

ANALYSIS OF STORY FACTS IN *SHOPAHOLIC TIES THE KNOT NOVEL*

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Abstract

The evolution of literary works creation is based on life's reality. This study aims on two objectives, there are to find the story facts and to find the theme of the story on *Shopaholic Ties the Knot* Novel. The design of the study uses descriptive qualitative research design, which the researcher implements documentation method to collect the data with variables in the *Shopaholic Ties the Knot* Novel. The researcher analyzes that *Shopaholic Ties the Knot* Novel's contained the 5 story facts, there are title, plot, characters, setting, and symbolization. This study also found that the story mainly uses Wedding as the major theme and society expectation as the minor theme because the whole plot tells the journey of Becky Bloomwood to plan her dream wedding and her struggles with the idea of settling down Luke Brandon. This study is expected to contribute in literary works and to add some knowledge on literary theories the readers and the next researchers about determining the story facts and theme used in certain stories.

Keywords: Story Facts, Theme, Novel, Literary Works.

a. Introduction

People may find some literature that deal with humans' life and all the complexity. One of literature types that discusses humans with all of their behavior and different personalities in life is novel. According to Abrams (2009: 229), the term "novel" is currently used to refer to a wide range of publications that simply share the trait of being lengthy works of fiction published in prose. It signifies that a book is a work of fictitious writing that offers a complicated tale of human and other animal experiences, feelings, and thoughts. Moreover, it is usually

organized under a plot or a theme which concerns about the character development and action. Mulawarman et al. (2021) explained that novel elements involve theme, characters, setting and so on which make up the structure.

Using language as a tool for learning literature, the novel's structure creates an unbreakable unity in the plot. Furthermore, according to Stanton (2007: 17), those elements mentioned before are called “the factual structures” or “factual level” of the story. It is so obvious and totally makes the story more alive. It also one way in which the story details are arranged to outline the theme pattern.

A good novel contains excellent information for the readers. Reading is not only for enjoyment, but also to get knowledge. One of famous novels which conveys tons of knowledge regards to the vocabularies, cross culture understanding, moral values, social gap and inequality, and more was written by Sophie Kinsella entitled "Shopaholic Ties the Knot". It is a chick-lit novel which targeted at young women. This novel is the third in the popular Shopaholic series. It was first published in 2004. It got 2,788 reviews in Goodreads and became one of the most Goodreads Choice Awards finalists.

The story goes quickly, leaving with little time to catch breath. It also contains humor and some subtle jabs, in this case directed at the wedding industry. This sarcastic British humor, which also makes fun of the dowdy house wedding, is what makes this novel more appealing.

This novel outlines the different conflicts the main heroine encounters as she gets ready to get married. Because of the two persons' disparate socioeconomic statuses family background, these disputes develop. While her fiancé hails from a highly wealthy family, the main character is from a very modest background. Moreover, the quarter life crisis hits the male character seriously which led him to a big problem.

The researcher chose this novel because it delves into the theme of inequality between a rich and poor family in the context of a wedding which concerns powerful exploration of societal disparities and human emotions. Inequality is an ever-present issue in our world, and literature has always served as a mirror reflecting the complexities of such disparities. This novel's focus on a wedding setting provides a unique and intimate backdrop, as weddings symbolize not only a joyous occasion but also a convergence of different social classes, traditions, and expectations.

Moreover, this novel also discusses about quarter-life crisis which is relevant contemporary society and the personal struggles many individuals face in their early adulthood. In today's fast-paced and competitive world, young adults often find themselves grappling with immense pressure to make life-changing decisions. It provides a rich and nuanced portrayal of the internal battles faced by its characters as well. It delves into the emotional turmoil and self-doubt that arise when expectations clash with reality.

From the explanation stated, the researcher is interested in conducting a research entitled “The Elements of Fiction in Shopaholic Ties The Knot Novel”.

Conducting research on elements of a novel can provide a comprehensive and multi-faceted understanding of literary works. Here are some reasons for choosing

this topic. First, novels often reflect and comment on the society in which they were written. By investigating elements of fiction, researchers can identify how the novel addresses contemporary issues, societal norms, and cultural values. Second, story facts help place the novel within its historical, social, and cultural context. Understanding the historical events, prevailing ideologies, and cultural movements during. Next, the story facts in a novel allow for more nuanced comparative studies. The researcher can analyze how different authors from various periods and cultures used similar intrinsic elements to convey their messages, or how external influences impacted their storytelling techniques. Last, understanding the story facts novels can be valuable in educational settings. It equips students with critical thinking skills and encourages a deeper engagement with literature, fostering a deeper appreciation for the complexities of storytelling and the significance of historical and cultural contexts.

b. Literature Review

Novel

In accordance with Wicaksono (2017) a novel is a literary work that uses lots of sentences to create a story that is neither overly long nor underly short and is separated into two categories, namely fiction and non-fiction.

Moreover, a novel is a sort of narrative work that develops two elements, namely intrinsic and extrinsic elements, according to Nurgiyantoro (2010: 10), it also can be seen as a prose-style essay that tells a series of stories about a person's interactions with those around him while emphasizing the personalities and characters.

According to the definition given above, a novel is a type of literary work that allows the author to express their thoughts, creativity, and imagination through the development of a written story. By reading a novel, the reader's mind is stimulated by the author's imagination, and the reader may experience the emotions of the characters and the author through the situations established in the novel. Novels educate readers about culture, history, facts, and ideas in addition to providing entertainment.

Story facts

The most crucial components of any literary work, including novels, are those that are story facts. People usually call story facts as intrinsic and extrinsic elements. Any literary work must contain both intrinsic and extrinsic elements as a constructive component. Stanton (2007) defined intrinsic elements of a novel as the story facts. A literary work's imaginative components are known as its story facts. In other words, a story fact or intrinsic element is every element present in fiction since it is a component that can be discovered inside a work of fiction (Said, et al, 2022).

Stanton (2007: 20) categorizes story fact into six namely 1) title; 2) theme; 3) plot; 4) characters; 5) setting; 6) and symbolization.

c. Method

In order to analyze the data to draw conclusions and determine the research's conclusion, the researcher employs a descriptive qualitative research design. The terms qualitative research and descriptive research are sometimes used interchangeably.

Subject of the Research

The source data from this research is taken from novel entitled “Shopaholic Ties the Knot”. In this research, the researcher uses a documentation. Documentation is a way of collecting data dealing with the variables or things which have been written or printed.

Method and Data Collection

The technique that was used to collect the data in this research is based on some steps. First, the researcher reads a novel entitled “*Shopaholic Ties The Knot*”. Then, the researcher analyzes the fiction elements found in a novel entitled “Shopaholic Ties The Knot”. Finally, the researcher checks listing and tabulate the evidence which had connected with the questions through reading the novel and other references to support the result.

Method and Data Analysis

Miles et al. (2014)'s theory applied in this research data analysis process. They divided data analysis into three stages. The researcher will analyze the collected data by using 3 steps, there are Data Reduction to find the elements of fiction in the book. Then, the researcher will select the matches expression and sentence with the elements of fiction according to Robert Stanton’s theory. The second step, the researcher will display the data. The researcher shows the parts of the story facts which included in the novel. The researcher provides the data by using table contained with part of novel is included in the story facts, what categories of story facts they are, and why they are categorized as story facts. After done displaying the data, the researcher will draw the conclusion and verification to show the result and to give the suggestion.

d. Finding and Discussion

Collecting the data regarding story facts and the theme of story in Shopaholic Ties the Knot Novel, the researcher analyzed the novel. For analyzing the data, the researcher found five story facts namely 1) title; 2) plot; 3) characters; 4) setting; 5) and symbolization. The story facts are drawn in the table below.

Table 4.1. Story facts found in Shopaholic Ties The Knot Novel

No	Story Facts	Findings
a.	Title	<i>Shopaholic Ties the Knot</i>
b.	Plot	Chronological plot: 1) exposition, 2) complication, 3) rising action, 4) climax, and 5) resolution
c.	Characters	Main characters: 1) Rebecca Bloomwood, 2) Luke Brandon Supporting Characters: 1) Suze Cleath-Stuart, 2) Tarquin Cleath-Stuart, 3) Graham and Jane Bloomwood, 4) Elinor Sherman, 5) Michael Ellis, 6) Danny Kovitz, 7) Laurel, 8) Bill, 9) Amy Forrester
d.	Setting	1) Setting of time: the late 1990s and early 2000s 2) Setting of place: New York, various shops and boutiques, the Plaza Hotel, Becky and Luke's apartment, wedding venues, Britain 3) Setting of society: materialism and consumer culture, women in the workplace, societal expectations, familial expectations
e.	Symbolization	the wedding dress, the engagement ring, the confession letters, the financial crises, the wedding venue, the wedding cake,

The following is the description for each story facts found in the novel:

Title

After analyzing the data, the researcher found a title of this novel namely "*Shopaholic Ties the Knot*". The third edition of the well-liked Shopaholic series is Shopaholic Ties the Knot (2002). It's a chick-lit book written by Madeline Wickham's pen name, Sophie Kinsella. It follows the engagement and wedding preparations of Becky Bloomwood and her boyfriend, then her fiancé, Luke Brandon.

Here are some series of the novel: The Secret Dreamworld of a Shopaholic (2000) Shopaholic Abroad (2001); **Shopaholic Ties the Knot (2001)**; Shopaholic on Honeymoon (2014); Shopaholic and Sister (2004); Shopaholic & Baby (2007); Mini Shopaholic (2010); Shopaholic to the Stars (2014); Shopaholic to the Rescue (2015); Christmas Shopaholic (2019).

Plot

The story's plot serves as its framework, making the story understandable to the reader (Fauzan, 2016). A story's plot is, in general, a sequence of events. Without a grasp of the events connecting the plot, causality, and influence, a story cannot be properly comprehended. Plot has its own rules, much like other parts. The conflict and the climax are the two fundamental components of the story (Halim,

2003). The primary conflict involves specific traits and strengths colliding with one another. This type of conflict serves as the central theme of the narrative, which will continue to expand and change as the plot progresses (Stanton, 2007).

The plot stages in this study are based on the theory of Tasrif (Mahliatussikah, 2018) which consists of: (1) situation, (2) generating circumstances, (3) rising action, (4) climax, dan (5) denouement. In addition to this, Stanton (2007) divided the plot elements are (1) exposition, (2) complication, (3) rising action, (4) climax, and (5) resolution.

Characters

Characterizations and characters are two distinct concepts. Character refers to the person who portrays the character in the story whereas characterization describes the character or the character of the character (Nurgiyantoro, 2013). After analyzing the data, the researcher found 11 characters in the novel. There are two main characters of the novel namely Rebecca Bloomwood and Luke Brandon. Moreover, for the supporting characters are 1) Suze Cleath-Stuart, 2) Tarquin Cleath-Stuart, 3) Graham and Jane Bloomwood, 4) Elinor Sherman, 5) Michael Ellis, 6) Danny Kovitz, 7) Laurel, 8) Bill, 9) Amy Forrester.

Setting

The setting is the environment that surrounds the events in the story, the universe that interacts with ongoing events. Decorations can be used as backgrounds. A historical era, the weather, or specific times of day, month, or year can likewise serve as settings. The setting can serve as a summary of the characters who serve as the story's decorations, even when it does not specifically describe the main character (Stanton, 2007:35).

In this novel, the researcher found three types of setting namely setting of time, setting of places, and setting of society.

Symbolization

Symbols are used by the author to add depth to the story, convey themes related to love, marriage, consumerism, and personal growth, and provide insight into the character of Becky Bloomwood. Symbolization in "Shopaholic Ties the Knot" helps readers connect with the characters and their experiences on a deeper level. The researcher found some symbolizations of the novel namely the wedding dress, the wedding cake, the engagement ring, the confession letters, the financial crises, the wedding venue.

Theme Found in Shopaholic Ties The Knot Novel

According to Stanton (2007), a literary work's theme is its central notion or idea. According to (Nurgiyantoro, 2013), the topic is separated into main and minor themes. A minor theme is one that only appears in a certain section of a story, whereas a big theme becomes the overarching concept of a story.

A major theme of this novel is a wedding. Becky's journey to plan her dream wedding and her struggles with the idea of settling down with Luke is at the heart of the story. Becky has various doubts, anxieties, and the ultimate realization that marriage involves both love and compromise. It highlights the idea that while the

wedding may be a grand event, the real work lies in maintaining a committed, loving partnership.

Amidst the glittering streets of Manhattan, Becky discovers the magical realm of wedding boutiques, with each one becoming increasingly stunning than the one before. But the problems also increase as the wedding preparations get more complex. Becky is the center of attention as she tackles the ultimate fashion conundrum: selecting the ideal wedding gown that strikes a balance between her ostentatious style and the seriousness of the event.

Beyond the glitzy exterior, Sophie Kinsella (the author) deftly crafts a story of dedication amid the whirl of silk and tulle. Becky is making a commitment that will last a lifetime when she says "I do" to an amazing wedding.

The conflict between Becky's voracious thirst for luxury and the sincere dedication needed for a happy marriage is humorously explored in the novel. Readers are taken on an emotional rollercoaster as Becky jumps headfirst into bridal bliss, from deep realizations about the value of love and sacrifice to hilarious moments at odd bridal stores. As Becky navigates the difficulties of wedding planning, Kinsella's (the author) trademark wit comes through, demonstrating that commitment is a personal journey, much like fashion. "Shopaholic Ties the Knot" is a delightful and touching story that serves as a reminder that compromise, love, and humor are the real ingredients for a happily ever after—even in a world where finding the ideal wedding dress may be as difficult as finding the ideal match.

On the other hand, the minor theme is societal expectations. The novel subtly touches on societal expectations, particularly those related to weddings, gender roles, and career choices. Becky feels pressure to meet these expectations, but she also challenges and subverts them in her own unique way. The theme reflects the societal pressures and expectations individuals often face in various aspects of their lives.

Discussion

Based on the data analysis, it showed that there were five story facts namely 1) title; 2) plot; 3) characters; 4) setting; 5) and symbolization. All the story facts collaborate to produce a holistic and engaging story. Moreover, every component of the story facts plays a distinct role in the story's development, taking readers on a journey of learning, emotion, and reflection.

Every element of story facts plays a big role in the whole story. For instance, characters as the heart of any story, they bring the plot to life and enable readers to connect with the story. Characters that are well-developed have unique storylines, motives, and personalities. The relationships and interactions amongst the characters give the narrative dimension. For example, the internal conflicts or battles of the protagonist such Becky (the protagonist of Shopaholic Ties The Knot novel) with other characters can influence the plot and help the narrative progress as a whole.

It is supported by (Bahri et al., 2021), they found three part of story facts found in a *Collection of Short Stories for Girls Dancing in the Rain*. They were characters, plot, and setting. Moreover, (Abduh & Masruddin, 2023) conduct a research about analyzing the story facts from a story. He only found three parts of story fact namely plot, character, and setting from research entitled "*Structural Studies of Robert Stanton in The Folklore of Luwu (Worongporong dan Pariama)*". However, this structural study aims to link all the elements in the story to find a unified whole in the story. Every element of story facts that builds the story of Worongporong and Pariama is related to one another.

Theme Found in Shopaholic Ties The Knot Novel

After finding the story facts in Shopaholic Ties The Knot Novel, it enables the researcher define the theme of it. The researcher found the theme of two themes which divided into major and minor theme. The major theme of the novel is wedding, then the minor theme is society expectation.

The first story fact is the title. The title, "Shopaholic Ties the Knot," immediately implies that the focus is on Becky Bloomwood, the main character, and her shopaholic tendencies as well as the approaching commitment of marriage. This sets the tone for a story where themes of the story which is wedding, and the more serious commitment of a lifetime partnership will be explored.

The second one is the characters. The main characters of the novel are Becky Bloomwood and Luke Brandon. Becky Bloomwood is the main character and the embodiment of the shopaholic. Her transformation from a fashion fanatic to a soon-to-be wife illustrates the idea of personal development and the changing definition of commitment. Through her character, readers witness the challenges of reconciling extravagant tastes with the profound commitment marriage demands. Becky's fiancé, Luke Brandon, acts as a counterbalance to her compulsive shopping. The idea of compromise and the significance of shared principles in a committed partnership are emphasized by his understanding and patience. The novel's examination of commitment is aided by the dynamics between Becky and Luke.

The third story facts is plot. The plot follows Becky as she plans a lavish wedding, highlighting her wedding-perfect shopping excursions. As the story progresses, the plot investigates the deeper, more significant commitment that marriage requires rather than just focusing on the surface-level features of buying. The difficulties and humorous circumstances that Becky encounters set the stage for the main theme of the story.

The fourth story fact is setting. One of the settings of place set in New York, a bustling city known for its fashion-forward culture. The choice of setting reinforces the extravagance and glamour associated with Becky's shopaholic tendencies and the preference for conducting her wedding. It is associated with the story theme, wedding.

The last story fact is symbolization. One of s symbolization in this novel is wedding dress. For Becky, finding the ideal wedding gown turns into a symbolic journey. It symbolizes her quest for a well-balanced combination of her individual

style and her serious commitment of marriage, in addition to her wish to make a statement in style.

In summary, "Shopaholic Ties the Knot" utilizes its title, characters, plot, setting, and symbolization to weave a narrative that goes beyond the surface-level glamour of shopping and delves into the complexities of commitment, personal growth, and the interplay between material desires and emotional fulfillment in the context of marriage.

e. Conclusion

Based on the data analysis, it showed that there were five story facts namely 1) title; 2) plot; 3) characters; 4) setting; 5) and symbolization. Moreover, the researcher found the theme of two themes which divided into major and minor theme. The major theme of the novel is wedding, then the minor theme is society expectation.

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