

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

Ana Istiqomah
English Literature

anaistiqomah@gmail.com

Abstract

In this research, the writer discusses a short story “The Tell-Tale Heart” by Edgar Allan Poe. The writer 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 writer 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

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 (Kardiansyah, 2017). 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 (Rusliyawati et al., 2021; F. M. Sari & Oktaviani, 2021). 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. According to Afrianto & Ma'rifah (2020); Fitri & Qodriani, (2016) 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 (Amelia & Daud, 2020; Qodriani, 2021). Science is a story based on an impact of potential science, either actual or imagined. Concerning with the background above the writer is interested to conduct in a research on what are the characteristics of horror genre in Edgar Allan Poe's *The Tell Tale Heart*.

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 (Journal & Kiranamita, 2021; Puspita, 2021a; K. Sari & Pranoto, 2021). 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 (Ahluwalia, 2020; Journal et al., 2021; Nababan & Nurmaily, 2021). The main purpose of horror story is generally to consider repulsive and incendiary in order to give the fear sense. 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.

LITERATURE REVIEW

This study applies structuralism approach. Structuralism is an understanding of elements of the structure itself with a mechanism of interrelation which is the interrelation of one element with the others. Structuralism in a literary work is the scientific term that used to guess a meaning of the text. Study of structuralism is not only related to the structure of language in that story but also the structure of a story that arranged based on sequences event (Athaya et al., 2021; Kardiansyah, 2019; Kardiansyah & Salam, 2020). Structural approach is an approach that works in analyzing the literature elements that build the structure of the literary work, as well as the relation to find these elements in order to achieve unanimity meaning (Amelia, 2021; Puspita, 2019; Science, 2019). The character of genre is great deal of dialogue, genre is the category of works that is characterized by similar plot, setting, and character, so the readers can easy to identify and understand about the characteristic of horror genre inside the story (Ivana & Suprayogi, 2020; Novanti & Suprayogi, 2021; Widianingsih & Gulö, 2016). This research uses genre study to make the writer easy in deterring what genre that will apply in this research. Besides that, the purpose is to entertain the readers, especially in Poe's The Tell Tale Heart, Poe wants the readers feel the emotion in its parts of the story, Poe want the readers imagine about the condition of the story.

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 (KENDRA, 2015; Octavia et al., 2020; Zuhud, 2014). It bound up with feelings of revulsion, disgust, and loathing. 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 (Oktavia & Suprayogi, 2021; Purwaningsih & Gulö, 2021; Sartika & Pranoto, 2021). Terror is often connected to an immediate threat. 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". 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.

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 (D. M. Sari et al., 2018) “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.

In this analysis, the writer applies library research and descriptive qualitative method. Library research is the way to collect the information from the books, article, journal, and web sources (Thornton & Houser, 2005). Meanwhile, in furnishing and strengthening a method of research, the writer also uses qualitative research. Qualitative research is multi method in focus, naturalistic approach to its subject matter (Baker & Edwards, 2012; Helmy et al., 2018; Suprayogi et al., 2021). This means that qualitative researchers study thing in their natural setting, attempting to make sense of the meaning’s people bring to them.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Oddity Experience of Characters

Oddity is someone or something that is strange and unusual. An oddity can be seen from their appearance or attitude (Mertania & Amelia, 2020). 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. Horror gives the readers the chance to escape from his everyday life (Booch et al., 1998). 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 (Lennon, 2008). 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.

2. 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.

3. 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 into two, they are protagonist and antagonist (Amelia & Dintasi, 2019; Yulianti & Sulistiyawati, 2020). 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 char

4. Illogical Story Line

Illogical of the story happens when the characters doing something without the reason, and it happens in thinking of people outside (Pratiwi et al., 2020; Puspita, 2021b). 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. acter; it can be either human or animal.

5. 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.

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 character 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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