, 2010 and flashback plot provides as backstory to explain what caused to surprise outcome (Bae and Young).

*The Giver* novel has an interesting plot. This novel tells about a young boy named Jonas who lives in dystopian society in which there is very little pain or emotion. Jonas is named the new Receiver of Memories, and he is apprenticed to the giver, who passes along communal memories from the past, filled with both pain and pleasure. Jonas eventually comes to see the disadvantages to his society's way of removing all emotion from life, and he runs away, releasing the memories to the rest of the community.

There are some reviews of previous study regarding to plot that was

done by some researchers which discuss about plot. The first research written by Kembara (2016) entitled “*The analysis of plot in sheldon “Memories of midnight”*”. the aims of his study was find out the type of plot and also elements of plot used in the novel. The theory used proposed by Kenney (1966) as a main theory. the result of his study he found that the story “*Memories of Midnight*” belonged to lucky plot because the story in the novel was kind of adventure story. He also described the plot arrangement in the story clearly. The other research was conducted by Ridho et al (2016) entitled *Plot analysis of short story “Friends Forever” by aditi Das bhowmik*. In her study, she focused analyzing plot in the short story by using structural hermeneutic by Paul Ricoeur (1981). Ricoeur (Ridho et al., 2016, para.2) stated that hermeneutics is the theory of the operations of understanding in their relation to the interpretation of text. The result of this study the plot elements of the *short story Friends Forever Das Bhowmik* are exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution. The similarities in this study and her research is the aims to analysis the plot.

From the explanation above, the writer were analyzed the plot type of the novel *The Giver* by Lois Lowry because this novel also contains plot twist, which was the ending cannot be predicted by the readers. Without plot twists, the story is completely linear. The interesting phenomena in plot is when someone telling story, the person needs to understand which part is the introduction, the rising action, the climax, falling action and ending in order to create a good story.

## II. METHOD

This data in this research were taken from Lois Lowry’s novel *The*

*Giver*. The reason why this novel chosen as data source because this novel had an interesting story because in his world about free of crime and sadness. *The Giver* novel is written by Lois Lowry that was released on 1993. This novel consist 23 chapters and 180 pages. It is young adult fiction, dystopian novel, science fiction. It is number 11 on the American Library Association list of the most challenged books of the 1990. A 2012 survey based in the United State designated it the fourth best children’s novel of all time in Australia, Canada, and United State. Observation method is used for collecting the data in this study. In collecting the data, there are three steps as follow: first, finding the novel *The Giver* by Lois Lowry. Second, reading and understanding theme, character, setting, plot and to get information it was important related this research. Third, taking not the sentence that related research question. Descriptive qualitative method is used analyzing the data in this study. In analyzing data, there are one steps that is taken was identified the collected data and classified in accordance with the plot type that categorized the qualitative data based on the theory proposed Freytag (MacEwan. 1900).

## III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section, the researcher that focused only on the plot type of the story. it started to find out about the plot type of the novel. The plot type of the Lois Lowry’s novel *The Giver* was dramatic plot, a theory proposed by Freytag (MacEwan, 1900) because the story was written dramatically from the beginning until the ending story. The dramatic plot consist of exposition, rising movement, climax, falling action, and catastrophe or resolution. In the table bellow we can se the structure of the research finding

regarding to the plot type applied in Lois Lowry's novel *The Giver*.

Table 1. The Plot Elements in Lois Lowry's novel "The Giver"

No	Dramatic plot	Story in the novel The Giver
1	<i>Exposition</i>	<i>Jonas eleven year old who live in community. he frightened to upcoming of ceremony</i>
2	<i>Rising movement</i>	<i>Jonas have assignment from chief Elder become a receiver of memory</i>
3	<i>Climax</i>	<i>Jonas see videos his father killing newchild</i>
4	<i>Falling action</i>	<i>Jonas leave the community to save Gabriel from "Released"</i>
5	<i>Catastrophe</i>	<i>Jonas and Gabriel ride to another place during snowy night he sees light and hear to people singing</i>

Based on the table of data 1 as shown above, the plot type applied in this novel *The Giver* by Lois Lowry was dramatic plot because the events were written through chronologically and dramatically. The dramatic consist of exposition, rising movement, climax, falling action and catastrophe according to Freytag (MacEwan, 1900: 2). The exposition introduce character and place of the story was when Jonas Twelve years old boy who lives in Community with his father, mother and little sister Lily, which they no have relation blood because all children in community born from a biological mother. He was frightened, he decided not frightened but to apprehensive to happened in special December. Rising action happened when Jonas has been selected to be next *Receiver of Memory*, Chief Elder give his assignment to current a receiver of memory to become *The Giver*. Climax happened when Jonas sees a video of his father killing a newborn baby twin with letnal injection and he hear also conversation his father in dinner night he plan to kill Gabriel, falling action happened where Jonas flees community

with Gabriel in order to save Gabriel from being "Released", and the last catastrophe or resolution happened Jonas and Gabriel ride to another place. The explanation of each elements in *The Giver* novel can be seen as below.

### 3.1 Exposition

This section analyzed exposition is the first part which situation of characters were being introduced, it leads up to the further development of the plot. In exposition, the background of information is needed to provided information of the whole story and presupposed for the action according to the theory by Freytag (MacEwan, 1900: para. 4) the writer analyzed that the exposition introduction when the main protagonist, Jonas eleven years old to become twelve in December who lives in community, he was frightened, he decided not frightened but he apprehensive to waiting for happening in December.

#### Data 1

***Frightened meant that deep, sickening felling something terrible about to happen. He had waited a long time for for this special December. Now that it was almost upon him, he wasn't frightened, but he was....eager, he decided for the event that would be coming soon.***

(Lowry, 1993: Ch.1,P.7)

Based data above This was also the part of the introduction of the character in the story. The introduction of the setting showed on the exposition, which is in the community. The introduction of another secondary character was also shown on the data, a person called Lily, Jonas's sister she is school in child care center, he was angry at a boy who was visiting from another community and didn't follow the rules of the playground.

#### **Data 2**

***"I felt very angry this day," Lily said. "My Childcare group was at the play area, and we had a visiting group of sevens, and they didn't obey the rules at all.***

(Lowry, 1993: Ch.1,P.5 )

From the data above, the writer analyzed that it was the Lily, Jonas's sister as another secondary character by the author. The author describes Lily character is becoming accustomed to the rules, she has to be reminded to show empathy for visitors from other communities that are unfamiliar with their rules. But no one character antagonist in the novel. The antagonist can be something in the physical environment in community

### **3.2 Rising Movement**

This part from introduction was rising movement. The rising movement is the action has been started. This is part

where the interest has been awakened based on the theory Freytag (MacEwan, 1900: para.18). in this story, the writer analyzed that the rising movement start ceremony of the Twelve begin, Jonas is given the highly honored assignment of Receiver by Chief Elder, he ordered Jonas come to stage he announced Jonas has been selected to receiver of memory. He as trains successor to become the next The Giver.

#### **Data 3**

***"please come to stage now. "***

***"Then she went on and say "Jonas has been selected..."***

***In a firm, commanding voice she announced, 'Jonas has been selected to be our next Receiver of Memory he said"***

***" Such a selection is very, very rare," the Chief Elder told the audience. "in Our Community only has one of Receiver. It is he who trains successor.***

(Lowry, 1993: Ch.8,P.59-60 )

According to data above, the writer found that the rising action happened Jonas was chosen to be the receiver of memory, the person who would be the next The Giver . There is only one receiver in the Community and he has to receive memories from the past. Jonas begin to training as receiver, The Giver transmit the first memory of sled ride down a snowy hill to Jonas begin to learns about color, snow, and war in many other things.

#### **Data 4**

***The eyes closed again. "I came to this very room to begin my training. It was such a long time ago.***

***The man paused, seeming to search his mind for the right words of description. It's like going downhill through deep snow on sled.***

*"close your eyes relax this is not be fainful."I am going to transmit the memory of snow," the old man said.* (Lowry, 1993: Ch.11,P.81)

Based on the data above, the writer analyzed the major character The Giver in rising action. The Giver transmit to all memories by placing his hands to Jonas's bare back. The first memories Jonas receive is an exhilarating sled ride.

### 3.3 Climax

Climax is the place in the piece where the results of the rising action come out strong and decisively, it is the top part of the story. this is crowning point of a great, amplified scene, enclosed by the smaller connecting scenes of the rising according Freytag (MacEwan, 1900: para.24). in this story, the writer found that the climax was the part where Jonas is sees the video the release baby twin in nurturing centre and he also hear conversation his father with his mother about to vote Gabris from being released. he don't want to go home. He wants to stay at The Giver, but he knows the Giver might send him home. He doesn't want to see his father and he doesn't want anyone to get released.

#### Data 5

*He killed it! my father killed it!!! Jonas tell to himself and stunned at what he was realizing. He continoud to stare at the screen numbly.*

*" won't ! I won't go home! You can't make me!! !"* Jonas sobbed and shouted and pounded the bed with his fist.

*"You may stay here tonight. I want to talk to you. But you must be quiet now, while I notify your family unit. No one must hear you cry."*

(Lowry, 1993: Ch.20,P.150-152)

From the data above, the writer found that in this climax, Jonas see a video of his father murdering a newborn baby twins in nurturing centre, he realizes that something in the community is very wrong. He did not want see his father or anyone else finally The Giver give him advice. Jonas and The Giver actually disagree with the way they live after this Commonality. The Giver formulate a plan for him to escape the community.

#### Data 6

*The Giver rubbed Jonas's hunched shoulders. "And after we eat," he went on, "we'll make a plan."*

*Jonas looked up, puzzled. " A plan for what? There's nothing. There's nothing we can*

*Jonas put down his fork and stared at his father. "Release?" he asked.*

*Father nodded in agreement, too. Jonas worked at keeping his voice absolutely calm. "when?" he asked." When will be released?"*

(Lowry, 1993: Ch.20,P.155-156)

Showed on the data above, the writer found that the character Jonas will plans to escape the community because he finds out that Gabe is scheduled to be released he run away earlier.

### 3.4 Falling action

Falling action is the part of a story following the climax and this part of story shows the result of the climax. the writer analyzed that the falling action was the part where before The Ceremony would begin, Jonas straps Gabe into the child seat on the back of his father bicycle then he leave the community toward the other place.

#### Data 7

*That night, Jonas was forced flee. He left the dwelling shortly after the sky*

*become dark and the community still. It was terribly dangerous because some of the work crews were*

***But it was necessary because it had the child seat attached to the back. And he had taken gabriel,too.***

(Lowry, 1993: Ch.21,P.163)

Falling action happened Jonas flees the community with Gabriel in order to save Gabriel from being “released”. At the night, when Gabriel slept beside him, Jonas lay awake he felt hunger and remembered his life in the community where meals delivered to each dwelling everyday. He tried to use the lethargic power of his memory to recreate meals, and managed brief.

#### **Data 8**

*“He forced his eyes open as they went downward, down ward, sliding, and all at once he could see light, and he recognized them now. He know they where shining through the windows of rooms, that they were the red, blue, and yellow light that twinkled from trees in places where families created and kept memories, where they celebrated love. ”now he was. If he had stayed in the community, he would not be starving. It was simple as that, Once he had yearned for choice. Then, when he had a choice, he had made the wrong one; the choice to leave. And now he was starving.*

*But if he had stayed.....*

***His thoughts continued. If he had stayed, he would have starved in other ways. He would have lived a life hungry for fellings, for color, for love.***

(Lowry, 1993: Ch.23,P.180)

According to the data above, the writer analyzed that the information given by Jonas and gabriel was the falling action of the story. after flees the Community, Jonas felt hungry, and thinks live in Community is better, and

he think again escape the Community right decision because he would have lived a life starved, for fellings, for collor, for love.

### **3.5 Catastrophe**

The last part is the catastrophe, which is the outcome or ending is deliver to the reader. In this part, the writer analyzed that the resolution of the story was Jonas sleeding down a hill toward a warm cabin with Gabriel the village in Elsewhere during a snowy night he sees lights in the distance and for the first time he hear people singing.

#### **Data 9**

***Behind him, across vast distances of space and time, from the place he had left, he thought he heard music too.***

***But perhaps it was only an echo.***

(Lowry, 1993: Ch.23,P.180)

Based on the data above, the writer analyzed that this is where the catastrophe or resolution in this story they succesful escape, even though the face a both difficult obstacles, but in the end they have together.

## **IV. CONCLUSION**

This study focused on plot type in *The Giver* novel by Lois Lowry. To identify the plot type that applied in the novel *The Giver* writer used theory Freytag (MacEwan, 1900). The result of this study shows the plot type the writer found was dramatic plot because the events of the story were happened in chronological order. Dramatic plot has element consists of exposition, rising movement, climax, falling action and catastrophe. All of these elements build the story line to be interesting.

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