

THE CHARACTERISTIC OF HORROR GENRE IN SHORT STORY *THE TELL TALE HEART* BY EDGAR ALLAN POE

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Abstract

In this research, the researcher discusses a short story “The Tell-Tale Heart” by Edgar Allan Poe. The researcher is interested to reveal the Genre of the story. Horror can be seen from the death, terror, fear, dread or dismay and others. So the researcher aims to analyze what are the characteristics of the horror genre in this story. In order to analyze the characteristics of the horror genre in this story, the writer reviewed some previous studies. In addition, the writer used structural approach and using Genre study for the analysis. Then, the writer analyzes the characteristic of the horror genre by theory Sharicks. Next, in designing this research, the writer used a descriptive qualitative method in collecting and analyzing the data since the data is in the form of text such as dialogue and narration. The analysis is described in some topic discussion. The writer found five characteristics of the horror genre in the story. The first is oddity experience of character. It can be seen from the appearance or attitude and influenced by the ghost, terror and the character’s thinking. The second is explicit violence. It happens when the monster, ghost or antagonist character want to kill protagonist character. The third is character’s anxiety. It happens to make the story looks alive. The fourth is illogical story line. It happens in thinking of people outside and when the character doing something without the reason. The last is unresolved ending of story. It happens when the ghost or antagonist character still appear in the end of the story. Those are the characteristics of horror genre were correlated with the data.

Key words: Characteristics, Genre, Horror

INTRODUCTION

Edgar Allan Poe was a child of David and Elizabeth Poe. He was born on January 19, 1809, when Poe was 2 years old; his mother has passed away. After that, Poe adopted by John Allan, a successful merchant. Since his new family was quite a wealth, Poe could live a decent life and got a good education. Actually, Poe is an intelligent student. When he was a teenager, he came to alcohol and debt-wracked. A year later, Poe dropped out of school in a poor state. His adoptive father was away from him. Then Poe died on October 7, 1849.

Based on the article Q Press in 2011, Poe was recorded trying to commit suicide in 1848, but in the next year, he looked healthy. Poe disappeared from a birthday party in 1849 then he was found delirious and dying. No one could explain what happened to his condition. No one knew whether Poe was exposed to rabies, drinking too much, or being robbed. The story of his death became a myth in society. His name and his work got much appreciation after he died. Edgar Allan Poe's works consist primarily of poetry and short stories. Stories are about criminality, guilty feeling, and insanity. His works are like the black cat, The Tell-Tale Heart, The Fall of the House of Usher, The Masque of the Red Death and others. Poe involves the presence of abnormalities in a person, the presence of visible and invisible monsters. And one of his famous works is *The Tell-Tale Heart*. There are some genres in his work; one of them is the horror genre.

The story of The Tell-Tale Heart begun by the narrator who insists that his disease has sharpened, not dulled, his senses. He tells the tale of how an old man who lives in his house has never blamed him. For an unknown reason, the old man’s cloudy, pale blue eye has incited madness in the

narrator. Whenever the old man looks at him, his blood turns cold. Thus, he decides to kill him to get rid of this curse. It reflects the psychology of a killer. He kills an old man just because he does not like the old man's vulture-like eye. The reason does not make sense for a murder, but the murderer is not a madman. He commits the murder concisely and very methodically. He goes to the old man's house around midnight with a muffled light. He pushes the bedroom door open just a little and finds the man in his bed. The old man wakes up. The killer waits few minutes. Then he again peeps in and finds the old man lying awake. He looks at the old man's vulture eye with disgust and bursts in. He pulls the old man off his bed and overturns the heavy bed on him. In this way, he mutilates the old man to death. Then he chops the dead body into pieces and conceals the pieces under the wooden boards of the floor.

Just then three policemen enter the house. They ask questions about a crying sound that was heard in the street. It came from the old man's house. The killer tells them that it might have been his own cry in a dream. He says the old man was not at home and he had left him (the killer) to look after the house. He said he slept in the house.

Then suddenly the killer's fear of detection gets the better of him, He hears the old man's heart beating loudly under the floor. The fear goes on growing rapidly till the killer cries out in confession, declaring that he has killed the old man. According to Tillery (2013:5), genre fictions are divided into six. Those are fantasy, romance, science, western mystery, and horror. Fantasy is the forming of a mental image with strange or otherworldly setting's or characters. Romance is unabashed escapist fiction, following the love story of a (usually female) protagonist, and intended to sweep women readers away from their day-to-day problem. Science is a story based on an impact of potential science, either actual or imagined. Western is a fiction genre seen in film, television, radio, literature, painting and other visual arts. The mystery is a genre of fiction that deals with the solution of a crime or the unraveling of secrets. Horror is an overwhelming and painful feeling caused by literature that is frightfully shocking, terrifying or revolting.

From the short story explained, the story seemed to describe horror genre. It can be seen from how Poe describes the story that started from the death, terror, fear, dread or dismay and others. There are some readers think that *The Tell-Tale Heart* is gothic. So, the researcher interested to prove to the reader that this short story is horror genre; it can be seen from the death, terror, fear, dread or dismay and others. Webster's Collegiate Dictionary gives the primary definition of horror as "a painful and intense death, fear, dread, or dismay." It stands to reason than that "horror" is the genre that elicits those emotions in the reader. From them, the short story brings the reader to a mystery and horrible feeling. This is interesting to be analyzed. In the short story, there are some questions such as full of secrets, and having surprise endings. Mystery gives reader uncertainty about the conclusion of the story.

In some stories, the reader may guess the conclusion before they even finish reading them, but when authors add mystery into their masterpieces, the stories become far more interesting and keep the reader wondering whether the conclusion of the story would end like they thought or therefore keeps the reader wanting to read more.

Horror is one of genres literary that can be used in movie, novel, short story telling tells about magic, mystic, scary, evil, death, blood and murder (Kardiansyah, 2019), (Robertson, 2020), (Nababan & Nurmaily, 2021), (Simamora & Oktaviani, 2020). There are many kinds of character that represent the story to transfer a sense of horror to the readers such as Dracula, raven, and sound of crying that makes the story scary and fearful (Sulistiani et al., 2021), (Yulianti & Sulistiyawati, 2020). The main purpose of horror story is generally to consider repulsive and incendiary in order to give the fear sense, (K. Sari & Pranoto, 2021), (Puspita & Pranoto, 2021). People usually avoid violence and danger because they want to live without dread, but people have curiosity toward horror, that is why horror becomes popular (Sartika & Pranoto, 2021), (Purwaningsih & Gulö, 2021).

“Horror aims to frighten or disgust its readers. Although many horror novels feature supernatural phenomena or monsters, it is not required. Horror is often mixed with other genres”. (Tillery, 2013:5).

The horror genre is to evoke fear in minds of the readers. Horror genre prefers to have the monster of some type or supernatural elements as important horrific elements, but other horror stories are not required monster or supernatural element to made fear (Suhartono, 2014). The horror made the reader fear with the murder or nightmare. It focuses on the case and consequence of the crime (Redy Susanto et al., 2021), (Suryono et al., 2019), (Hournan et al., 1996). To prove if this short story is horror, the researcher tries to find out the characteristics of horror genre within this selected. Concerning with the background above the researcher is interested to conduct in a research on what are the characteristics of horror genre in Edgar Allan Poe’s *The Tell Tale Heart*?

LITERATURE REVIEW

Genre Study

The word genre comes from the French and originally Latin word for 'kind' or 'class'. The term is widely used in rhetoric, literary theory, media theory, and more recently linguistics, to refer a distinctive type of text.

Genre has some definition. Based on experts’s pointing of view. Definition of genre tend to be based on the notion that they constitute particular convention of content (such as theme or setting) and/or form (including structure and style) which are shared by the texts which are regarded as belonging to them (Amelia & Daud, 2020), (Diharjo et al., 2020), (Kardiansyah, 2019). Based on that quotation, it means that genre is the way to examine and determine theme, setting, structure, and style in the works by interpreting the text inside of this (Kuswoyo et al., 2020), (KUSWOYO et al., 2013). The way itself is idea or thinking of reader or audience based on the text or scene (Helmy et al., 2018), (Technology et al., 2017). The particular convention which is stated in quotation above means that it is based on what is exhibited by a content and form of genre.

“Genre is as a motivated, functional relationship between text type and rhetorical situation” (Journal & Kiranamita, 2021), (Robertson, 2020). By this statment, genre is neither a text type nor a situation, but rather the functional relationship between type of text / type situation (Technology et al., 2017). It means that genre acts as functional relationship or the connector which links the value of text and type of situation inside of the works. Genre also emphasizes the reader or the audience can give a feedback for the text, so there is communication between text and the reader.

Kress (2000: 5), further, states:

Every genre position those who participate in a text of that kind as interviewer and interviewee, as listener or storyteller, as a reader or a writer, as a person interested in political matters, as someone to be instructed or as someone who instruct; each of these positioning implies different possibilities for response and action.

It means that the text needs two parts which is interconnected each other. Both of them need such as interaction each other where both of them give respon and action. The reader

should understand what the writer's intention through the text even each reader has different interpretation.

From some definitions which are argued by Chandler, Kress, and Coe, the writer notes that genre will not work independently and rely on the text as sole element in determining a genre but the text needs the maker and the interpreter to fit out of the text. As the result, they create linking framework.

Horror Genre

Horror is quite different from the order of emotions, it describes a range of subjective states and objects distinct from those that surround and evoke terror (Al Falaq & Puspita, 2021), (Suryono et al., 2019). It bound up with feelings of revulsion, disgust, and loathing (Erya & Pustika, 2021). Horror includes state of shuddering or paralysis, the loss of one's faculties, particularly consciousness and speech, or a general physical powerlessness and mental confusion (B. P. Pratiwi et al., 2021), (Hendrastuty et al., 2021), (Alita, 2021). Terror is often connected to an immediate threat (Wantoro et al., 2021), (Sanger et al., 2021), (Liu et al., 2020). The cause of horror is far less discernible in that involves the subject to a greater and more disturbing extent, confounds inner and outer worlds in all-pervasive disorientation (Jayadi et al., 2021), (Novita & Husna, 2020).

Botting clearly explains that terror has the correlation with horror because in horror story the author makes terror to make the readers the emotional worried, afraid and scary (Series, 2018), (Pranoto, 2021). The author wants the reader to criticize and understands about the structure of the story. Readers have pulled as emotional participants into the reality of fictional worlds through sometimes preconscious cognitive reflexes that bracket as irrelevant the question of worthiness belief (Nadya et al., 2021), (Mastan et al., 2022). The readers automatically begin to establish the implicit backgrounds necessary for a complete and coherent world. The process information according to the schedule of a suspense narrative and cognitive structures oriented to problem-solving instantly begin to entertain both optimize and aversive Counterfactual (Kiswardhani & Ayu, 2021), (Puspita & Pranoto, 2021), (Ameraldo & Ghazali, 2021).

In this respect, the readers emotional can bring the reality fictional in their live. The author makes the emotion to the readers and it makes the story is more interesting. The readers in horror story are sometimes curious and shocked when they read the story. They feel the atmosphere of the situation and condition in the story. The structures of horror narratives are said to set out from a situation an order, it moves through a period of disorder caused by the eruption of horrifying or monstrous forces and finally reaches a point of closure. The readers feel satisfied when the ending of horror story can make them have curiosity.

Oddity Experience of Characters

Based on Cambridge dictionary, the oddity is someone or something strange and unusual. it is seen from their appearance or attitude (Rusliyawati et al., 2021), (van Eijck, Michiel; Hsu, Pei-Ling; Roth, 2009), (Risten & Pustika, 2021). Besides that, an oddity can be felt by themselves or when the characters see other people. It can also be influenced by the host, terror even the character's thinking that comes to the main character as life. Horror gives the readers the chance to escape from his everyday life, into the world of excitement

and fantasy, and experience the relief which follows when the horror has ended (Lina & Ahluwalia, 2021), (Ambarwati & Mandasari, 2021).

Horror gives the readers the chance to escape from his everyday life (Qodriani & Wijana, 2021), (Pratama et al., 2022). Horror make the readers imagine what happened inside of the horror story (Pahdi et al., 2020), (D. I. Pratiwi et al., 2020), (Suprayogi & Novanti, 2021). They try to escape their daily to imagine something that will give them emotional response for them. The readers are free to imagine whatever they read, so their emotional can grow up. The emotional responses from the readers make horror story become interesting (Saputra & Pasha, 2021), (Novanti & Suprayogi, 2021), (S. N. Sari & Aminatun, 2021).

Explicit Violence

The second characteristic of the horror genre is the explicit violence. Violence is the way to make the reader feel the emotion that happens inside of the story (Evayani & Rido, 2019), (Ahluwalia, 2020), (Naconha, 2021). The atmosphere in horror story creates a sense of violence in evoking fear of the readers (Berman et al., 2002). In this characteristic, the violence happens based on the purpose of protagonist character (Rido et al., 2021). So, it makes the readers imagine the real condition and feel the emotion in horror story.

The response which arises from fear always relates to the fears of the society in which it originates, but there is also a specific reaction which occurs emotionally which is natural to the fear (Schrape, 2018), (Choi et al., 2015). This is a reaction based on primal instincts of fear working in a psychological manner to warn the individual, and to create an emotional respon that calculates the need to get away from violence .

Based on Gelder, The concept of horror is not only based on the representations and the responses which occur. In making horror genre, specific techniques are used that allow individuals to respond both the evil and the good that exist in the story. Horror story has a specific aims, it creates moments of the fear. However, these are followed by normal circumstances which lower the fear and create a normal response. When the threat occurs, it is unexpected and therefore the feeling of fear is heightened. This threat creates a specific response where the reader is uncertain of what will happen in the next plot, but it is still able to respond with the fantasy that is creates during the story.

Character's Anxiety

Haunt is the way of character makes the story looks alive. Character is the human being in fiction who plays action in the story. The characters are doing activities like making a conversation or doing the activities. The character is divided two kinds, they are protagonist and antagonist. The protagonist is the character who craved and doing a good action meanwhile antagonist is the character that is not desired in life experience because he has the bad attitude.

Gwynn (2002: 11), further, states:

Every story hinges on the actions undertaken by its main character, or protagonist, a term drawn from ancient Greek tragedy (literally “first debater”) that is more

useful in discussions of fiction than such misleading term as hero or heroine. Additionally, stories may contain an opposing character, or antagonist, with whom the protagonist is drawn into conflict.

According to Gwynn, a character is divided into two, they are protagonist and antagonist. The protagonist is a good character, usually, a protagonist is the main actor or actress in the story, an antagonist is the second character that opposite with protagonist. The character of an antagonist is different from protagonist; antagonist always involved misunderstanding with protagonist meanwhile antagonist wants to take all what protagonist has.

Illogical Story Line

Illogical of the story happens when the characters doing something without the reason, and it happens in thinking of people outside. The story there is the correlation with the plot to support the readers to know how the illogical story describes. According to Hartoko (1985: 48), there are two types of plots. The first is flashback plot (mixed plot) this technique is used by an author to display events in the past. The second is the flash-forward plot (progressive plot) this technique is easier to understand by the reader because the author tells the story chronologically. By plot, the writer can know how the story is described whether the character back to the history or go straight to the end story. So, the plot is one of an intrinsic element that important to support this analysis.

Illogical of the story happens when the characters are doing something without the reason, and it happens in thinking of people outside. The story there is the correlation with a plot to support the readers knows how the illogical story describes. Besides plot, horror genre can be identified by the setting of the place. The setting of the place is the important element to define the characteristics of horror. As we know that horror always places in the old building, cellar, in the night and dark condition. Therefore intrinsic element is important to explain the characteristic of the horror genre.

Unresolved Ending of Story

When we read the horror story or watch the horror movie, we will curious about the end of the horror story, sometimes we think the story can finish clearly, but sometimes there is the story that cannot be guessed. Unresolved ending happens when in the end of the horror story the ghost or antagonist character still alive, and the memories about the ghost still remain when the ghost that haunting the main character died. Ghost always become the problem in the main character's life, so the readers are curious about the end of horror story that not clear.

According to Gelder (2000: 126), "the concept of horror is not only based on the representations and the responses which occur".

In making horror genre, the writer commonly uses specific techniques that allow individuals to respond both the evil and the good that exists in the story. A horror story has the specific aim, which is to create moments of fear. However, these are followed by normal circumstances which lower the fear and create a normal response. When the threat occurs, it is unexpected and therefore the feeling of fear is heightened. This threat creates a specific response where the reader is uncertain of what will occur next in the plot, but it is

still able to respond with the fantasy created during the story. Relief eventually follows when the illusion ends and the reader returns to his everyday life.

METHOD

To analyze the research question, method of research is needed to support the finding process during the analysis. With this method the writer found the purpose of research. In other words, a method is mind or way to get a purpose, a systematic, and a step to find an easy way in doing the research for having the purpose planning. According to Jabrohim (2003:1), “research is the activity of systematic process to solve the problem that supported by theory as the basic and fundamental to take conclusion”. This chapter is divided into four parts, as following are research design, data and data resources, data collecting technique and data analyzing technique to elaborate *The Tell Tale Heart* short story.

According to Jabrohim (2003:16), “data is factual information, information often in the form experiments or survey, used as a basic for making calculating or drawing conclusion”. The data source in this research is a the short story *The Tell Tale Heart* by Edgar Allan Poe, meanwhile the data are the dialogue and narative related to all about horror genre elements which appear in *The Tell Tale Heart* which taken from the short story by Edgar Allan Poe.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Tell Tale Heart as short story which is identified as horror genre’s work. The author placed himself as the main character inside of story which gained horror experience. In analyzing the characteristic of horror genre in Poe’s *The Tell Tale Heart* short story, the writer will focus on narration and dialogue. The writer found some of the characteristic such as oddity experience of character, explicit violence, characters anxiety, illogical story line, unsunresolved ending of story.

The ways that the writer does in this analysis are reading the narration and dialogue then interpreting them. The writer also analyzes the characters according to Sharicks related with the research question.

In analyzing the characteristics of horror genre in *The Tell Tale Heart*, the writer uses structuralism approach to support the analysis since the writer discusses about horror genre. The writer describes the data provided in the story. By looking at each characteristics of horror genre, responding the problem formulated in the previous chapter which is questioning characteristic horror genre seen in Poe’s *The Tell Tale Heart* short story, the writer explains them as following:

Oddity Experience of Characters

Based on Cambridge dictionary, oddity is someone or something that is strange and unusual. An oddity can be seen from their appearance or attitude. Besides that it influenced by the ghost, terror, and the character’s thinking that come to the main character as life. It usually starts from the character, plot, setting and others. An oddity of the characters can bring out the readers to imagine what will happen to the characters. It can be state by Gelder:

According to Gelder, horror gives the readers the chance to escape from his everyday life. Horror make the readers imagine what happened inside of the story. They try to escape their daily to imagine something that will give them emotional response. The readers are to imagine whatever they read, so their emotional can grow up. After the readers read and imagine the story, the readers get emotional from it, so the readers become interesting with emotional that have.

I loved the old man. He had never wronged me. He had never given me insult. For his gold I had no desire. I think it was his eye! yes, it was this! He had **the eye of a vulture --a pale blue eye**, with a film over it. (Poe, 1843:1)

By the data described, a narrator is a person that lives with the old man in one apartment. He shows how he loves him. But, an oddity comes from the old man's appearance. The data shows that the old man's eyes like the vulture eyes. This sharpness eye looks strange; it is something which is different from human's eyes. An oddity in this story happens when the narrator has the disease which sharpens his senses. So it makes him feel an oddity. He thinks that the old man's eyes like a vulture eyes. As we know vulture is a danger bird. It is the preyed carrion bird. It has acute eyes than the eagle. So, the even narrator is friendly and loves the old man, he feels strange to the old man's eyes and so hates the eyes as a vulture eyes.

Explicit Violence

The second characteristics of the horror genre are explicit violence. Horror story wants to evoke the emotional response of the readers with the accident or many kinds of horror story that horrible. The author evokes fear by abstract thing, so the readers will feel fearful. Violence is the way to make the readers feel the emotion that happens inside of the story. In the horror, story violence makes the storyline more interesting. Violence in horror story happened when the monster, ghost or antagonist character want to kill the protagonist character or their victim. When the violence happens, there is something happens that make the shock to the readers because readers cannot infer the storyline before. In the narration below, explicit violence can be seen from this data:

It was open --wide, wide open --and I grew furious as I gazed upon it. I saw it with perfect distinctness --all a dull blue, with a hideous veil over it that chilled the very marrow in my bones; but I could see nothing else of the old man's face or person: for **I had directed the ray as if by instinct**, precisely upon the damned spot. (Poe, 1843:4)

As described in previous data, the narrator said that he very hates the old man's eyes. For this time not only for his blood be run cold but also the old man's gaze has made his marrow tremble. Because narrator does not like the old man, so he does violence to him.

Character's Anxiety

Haunt is the way of character makes the story looks alive. Character is the human being in fiction who plays action in the story. The characters are doing activities like making a conversation or doing the activities. According to Gwynn, the character is divided into two,

they are protagonist and antagonist. The protagonist is the character who craved and doing a good action meanwhile antagonist is the character that is not desired in life experience because he has the bad attitude.

The protagonist also is the lead character of the central story and the main reason of the story develops. The antagonist is a character who operates in opposition of the lead character; it can be either human or animal. The antagonist character in this story is not only human, but it can be also ghost or monster. In the horror story, ghost as the antagonist character that haunted the protagonist character.

There are two types of characters they are static and dynamic characters. Dynamic characters are the character that has experience changes throughout the plot of a story. Although this character may change suddenly, it is expected based on the story's events. So, in this character, it can be happen development of the attitude of a situation of the character. The second is a static character. A static character is a character does not experience basic character changes during the course of the story, and this character is opposite with dynamic character. So, this kind of carácter does not development condition of the character.

By Gwynn statement, it correlated with the narrator as antagonist charácter and the old man as protagonist character. It described how the narrator is haunted by something sound. It also can be proved by the data:

It is impossible to say how first the idea entered my brain; but once conceived, **it haunted me day and night**. Object there was none. Passion there was none. (Poe, 1843:1).

By the data above, the writer can see the character in this story. The narrator is protagonist character, but the changes to antagonist character. In the beginning, the main character is protagonist character. But, since his disease, an idea comes to his mind when he can't control himself.

Illogical Story Line

Illogical of the story happens when the characters doing something without the reason, and it happens in thinking of people outside. The story is correlated with the plot to support the readers know how the illogical story describes. Besides plot, horror genre can be identifying by the setting of the place. The setting of the place is the important element to define the characteristics of horror. As we know that horror always places in the old building, cellar, in the night and dark condition. Therefore intrinsic element is important to explain the characteristic of the horror genre.

According to Hartoko (1985: 48), there are two types of plots. The first is the flashback plot (mixed plot) this technique is used by an author to display events in the past. The second is the flash-forward plot (progressive plot) this technique is easier to understand by the reader because the author tells the story chronologically.

By Hartoko's explanation, the writer can know how the story described whether the character back to the history or go straight until the end of the story. So, plot is one of intrinsic element that is important to support this analysis.

From the explanation above, can be proved by following data:

And this I did for seven long nights --every night just at midnight --but I found the eye always closed; and so it was impossible to do the work; for it was not the old man who vexed me, but **his Evil Eye**. And every morning, when the day broke, I went boldly into the chamber (Poe, 1843:2)

Related to Hartoko's, it is said that the importance of the plot in a story, the setting also is very helpful to support in running the story. Since it can support how the condition in the story. The setting in this story is in the night, actually at midnight, which is the old man sleeping. The narrator always comes to his room, but impossible for him to kill when the old man sleep. Because he wants to kill him when his eyes opened.

Unresolved Ending of Story

Unresolved ending happens when in the end of the horror story the ghost or antagonist character still appears. Besides that, the atmosphere and memories about the ghost still remain, and then antagonist character is still alive as usual. So, it makes the reader also curious about the end of the story. From the statement above can be seen from this data:

I was singularly at ease. They sat, and while I answered cheerily, they chatted of familiar things. But, ere long, I felt myself getting pale and wished them gone. My head ached, and **I fancied a ringing in my ears**: but still they sat and still chatted. (Poe, 1843:3)

From the data above, the narrator explained how unresolved ending happen after he killed the old man. He thinks that the old man was dead and his eyes never disturb him. But in this data, the narrator still feel the old men come. When he talking slowly with polices, he heard something sound from his ear directly. It makes him dizzy in his head, but in front of them, he tries to calm down.

CONCLUSION

After doing the analysis, the writer finally draws the conclusion that, The Tell-Tale heart short story presents horror genre. The writer use genre theory and structuralism as the approach. The writer was found the five characteristics of horror genre inside of this short story with the connected intrinsic element; those are character, setting, and plot. The first characteristic is oddity experience of characters. In this characteristic, the writer got an oddity from the old man as the protagonist that has a vulture eyes and narrator as antagonist character that his blood runs cold after see the old man's eyes, and then he heard a slight groan after the old man's death. The second characteristic is explicit violence. It happens when the narrator directs his lantern to the old man, he has dragged the old man on the floor and pulled the heavy bed over him, then he cuts the old man's body like the head, arms, and the legs. The third characteristic is character's anxiety. In every night the narrator just heard and thinks about death and the old man feels haunted from the terror that always distracted him. The fourth characteristic is illogical story line. It happens when just the old man's eyes, the narrator kills the old man. The last characteristic is unresolved ending of character. The narrator feels haunted by the sound of the old man after kill the old man, and the polices do not enter the narrator into the prison. From this research, the writer gives

information and contribution to the researchers who want to do similar research and to enrich reader's knowledge about horror genre especially in Poe's short story *The Tell-Tale Heart*

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