

# A Study of Plot in Jostein Gaarder's The World According to Anna

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## ABSTRACT

This analyzes one of Jostein Gaarder's novels entitled *The World According to Anna* published in 2013. This novel story about of two sixteen-year-old girls, Anna and Nova. These two girls live in different times, Anna lives in 2012 and Nova lives in 2082. The whole story is shaped by the storyline. This discusses the plot of the story. The purpose of this analysis is to analyze the plot of the story. The study applies the qualitative method. The theories applied are plot theory. The results of the analysis carried out are as follows. First, the storyline is found. The opening introduces the main characters, namely Anna and Nova, who are sixteen-year-old girls. This story develops in complications, namely conflicts that arise due to the damage that the young Anna's generation did and resulted in Nova's generation suffering from the destruction of the earth. In the rising action, the damage that occurs makes the lives of Nova's generation miserable and makes Nova annoyed with the previous generations. The climax is when Nova blames the behavior of the generation of her great-grandmother, who is Anna and corners her to be responsible for the damage that has been done by her generation. The main problem of the story is the damage done by Anna's generation which causes the next generation to be miserable because the earth's nature has been damaged and is not good. At the resolution, it is found that Anna finds her earth gets a second chance to come back to life and thrive again with the help of a conservation tool proposed by Jonas.

**Keywords:** *Intrinsic approach, plot, theme, destruction of nature*

### Introduction

Literary work is a description of experiences and facts that occur in the past or the future.

The combination of these two elements,

namely experience and imagination that occurs is dedicated to a language that forms it into a literary work. Hudson stated that literature is life in language media with its

essence because it contains the real lives of people, their thoughts, and feelings about life (1958). Because literature is an expression of life with the important ideas that can be analyzed. Literary work has a meaning with whatever its form. Through the story, the reader is involved with the situation. John Reichert stated that the forms of literature are forms of life (1977). John Reichert explained the novel is one example of modern literature, drawn from life in finding inspiration to create plots, characters, settings, and story themes. The plot, characters, setting, and theme are intrinsic elements that are interrelated and cannot be separated so that it becomes a good story. There must be a meaning that the author wants to convey through a story.

The World According to Anna is one of the novels by Jostein Gaarder after he previously wrote a novel with the title *Sophie's World* (1991). The story tells about a girl, Anna, who is watching the destruction of the earth's ecosystem that has occurred due to the actions of his generation and makes the next generation (Nova) suffer because they cannot enjoy natural beauty when she was young. The story is presented with good words. The settings appear clearly and beautifully. Anna's desire to maintain

the earth's ecosystem is presented as one of the main characters, become the second character with interesting desire. Besides that, Nova becomes Anna in the future feels irritated and annoyed with the actions of the previous generation that has damaged the earth's ecosystem without leaving a trace of the beauty of the earth. Finding the story unfolds, the theme will be the next idea that pops up. Through the main characters, Anna and Nova is an important role in the story with the plot as events developed interestingly. These elements are interrelated and cannot stand alone.

This research is focused on plot analysis of *The World According to Anna* by Jostein Gaarder. The plot shows the storyline, where there are five elements in analyzing the plot, namely exposition, complication, rising action, climax, and finally resolution. In analyzing the plot, two types of conflicts can be found, namely internal and external conflicts. Therefore, in this study, the writer focus on plot analysis.

Another research has the same focus on analysis plot, one of them is Dominicus Ganang Aditya I, a student majoring in Indonesian Literature at Sanata Dharma University Yogyakarta in 2010, entitled

"Analysis of Plot, Characters, and Characterizations, and Setting in the Novel Tiba Tiba Malam by Putu Wijaya". The results obtained in the final project written by Dominicus concluded that every plot, character, and characterization, setting in the novel can be analyzed properly and easily, namely with double plots because more than one person is told about his life path, there are also characters and characterizations, namely Samantha. as the main character and other characters as additional characters, the setting in the novel there are three kinds of settings used, setting of the place, setting of time and social setting such as the setting of the place, namely port, village and city of Denpasar. The setting of time is a certain time, past time, and future time. The social background is seen from the community environment such as a sense of kinship and cooperation, the use of regional languages or certain dialects, and the depiction of cultural and religious cultures.

### **Plot**

The plot is the arrangement of story events that define the structure of a novel. Robert and Jacobs stated that the plot is a plan or basis of a story, with human motivation, with realistic human action (1987). The plot is one of the main elements in making a

story. The plot is found as the idea that determines how the story will go. The plot connects one action to another to make a good story. In the storyline, everything is interrelated. The plot elements are exposition, complication, rising action, climax, and resolution.

### **Exposition**

The atmosphere and conditions exist at the beginning of the story. Settings identified. The main characters with positions, circumstances, and relationships with each other are intertwined. An exciting force or initial conflict is introduced. Exposition is everything that becomes important in a story. Such as the character, background, characteristics, goals, limitations, and potential.

### **Complication**

A series of events, conflicts, and crises in the story that lead to a climax, provide progressive intensity and complicate the conflict. The basic part of building the sequence of events in a story is found in conflict. Conflict determines the next course of action or situation. Which is the main factor to create the main structure of the story. Robert and Jacobs stated that the plot of a story is an existing form of conflict,

consequence, variation, and development (1987). The complication is the main conflict in the story. With protagonist and antagonist characters, with ideas or values represented, such as good and evil, individualism, age, love and hate, knowledge, freedom and slavery, desire, and the like.

### **Rising Action**

Events that occur before the climax indicate the emergence of problems that occur in the story. The main character may face more conflicts in this part of the story, but the ending is inevitable. The escalating action of a story is that part of the plot that leads to a climax, where tension stemming from the story's central conflict grows through successive plot developments.

### **Climax**

The turning point of the story. An important event occurs and from this point forward, the protagonist moves towards the inevitable ending. Events can be actions or mental decisions made by the protagonist. The climax is the culmination of the conflict, and the resulting conflict tension is fully brought out. Climax can also be found by defining it as the point in the story where all other actions become inevitable.

### **Resolution**

Resolution or ending (letting go) is a series of actions that brings the story to its conclusion. The main act is completed and the final act, walking, underscores the record of finality. Furthermore, according to Stanton (1965). There are two important elements in the plot: conflict and climax. He divides the conflict into two parts i.e. internal conflict and external conflict.

Internal conflict is a conflict between two desires in a character. Here, the conflict occurs because of the opposing desires or values in the character's mind, and he has to choose what is best for him. This means the conflict that humans experience with themselves, which is more of an internal human problem. Such as conflict between two desires, beliefs, different choices, expectations, or other issues.

External conflict is a conflict that occurs between a character and something outside the character. As with the natural environment even with the human environment. External conflict is seen when characters fight fate and circumstances that exist between the characters and their goals.

In addition, it happened because of differences in opinion of the characters. These conflicts are interrelated, cause each other to occur, and can occur simultaneously. This means that conflict can occur and be experienced by a character in the story simultaneously, even though the level of intensity is not the same. The level of complexity of the conflict presented in a work of fiction in many ways determines the quality, intensity, and attractiveness of the work.

## **RESEACH METHOD**

### **Research Design**

This research used a qualitative method to analyze the plot in *The World According to Anna*. This method is used to make the conclusion at the end of the research, the researcher analyzes data comprising words, sentences, dialogues, or discourse. Walker states that a qualitative method is a method or research technique that seeks the context of information as much as possible so that the information obtained becomes more meaningful (1985). This method is relevant to this research to explain the plot in *The World According to Anna*.

### **Research Instruments**

The instrument of this research is the writer herself because all of the data collections are collected without other equipment such as a recorder or questioner. The writer read the whole story of *The World According to Anna* by Jostein Gaarder the data source then analyze the plot in Jostein Gaarder's *The World According to Anna*.

### **Data Source**

The data for this research is the novel *The Word According to Anna* by Jostein Gaarder which consists of 211 pages and published by Great Britain. Other data sources are some books and articles which relevant to the analysis. The book is used in the analysis plot of the story.

### **Data Collection Procedure**

In collecting data, the writer did several steps:

1. Choose a novel and read it several times.
2. The author tries to get a deeper understanding of the story and looks for topics that can be analyzed.
3. The author makes some notes and marks some parts that are considered important that might be used as support in the analysis.
4. Start analyzing the plot in Jostein Gaarder's *The World According to Anna*.

5. Collect the data found and arranged it according to the order of analysis.

### **Data Analysis Procedure**

After collecting the important required data from the novel, the writer begins to analyze the data with some steps:

1. The writer identifies the plot and classifies the data based on the theory of plot.
2. In the reading process, the writer interprets and explores the data deeply according to the writer's opinion or argument with investigating the adjusting and conforming with some reference and the experts' arguments.
3. The writer arranges all data and information from the novel as a result of interpretation and analysis in accordance with the arrangement that has been determined in the analysis.
4. The writer draws and evaluates conclusions according to plot theory that is relevant to the results of the discussion.

### **Discussion**

#### **Exposition**

Exposition is found at the beginning of the story. Starting with the introduction of the main character and the situation of the story.

The main character is a girl, Anna. She going celebrates the new year with her family to the mountain by using a sleigh. The right time for them to celebrate the New Year's celebration is precisely at night. The New Year's celebration when Anna turns ten years old, there is no snow, the temperature is high, or low, there is no snow pile. They can't go up to the mountain by sleigh, but they still have to go to the mountain on New Year's Eve, and they use a tractor. One week before celebrating New Year's Eve, reindeer appear in the village and a lot of strange news about the deer, as in the quotation:

"Frightened creature: Wild Reindeer in Mountain Villages." (Gaarder, 2013: 9)

Based on the quotation above show that is the first time Anna finds wrong news things happening around her, such as with the appearance of reindeer, her news, and also other dead animals found when Anna and her family are on their way to the mountains for New Year's Eve celebrations.

#### **Complication**

Based on the story, Anna is almost sixteen years old. She wakes up from her sleep in a different room with red walls and realizes it is not her room. The red-walled room is own

by a girl namely Nova who is almost sixteen years old in 2082, which means she has the same age as Anna. Anna wakes up as Nova and finds that her terminal has notified several animals that one by one has to disappear until Anna feels something odd with the notification, as in the quotation:

"She can feel her cheeks burning. "  
(Gaarder, 2013:28)

Based on the quotation above show that Anna becomes Nova with her emotions. She feels annoying and irritated with the information she gets through her terminal by information about several extinct animals. It also shows the internal conflicts that are starting to emerge, the conflicts that occur against the characters themselves.

The part when Nova finds Nana's paper and she is surprised by that, which in Nana's was Nova's great-grandmother, Anna, as in the quotation:

"Dear Nova. I don't know what the world will be like when you read this, but you know."(Gaarder, 2013:34)

Based on the story above, it is shown that Anna makes a short letter, which she writes and keeps in the archive on December 11,

2012, and Nova thinks how could Nana is her great-grandmother be able to give a short letter for her. Nova is still confused about Nana could have to keep a short letter for her for a long time, more than half a century, and maybe even the birth of a great-grandchild named Nova is not yet known.

### **Rising Action**

This part shows the initial problems encountered in the novel, is when Anna is becoming a Nova, a girl almost sixteen years old, in sit pensively and looking out the window and find her great-grandmother, her great-grandmother is Nana, its Anna, Nana comes to Nova room to talk with her, but Nova feels reluctant and annoyed. As in the quotation:

"You don't need to tell me anything. All I want to know is how to get the birds back."  
(Gaarder, 2013:40)

Based on the quotation above show that Nova feels annoys and irritated because Nana keeps talking about the chirping of birds, meanwhile, Nova always gets notifications about some animals and plants becoming extinct through an application in her terminal. It also shows an external

conflict that begins to emerge, a conflict that occurs between one character and another.

Nova met an Arab child, they met and became close after the child was treated by Nova while he was sick after that the Arab child said that he was traveling with his group because they had no place to live. Those who have travel because they have no place to live are usually referred to as climate immigrants, those who have travel about climate change experienced in the place where they lived before, as in the quotation:

"The town is still there, but they're hidden under the sand." (Gaarder, 2013:76)

In this section, the Arab boy shows a picture of his country but only has shown a desert and a tall tower, and makes Nova confused and asks the boy where his cities are. The boy tells that his country is still there, but it's covered by sand.

### **Climax**

The climax is the highest conflict, the section opens with Nova and her great-grandmother, Nana, Nana is an old Anna. Nana comes to Nova's room with an old ruby ring. Nova looks at her and thinks

about what is she doing in her room with the ruby ring and Nova also sees her great-grandmother always rubbing rubies on the ring sometimes. Nana asks Nova if she is interested in the ruby ring, but Nova doesn't answer. Nana talk that she come to talk about the chirping of the birds with Nova. But Nova refuses to talk, as in the quotation:

"You don't need to tell me anything. All I want to know is how to get the birds back." (Gaarder, 2013:40)

Based on the story above, shows that Nova is irritated by her great-grandmother's story. It also shows an external conflict that begins to emerge, a conflict that occurs between one character and another.

Nova wants to see the beauty of the clear sea and the various kinds of unique plants like when Nana can play in the sea every day, as in the quotation:

"Do you know what I want? Shall I tell you? I want a million plants and animals to come back from extinction. No more, no less, Nana. I want to drink clean water straight from the tap. I want to go fishing in the river. And I want this clammy winter weather to end." (Gaarder, 2013:41)



The story above shows that Nova says that she wants all the flora and fauna to return to the world, Nova is like corners her great-grandmother to accountability the actions of her generations in the past which had an impact on her generation who lose all flora and fauna and other beauties on this earth.

### **Resolution**

In this part, it is shown that Anna becomes Nova in the year 2082. Nova feels annoyed with her environment that has lost any flora and fauna due to extinction. Nova talks with her great-grandmother, Anna. Anna talks about what Nova does if the world and the earth have a second chance. Nova tells Anna that she be done to the earth is to keep it healthy, as in the quotation:

"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." (Gaarder, 2013:45)

Based on the story above, it is shown that Nana in 2082, tries to give confidence to Nova who is Anna from 2012 to keep the

earth that is still beautiful with a variety of flora and fauna like Nana's generation.

### **Conclusion**

The conclusion in finding related to this research titled "The Study Plot In Jostein Gaarder's The World According to Anna" focused on analyzing the plot in the story. The storyline of the plot is divided into five-element. The first is exposition. The introduction of the main characters, namely Anna and Nova, two girls are sixteen years old but live at different times. Anna lives in 2012 and Nova lives in 2082. The complication is the beginning of the conflict in the story, it is the damage Anna's generation has done to nature. The rising action is a conflict that grows. The damage done by Anna's generation is the main factor in the destruction of nature in Nova's generation. The climax is the conflict peak of all conflicts found. At the climax, discovering that the damage done by Anna's generation made the lives of Nova's generation miserable, Nova corners her great-grandmother to hold her accountable for what her previous generation had done. The resolution. The resolution is Anna finds her earth has one more chance to live and

thrive by Anna to protect it by using tools to conserve the earth.

The plot uses to organize events in chronological order. In the plot, Nova is jealous of her great-grandmother's generation because she can see the earth in good health. The damage of Anna's generation becomes the start point of all the damage that exists in Nova's generation. The story progresses until Anna finds her earth can return to health and grow with the protection of Anna's generation.

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