

THE CHARACTERISTICS OF JOSTEIN GAARDER'S NOVELS

Delvany Hanifah

delfani.hanifah@gmail.com
Universitas Muslim Indonesia

Dra. Andi Hudriati, M.Hum

andi.hudriati@umi.ac.id
Universitas Muslim Indonesia

Sitti Halijah, M.Pd

sitti.halijah@umi.ac.id
Universitas Muslim Indonesia

ABSTRAK

Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui karakteristik dari tiga novel Jostein Gaarder yaitu Sophie's World, The World according to Anna, and Through a glass, Darkly (Cecilia and the Angel). Peneliti menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif untuk memperoleh hasil penelitian. Adapun hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa ada 5 karakteristik yang terkandung dalam novel-novel Jostein Gaarder, yaitu: 1) Penggunaan tokoh perempuan dalam novel-novelnya, 2) Penulis selalu melibatkan tulisan atau surat dalam novel-novelnya 3) Membahas tentang nilai-nilai dunia dan kehidupan, 4) Membahas tentang filosofi, serta 5) Identik dengan fantasi

Kata kunci: *Novel, Filsafat, Jostein Gaarder*

ABSTRACT

The objectives of the study is to find out the characteristics of three Jostein Gaarder's novels namely Sophie's World, The World according to Anna, and Through a glass, Darkly (Cecilia and the Angel). The researcher used descriptive qualitative method to obtain the result. The research findings indicate that there are 5 characteristics of Jostein Gaarder's novels, namely: 1) The use of female characters in his novels, 2) The existence of letters and writings in a novel, 3) Discussing the values of the world and life, 4) Discussing philosophy, and 5) Identical with fantasy.

Keywords: *Novel, Philosophy, Jostein Gaarder*

A. INTRODUCTION

Literature is a personal expression of feelings, experience, idea, motivation and confidence within the concrete description of the language of victimization. Roberts and Jacobs (2006:2) state that "Literature is composition that tells a story, dramatizes a situation, expresses emotions, analyses and advocates ideas.". The existence of letters and writings in a novel The work of literature will take America to the planet of dreams and detach us from reality. The literary work arises from the author's appreciation that the world cannot be separated from the knowledge and knowledge of the authors and everything that exists around the author brings encouragement and inspiration. There are also different forms of literary works such as drama, poetry and novel.

Sumardjo (1998: 29) says that "novel is a story with the prose form in long shape, this long shape means the story including the complex plot, many character and various setting". The novel is a part of literature. It is the illustration of the human condition versus the effort to attain the goal of life. The novel expresses the aspects of love, life and the consequent existence of man in relation to human activities and describes what was happening in the environment. So the novel is a longer narrative than the story and the novel.

Jostein Gaarder (born August 8, 1952 in Oslo, Norway) is a Norwegian school teacher and author of books on history, philosophy and religion for young audiences. Gaarder studied history of ideas, religion and Nordic literature at the University of Oslo. After graduating in 1976, he worked as a university professor of philosophy, religion and literature in Oslo and Bergen. He began his literary career gradually, occasionally lecturing, submitting newspaper articles and poetry, and co-authoring textbooks. Jostein Gaarder has several famous books dealing with philosophy including *Sophie's World* (1991), *The World according to Anna* (2013), and *Through a glass, Darkly (Cecilia and the Angel)* (1993).

Several studies have raised Jostein Gaarder's novel as an object of research, one of which is from Rabbiyani (2017) from Mulawarman University with the title *The Value of Rationality in the Novel Sophie's World by Jostein Gaarder*. The purpose of this research is to find the value of rationality seen in Sophie Amundsen's character and to find out how the value of rationality defines her character. In addition, another research was written by Amalia (2021) from Universitas 17 Agustus 1945 Surabaya entitled *A Study of Plot in Jostein Gaarder's The World According to Anna*. The purpose of this research is to analyze the storyline of the novel written by Jostein Gaarder entitled *The World According to Anna*.

As we can see above, the previous studies above discuss merely on the value of rationality and plot studies of Jostein Gaarder's novels. However, the current researcher brings in the current study trying to analyze the characteristics and messages contained in 3 novels of Jostein Gaarder, namely: *Sophie's World* (1991), *The World according to Anna* (2013), and *Through a glass, Darkly (Cecilia and the Angel)* (1993).

The researcher chose this subject out of curiosity about the works of Jostein Gaarder, who brings philosophies to bear in a very distinctive way particularly through storytelling. In addition, the researcher was also curious to find Gaarder's peculiarity in telling the story, particularly the way Gaarder convey his messages through his literary works in the form of philosophical novels.

B. METHOD

In conducting this research, the researcher used a qualitative descriptive method. Bogdan and Biklen (1982) state that qualitative research is research that examines the quality of relationships, situations, materials, or activities. Qualitative research centers on efforts to encourage a deep understanding of a particular event such as an environment, process, or even belief. Furthermore, by using this method, the researcher was able to analyze the problems that arise in the novel in relation to the novelist's view of the world by collecting and analyzing all data in detail to draw conclusions.

C. RESULTS

The researcher analyzed three novels written by Jostein Gaarder entitled *Sophie's World* (1991), *The World according to Anna* (2013), and *Through a glass, Darkly (Cecilia and the Angel)* (1993). Based on the result, the researcher obtained five characteristics contained in three Jostein Gaarder's novels which follows:

1. Female character as the main character
2. There is always a work of writing in a novel
3. Discussing the values of the world and life
4. Discussing philosophy
5. Identical with fantasy

The collected data are presented in the table below:

No.	Characteristics	Data
1.	Female character as the main character	“Sophie Amundsen was on her way home from school. She had walked the first part of the way with Joanna.” (<i>Sophie’s world</i> , 1991 : 3)
		“On new year’s eve, for as long as Anna could remember, the families in her village had gone up to the mountain pastures on a sleigh.” (<i>The World According to Anna</i> , 2013 : 1)
		“They let the bedroom door open. Cecilia could smell the Christmas scent wafting from downstairs. She tried to sort it out.”(<i>Through A Glass, Darkly (Cecilia and the Angel)</i> , 1993 : 9)
2.	The existence of letters and writings in a novel	“...She tries several search engines and eventually a result appears. It is a letter- to Nova!” “dear Nova. The hairs on Nova’s arms stand on end. I don’t know what the world will be like when you read this, but you know..” (<i>The world according to Anna</i> , 2013 : 34)
		“There was only one letter in the mailbox—and it was for Sophie. The white envelope read: “Sophie Amundsen, 3 Clover Close.”” (<i>Sophie’s world</i> ,1991 : 3)
		“After grandma left, Cecilia picked up her ballpoint pen and notebook. On the very first page, he had written: ‘I no longer stand on a foreign beach on the shores of the Aegean Sea. However, wave after wave still crashes on the beach, making the rocks roll here and there, moving from place to place throughout eternity.’” (<i>Through A Glass, Darkly (Cecilia and the Angel)</i> , 1993 : 20)
3.	Discussing the values of the world and life	“I mean, I’m afraid of climate change. I’m afraid that we’re risking our climate and environment without a second thought for future generations.” ..” (<i>The World According to Anna</i> , 2013 : 17)
		“You can’t experience being alive without realizing that you have to die, she thought. But it’s just as impossible to realize you have to die without

		thinking how incredibly amazing it is to be alive.” (<i>Sophie’s world</i> , 1991 : 5)
		“When death picks me up later, these fine silvery strands of pearls will scatter and pearls will scatter, rolling across this country, and running back to their mothers, oysters on the seabed. Who will dive to collect my pearls? Who will know that they are mine? Who would be able to guess that once upon a time, the whole world hung on my neck?” (<i>Through a glass, darkly (Cecilia and the angel)</i> , 1993 : 122)
4.	Discussing philosophy	“The best way of approaching philosophy is to ask a few philosophical questions: How was the world created? Is there any will or meaning behind what happens? Is there a life after death? How can we answer these questions? And most important, how ought we to live?...”(<i>Sophie’s world</i> , 1991 : 9)
		“She touches the screen and calls up the latest satellite picture. The globe rotates slowly. Aren’t the continents smaller than they were only a few years ago? Haven’t more coastal towns been swamped? The ice caps over Greenland and the Antarctic are definitely smaller than they were last year. (<i>The World According to Anna</i> , 2013 : 30)
		“Yes, you have never met Him face to face. However, if you created the entire universe on your own, I’m sure you’d be a bit sensitive to criticism as well. We angels discuss many important matters. Even though God ‘saw everything he did was very good’, it doesn’t mean he...” ,(<i>Through a glass, darkly (Cecilia and the Angel)</i> , 1993 : 57)
5.	Identical fantasy with	"Angels never lie, Cecilia!" Now it's Cecilia's turn to choke up. "Are you really an Angel?",(<i>Through a glass, darkly (Cecilia and the Angel)</i> , 1993 : 34)
		“Nana graps at the red ring. Then she speaks in a solemn voice. She sounds almost like a sorcerer: ‘soon you shall have the earth back the way it was when I was your age, but you must promise me you will look after it. For this is our very last chance. From now on we should always be on our guard.

		There will be no more chances.”, (<i>The world according to Anna</i> , 2013 : 45)
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Table 1: The Characteristics of Jostein Gaarder's Novels

D. DISCUSSION

Based on the result above, we can see that the author wants his novel to reflect something that a woman lacks. In a way, women are not happy with the times that eventually lead to oppression. The novel, moderated from the author's point of view that is represented by Sophie, Anna, and Cecilia as the main characters of each title which shows that women have to be harder and more serious in life, i.e., learn, fight and make new progress with the freedom of knowledge. The female protagonists in all three novels certainly have a reason for it. Based on interviews at fan meetings, Gaarder said that the reason he often uses young girls as the main characters in his stories is that children sometimes have a greater curiosity about everything around them than adults. Furthermore, regarding the female main characters of his novels, the role of women in various aspects is still often underestimated. Therefore, Gaarder makes the main character in his three novels as women with the aim of breaking the mold as well as to elevate the status of women.

The author of these three books also seems to like framed stories where there is a story within a story. Therefore, he always includes other scriptures in his writings. With the method of writing a letter, someone will understand a little more easily. Gaarder who always cares about the environment conveys his thoughts through his writings which tell how the damage to nature has occurred due to human activities, then he also explains how humans should protect the earth so that it continues to be sustainable.

E. CONCLUSIONS

Based on the result and discussion above, it can be inferred that there are five characteristics contained in the three Jostein Gaarder's novels which are: 1) female characters in his novels, 2) The existence of letters and writings in a novel, 3) Discussing the values of the world and life, 4) discussing philosophy, and 5) identical with fantasy.

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