

Intrinsic Elements in the Novel 7 Deaths by Nahriah Idrus

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Abstract: The novel, as a central literary genre, in particular, tells a deep and complex story, recording experiences at various epochs and conveying life's situations and values. And the instinctive demands that every literary work demands from its readers is an analysis of the overall structure of the fictional movement at the time of its narrative. The internal structure of the novel is analyzed using structuralism, which views literary works as integrated structures. Structuralism stipulates that research must focus on the elements and their functional relationships to provide a comprehensive understanding. Its intrinsic elements: subject, plot, characters, setting, language, point of view, and message are the elements that build the work from within. This study aims to: First, identify, describe, and interpret the intrinsic elements in the novel 7 deaths by Nahriah Idrus including: theme, characters and characterization, plot, setting, point of view, style of language, moral message; and Second, analyze the functional relationship between elements. The type of research applied is qualitative research with content analysis method. The results of the study on the intrinsic elements contained in the novel 7 Deaths by Nahriah Idrus, out of a total of 877 intrinsic elements, can be explained that the intrinsic element of setting or setting is the most dominant or numerous element. Therefore, it can be concluded that in the novel 7 Deaths by Nahriah Idrus, many settings or settings are used as intrinsic elements.

Keywords: Intrinsic Elements; Literary Discourse; Novel; Structural Analysis; Structuralism.

1. Introduction

Literature has long occupied a central position in human civilization because it functions not only as an artistic expression but also as a medium through which human experiences, values, emotions, and cultural identities are preserved and interpreted across generations. As a discipline of knowledge and a form of aesthetic creation, literature demonstrates that humans are linguistic beings capable of transforming language into artistic expression while simultaneously constructing meanings about life and society. Pranowo, as cited in Romadhon and Riskiyah (2022), explains that the term *sastra* etymologically originates from the Sanskrit root *śas*, meaning instruction or guidance, combined with the suffix *-tra*, which denotes an instrument or medium. This linguistic development was later enriched by the Javanese prefix *su-*, signifying goodness and beauty, thereby giving rise to the concept of *susastra*, which refers to literary works possessing both aesthetic and intellectual excellence. Similarly, Teeuw, as cited in Pitaloka (2021), defines literature literally as a medium of instruction or guidance, emphasizing its educational function alongside its artistic value. Consequently, literature should not merely be understood as entertainment but rather as a cultural institution that reflects human civilization while simultaneously transmitting ethical, philosophical, and educational values from one generation to another.

Beyond its etymological meaning, literature represents one of the most comprehensive forms of artistic expression because it integrates imagination, emotion, intellect, and social consciousness into a coherent linguistic structure. Literary works are created through the creative expression of ideas, feelings, and reflections on human existence while maintaining a close relationship with the cultural environment in which they emerge. Sukirman (2021) argues that literature constitutes the actualization of cultural conventions manifested through language and artistic imagination, enabling readers to discover both explicit and implicit meanings concerning humanity. Likewise, Suhita and Purwahida, as cited in Afrani et al. (2024), state that literature functions as a reflection of society, portraying social, cultural, political, economic, and moral realities through narrative representation. Through literary characters, settings, conflicts, and events, readers are able to understand the conditions of a particular historical period while simultaneously contemplating broader human experiences.

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Wuryani (2017) further emphasizes that literary works embody the intellectual creativity of authors and serve purposes extending far beyond entertainment by transmitting religious, social, ethical, and cultural values. From this perspective, literature functions simultaneously as an aesthetic product, a cultural archive, and a medium through which individuals interpret themselves and the societies in which they live. This understanding is reinforced by Hermawan and Shandi (2019), who explain that contemporary literary creation is characterized by the integration of aesthetic expression with both tangible and abstract dimensions of human life, allowing literary works to explore physical, psychological, social, and spiritual realities within a unified artistic framework.

Among various literary genres, the novel occupies a distinctive position because of its capacity to portray complex human experiences through extended narratives that integrate multiple characters, conflicts, settings, and thematic dimensions. Unlike shorter literary forms, novels provide sufficient narrative space for authors to construct intricate psychological development, social interaction, and philosophical reflection. Jamilah and Nurhasanah (2023) describe the novel as an imaginative representation of human life structured through interconnected intrinsic and extrinsic elements that collectively form a coherent literary work. Similarly, Yolanda et al. (2023) argue that a novel creates an imaginative world organized through interconnected intrinsic components, including events, plot, characterization, setting, point of view, and other structural elements that function as an integrated narrative system. Since novels originate from observations of human experiences, they possess the ability to communicate values, beliefs, conflicts, and moral dilemmas within realistic or imaginative contexts. Their extensive narrative structure also enables authors to examine complicated social and psychological issues that cannot be adequately represented through shorter literary genres. Consequently, novels become an important object of literary criticism because their structural complexity provides opportunities to investigate how literary elements interact in constructing coherent meaning and artistic unity.

The complexity of novel construction necessitates an analytical framework capable of examining literary works as integrated systems rather than collections of isolated elements. Structuralism provides such a framework by emphasizing the relationships among intrinsic elements that collectively generate textual meaning. Sukarto (2017) argues that structuralism should not be understood merely as a method but as an analytical doctrine that views literary works as combinations of interdependent elements forming an organized whole. Accordingly, structural analysis focuses on three fundamental aspects, namely the constituent elements, the functional relationships among those elements, and the totality emerging from their interaction. This perspective is consistent with Sangidu, as cited in Lestari et al. (2016), who defines structuralism as an approach that regards literature as a unified system whose constituent components derive their meanings through mutual relationships rather than independent existence. Nugraha (2023) further explains that although every literary work possesses a unique internal structure, its construction remains inseparable from broader systems of language and culture that shape literary expression. Likewise, Nurgiantoro, as cited in Cahyadi et al. (2014), defines literary structure as the systematic organization of all narrative components into an aesthetically unified whole. Therefore, structural analysis enables researchers to reveal how theme, characterization, plot, setting, point of view, language style, and moral message interact to construct narrative coherence and artistic significance. Understanding these intrinsic relationships is fundamental because literary meaning emerges not from individual elements alone but from their functional integration within the complete structure of the novel.

The significance of intrinsic elements has attracted considerable attention in literary studies because these elements constitute the internal framework through which narratives achieve coherence, aesthetic value, and interpretative depth. Intrinsic elements originate entirely from within the literary work and collectively determine its artistic identity. Nurgiantoro (2012), Sehandi (2016), and Purba et al. (2021) explain that intrinsic elements function as the fundamental foundation of literary construction, while extrinsic elements serve as complementary factors influencing interpretation. Similarly, Sijabat et al. (2024) argue that intrinsic elements consist of theme, characterization, plot, setting, language style, point of view, and other narrative components that together establish a literary work as an integrated artistic entity. Yanti and Neisya, as cited in Ekayani and Nur Sakinah (2025), further emphasize that intrinsic elements enhance readers' appreciation, stimulate critical thinking, and strengthen literary interpretation by revealing how narrative components interact within a unified structure. Amna and Rasyimah (2022) likewise identify theme, characters and characterization, plot, setting, language style, point of view, and moral message as the principal

intrinsic components that determine the completeness of literary texts. Each component contributes a distinct narrative function while simultaneously interacting with other components to construct textual unity. Theme represents the central idea that governs the narrative (Abrams & Harpham, 2012; Vendra, 2019), characterization shapes readers' understanding of fictional personalities (Abrams & Harpham, 2012; Putri et al., 2023), plot organizes events into meaningful causal relationships (Stanton, 1925; Heni, 2021; Riyadi et al., 2017), setting establishes spatial, temporal, and sociocultural contexts (Normayunita et al., 2015; Wellek & Warren, 1949), language style creates aesthetic and emotional effects (Abrams & Harpham, 2012; Akbar et al., 2024), point of view regulates narrative perspective (Stanton, 1925; Nurulanningsih & Senja, 2024), and moral message communicates ethical reflection through narrative development (Abrams & Harpham, 2012; Gowasa, 2024). Consequently, investigating these intrinsic components collectively provides a comprehensive understanding of how literary meaning is systematically constructed.

Previous studies have demonstrated the importance of intrinsic element analysis in revealing the structural and thematic characteristics of literary works. Fadhilawati (2023), through an analysis of Andrea Hirata's *Laskar Pelangi*, concluded that the integration of theme, characterization, cultural representation, and narrative perspective effectively conveys values of resilience, hope, education, and social transformation while enriching literary learning. Likewise, Jannah and Rahmawati (2025), in their analysis of Tere Liye's *Teruslah Bodoh Jangan Pintar*, identified a combination of mixed plot, multidimensional settings, omniscient point of view, and moral messages emphasizing perseverance, mutual respect, and social justice. Furthermore, Zikra and Nucifera (2025), in their structural study of Almira Bastari's *Home Sweet Loan*, demonstrated that economic struggle, progressive narrative development, urban settings, communicative language, and coherent characterization collectively establish emotional engagement and structural unity. These studies consistently confirm that intrinsic elements function as interconnected narrative components rather than isolated textual features. Nevertheless, previous investigations primarily concentrate on identifying and describing individual intrinsic elements within literary works. Although such analyses successfully explain the existence and characteristics of these components, relatively limited attention has been devoted to examining how the intrinsic elements interact functionally to generate narrative coherence, psychological depth, and artistic integrity within a literary structure.

This limitation becomes particularly relevant in relation to Nahriah Idrus's novel *7 Kematian*, a contemporary Indonesian novel that presents a psychologically complex narrative revolving around repeated deaths, intergenerational trauma, concealed family secrets, emotional conflict, and the continuous struggle between rational explanations and mystical beliefs. The narrative portrays a series of interconnected tragedies experienced by members of a single family, where every death gradually reveals hidden conflicts, unresolved guilt, and psychological suffering that extend across generations. Rather than relying solely on suspense or mystery, the novel constructs its emotional intensity through the interaction of thematic development, characterization, narrative progression, symbolic settings, reflective language, shifting perspectives, and moral reflection, thereby producing an integrated literary structure. The novel therefore provides an appropriate object for structural analysis because every intrinsic element contributes not only independently but also functionally to the development of the entire narrative. Examining these interrelationships is expected to provide a more comprehensive understanding of how literary meaning is constructed and how aesthetic, psychological, and moral dimensions emerge through the interaction of narrative components instead of through individual elements alone.

Based on these considerations, this study addresses the existing research gap by investigating not only the intrinsic elements contained in Nahriah Idrus's *7 Kematian* but also the functional relationships among those elements within the structural framework of the novel. Unlike previous studies that predominantly describe individual intrinsic components separately, the present research adopts a structuralist perspective emphasizing the interdependence of theme, characterization, plot, setting, language style, point of view, and moral message as mutually reinforcing components that collectively construct narrative unity. Accordingly, the novelty of this study lies in its comprehensive analysis of both the identification of intrinsic elements and the examination of their functional integration in producing the novel's structural coherence and literary meaning. The findings are expected to enrich structural literary criticism, contribute to the development of Indonesian literary studies, and provide valuable references for literature teaching at secondary schools and higher education institutions. Furthermore, this research seeks to demonstrate that

understanding the internal relationships among intrinsic elements offers a deeper appreciation of literary works than merely identifying each narrative component independently, thereby strengthening the relevance of structural analysis in contemporary literary scholarship.

2. Literature Review

Learning Media

Learning media can broadly be defined as tools or facilities that function as intermediaries in the interaction process between teachers and learners. Their primary purpose is to facilitate educational and instructional activities that enable students to acquire knowledge, develop skills, reinforce previously learned concepts, and support the achievement of high-quality educational objectives.

When utilizing learning media, teachers should carefully consider the principles and guidelines governing their effective implementation. Learning media should facilitate the learning process rather than become an obstacle resulting from teachers' insufficient understanding of appropriate instructional practices. Proper selection and implementation of learning media are essential for maximizing learning outcomes.

The development of learning media should consider the characteristics of the target learners to ensure that instructional messages effectively reach the intended audience and achieve the desired educational objectives. According to Widyantini and Sigit (2009), the use of learning media provides several advantages: (1) students gain meaningful and authentic learning experiences, making instructional materials easier to understand; (2) students' learning motivation is enhanced; and (3) students are encouraged to retain and recall previously acquired knowledge.

Objectives, Functions, and Roles of Learning Media

Learning media constitute an inseparable component of the instructional process and play a crucial role in achieving educational objectives. They facilitate effective interaction between teachers and students throughout the learning process. Learning media include physical devices and instructional resources used to deliver educational content.

According to Kemp and Dayton, as cited in Arsyad (2013, p. 23), learning media serve three primary functions: (1) motivating learners' interest and encouraging action, (2) presenting information, and (3) providing instructional guidance. To fulfill the motivational function, learning media may incorporate entertaining or dramatic techniques that stimulate learners' engagement.

Levie and Lentz identified four primary functions of learning media, particularly visual media. First, the attention function attracts and directs students' focus toward instructional content. Second, the affective function is reflected in the enjoyment and positive learning experiences students gain during instruction. Third, the cognitive function is supported by research demonstrating that visual symbols and images facilitate learners' understanding and retention of information. Finally, the compensatory function enables visual media to provide contextual support that assists students with limited reading abilities in comprehending textual information, organizing knowledge, and recalling learned concepts more effectively.

The Use of Learning Media

The selection of instructional media should be guided by several principles that correspond to the characteristics of the chosen media. These principles assist teachers in selecting and utilizing appropriate media throughout the instructional process. One essential principle is objectivity, meaning that learning media should not be selected solely based on teachers' personal preferences or for entertainment purposes. Instead, media should be carefully chosen to maximize students' learning effectiveness.

Another important consideration is understanding the advantages and educational benefits offered by each type of learning media. Teachers should also possess comprehensive knowledge of the characteristics, strengths, and limitations of different instructional media. Careful selection based on these characteristics contributes significantly to the effectiveness of the teaching and learning process.

Games

According to Hermawan, Herumurti, and Kuswardayan (2017, p. 196), the concept of games has been widely discussed with various definitions. Although these definitions differ in several aspects, they share common characteristics. A game is an activity that engages players in pursuing specific objectives governed by predetermined rules. Games are structured through gameplay rules that depend on players' actions. They represent a controlled yet

voluntary system involving challenges or conflicts that are constrained by procedures designed to achieve particular goals.

Games are interactive forms of play that involve interaction with other players, the game system itself, or elements of chance and uncertainty. They are structured activities with clearly defined objectives that provide engaging and enjoyable experiences. Furthermore, the integration of interactive mathematics learning media, such as those developed using the Articulate Storyline platform, has been shown not only to improve students' learning outcomes but also to foster independent learning and critical thinking skills among elementary school students (Kusumandari et al., 2025, 2026).

3. Research Method

This study employed a qualitative research design using the content analysis method. Content analysis enables researchers to systematically identify, classify, interpret, and describe textual data based on predetermined analytical categories. The data obtained were organized into categories corresponding to the research objectives, while the interpretation of textual meaning was continuously refined and verified throughout the analytical process.

Content analysis is a technique designed to interpret symbolic messages embedded within discourse or written texts. In this study, the object of analysis was Nahriah Idrus's novel *7 Kematian*, in which the primary ideas were examined as manifest content, while contextual meanings were explored as latent content (Wajidi, 1991; Mayring, 2022). Through this approach, the researcher was able to examine the document comprehensively to reveal both its explicit and implicit meanings. Wuradji (2001) further explains that content analysis is applicable to various forms of documents, including written manuscripts, images, graphs, paintings, textbooks, magazines, and other documentary sources.

Ratna (2007) further argues that while qualitative interpretation primarily emphasizes naturally occurring situations, content analysis focuses on interpreting the messages contained within textual materials. Consequently, content analysis is particularly appropriate for documents that contain rich narrative and symbolic content, making it suitable for literary research.

The data analysis procedures in this study followed the interactive model proposed by Miles and Huberman (2007), consisting of data collection, data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing/verification.

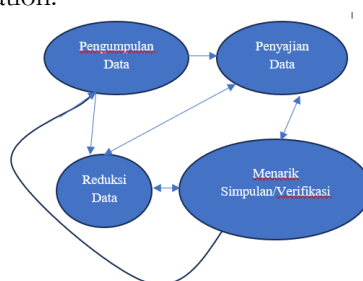


Figure 1. Components of the Interactive Data Analysis Model

The first stage involved data collection. Data were collected through an extensive review of books, scientific journals, and other scholarly references relevant to the research topic. The primary source of data was the novel *7 Kematian* by Nahriah Idrus.

The second stage consisted of data reduction. After the data had been collected, relevant information was selected, organized, and simplified to facilitate further analysis. Data reduction began as early as the formulation of the conceptual framework, continued through the selection of the research object, and extended to determining the most appropriate procedures for collecting and analyzing the data.

The third stage involved data display. Following data reduction, the collected data were systematically organized, described, and analyzed according to the research questions. The findings were presented either separately or in relation to one another to facilitate interpretation and conclusion drawing. Throughout this stage, the analysis was conducted objectively while maintaining consistency with the literary context of the novel.

The final stage involved drawing conclusions and verification. At this stage, conclusions were formulated based on the comprehensive interpretation of the analyzed data. Whenever necessary, the researcher revisited the data to verify interpretations and ensure the consistency of the findings. This iterative verification process was conducted by continuously referring to the reduced data. According to the principles of content analysis, this procedure aims not

only to generate knowledge and present factual findings but also to provide new insights and practical guidance for literary analysis.

This research was conducted through several systematic stages designed to achieve the primary objective of analyzing and describing both the intrinsic elements and their functional relationships in Nahriah Idrus's novel *7 Kematian*. The research procedure consisted of three major stages.

The first stage was needs analysis, which focused on identifying the research data and determining the analytical framework. This stage included: (a) identifying the selected novel through available sources; (b) identifying the intrinsic elements contained in the novel; (c) analyzing the intrinsic elements identified within the narrative; (d) describing and classifying each intrinsic element; and (e) describing the functional relationships among the intrinsic elements.

The second stage was data collection, which comprised: (a) selecting the novel as the research object; (b) compiling data related to the intrinsic elements identified throughout the novel; (c) describing and classifying the collected data into analytical worksheets; and (d) documenting the functional relationships among the identified intrinsic elements.

The third stage involved data analysis and description, focusing on the comprehensive examination of the intrinsic elements, including: (a) theme; (b) characters and characterization; (c) plot; (d) setting; (e) language style; (f) point of view; (g) moral message; and (h) the functional relationships among these intrinsic elements within the overall narrative structure.

The data in this study were collected using documentation and library research techniques. According to Apriyanti et al. (2019), documentation is a method of collecting research data by identifying, retrieving, and utilizing existing documentary sources relevant to the research objectives. Meanwhile, library research refers to the systematic process of collecting information from written sources such as books, journal articles, theses, dissertations, and other scholarly publications directly related to the research problem.

Accordingly, documentation and library research were employed to examine books, scientific journals, novels, articles, and other relevant references. These techniques enabled the researcher to obtain comprehensive data regarding the intrinsic elements contained in Nahriah Idrus's novel *7 Kematian*.

Table 1. Instrument for Recapitulating Findings of Intrinsic Elements in Nahriah Idrus's Novel *7 Kematian*

No.	Kalimat	Unsur-unsur Intrinsik						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								

Notes:

1. Theme
2. Characterization
3. Plot
4. Setting
5. Point of View
6. Language Style
7. Moral Message

Table 2. Instrument for Classifying the Findings of Intrinsic Elements in Nahriah Idrus's Novel *7 Kematian*

No.	Unsur Intrinsik	Jumlah	Persentase
1	Tema		
2	Tokoh atau Penokohan		
3	Alur atau <i>Plot</i>		
4	Latar atau <i>Setting</i>		
5	Sudut Pandang		
6	Gaya Bahasa		
7	Amanat		
TOTAL			

Where:

Σ = Percentage of the identified data

x = Number of occurrences (frequency)

y = Total number of identified data

100% = Constant value

Ultimately, this study is expected to produce a comprehensive analysis and description of the intrinsic elements contained in Nahriah Idrus's novel *7 Kematian*. In addition, the study examines the functional relationships among these intrinsic elements to demonstrate how they collectively construct a unified literary structure. The findings are expected to contribute to structural literary criticism and serve as valuable learning resources for literary theory in both secondary and higher education.

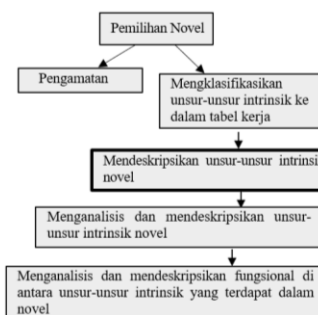


Figure 2. Research Flow Diagram

The research flow diagram illustrates the sequential stages of the study, particularly emphasizing the data analysis process, beginning with data collection, followed by data reduction, data display, interpretation, analysis of intrinsic elements, examination of their functional relationships, and concluding with the formulation of research findings.

4. Results and Discussion

The description of the research findings provides an overview of the data analyzed in this study. The data concerning the intrinsic elements were derived from Nahriah Idrus's novel *7 Kematian*. The intrinsic elements examined include theme, characters and characterization, setting, plot, point of view, language style, and moral message. In addition, this study describes the functional relationships among these intrinsic elements to explain how they collectively construct the internal structure of the novel.

The synopsis of *7 Kematian* is as follows. The novel narrates a multilayered tragedy originating from a single family and its surrounding relationships. Death occurs repeatedly, leaving profound psychological trauma for those who survive. From the very beginning, the narrative establishes a dark and suspicious atmosphere, suggesting that every loss is not merely an unfortunate event but part of a series of interconnected incidents. Each death contributes to an increasingly complex mystery, gradually revealing that the family's suffering stems from hidden truths that have long remained concealed.

Ginda becomes the central figure of the narrative because she is the only surviving witness to every episode of loss. She preserves memories of seemingly insignificant events, subtle behavioral changes, and fragmented observations that gradually develop into a pattern of suspicion. Through Ginda's perspective, readers are invited to explore an ordeal that never truly ends while uncovering concealed truths. The death of Elea marks the beginning of the family's disintegration. What initially appears to be a devastating tragedy gradually exposes unresolved conflicts that had remained hidden beneath the surface for years. As a result, the family home transforms from a place of mourning into a space dominated by tension, distrust, and emotional instability. At first, Galang appears to be the most compassionate family member, expressing deep sympathy and overwhelming grief while seemingly burdened by guilt.

As the story progresses, however, Galang's behavior becomes increasingly ambiguous. His apparent remorse gradually appears to be a carefully constructed façade concealing motives far different from genuine compassion. In contrast, Tias is portrayed as the most emotionally fragile character. The accumulation of repeated losses and overwhelming psychological pressure gradually weakens her mental resilience. Exploiting this vulnerability,

Galang manipulates those around him, suppresses suspicion, and successfully conceals the truth behind the unfolding tragedies.

Sadzelly represents the connection between unresolved conflicts of the past and the tragedies of the present. Tias's decision to entrust Sadzelly to another family becomes a lifelong source of regret that can never be undone. Galang deliberately exploits this guilt to intensify the emotional conflicts experienced by other characters while simultaneously obscuring the truth. Sadzelly's existence illustrates how a single decision may generate long-term consequences that ultimately culminate in tragedy. Behind this storyline stands Firman, Sadzelly's father, who silently bears profound suffering and suppressed anger. He is portrayed as a quiet yet resolute individual whose disappointment toward those responsible for his daughter's suffering remains deeply concealed. Although he gradually realizes the truth concerning Galang's behavior and the circumstances surrounding Elea's life, he chooses silence. His fear of experiencing another devastating loss prevents him from revealing the truth, allowing injustice to continue unchecked.

Rubaya symbolizes emotional wounds and hidden family secrets. Although she appears calm on the surface, she carries deep psychological burdens accumulated over many years. As the guardian of the family's secrets, her personal history provides crucial insight into the origins of the family's conflicts and tragedies. She is aware that Firman possesses similar knowledge, yet both remain silent in an attempt to preserve family stability. Their collective silence demonstrates how passive complicity may enable wrongdoing to persist and expand. Through Rubaya's experiences, the novel illustrates that unresolved trauma can be transmitted across generations, shaping emotional relationships long after the original events have occurred.

Puspita represents innocence and fragile hope within the narrative. Her close relationship with the principal characters places her in an increasingly vulnerable position. Rather than restoring optimism, her presence ultimately highlights the sharp contrast between hope and the harsh realities experienced by the family. At the same time, Galang emerges as a character profoundly haunted by guilt. He gradually realizes that many of his past decisions, particularly those involving his treatment of others, have contributed to the chain of tragic events. This overwhelming guilt intensifies his internal conflict while simultaneously reinforcing his obsession with maintaining control over those around him. As the narrative unfolds, Galang is ultimately revealed as the principal perpetrator responsible for the series of deaths. His motives are driven by obsession, the desire for power, and the fear of losing control. Death becomes a means of eliminating perceived threats and preserving his dominance within the family. Meanwhile, Ginda gradually pieces together fragments of truth from her memories and observations. She eventually realizes that every death is connected to Galang, placing herself in grave danger as she approaches the complete truth.

The family house serves as a powerful symbol of concealed evil throughout the novel. More than a physical setting, it becomes a repository of trauma, secrets, and fear. For Firman, the house represents the place where he lost his trust in those closest to him, while for Ginda it functions as an archive of memories that cannot be erased. The climax of the novel occurs when Firman finally decides to speak out in order to protect Sadzelly. His testimony exposes Galang's crimes and fundamentally alters the family's understanding of the tragedies they have experienced. This revelation demonstrates that truths suppressed for years ultimately intensify rather than prevent suffering.

Through a predominantly reflective and emotionally expressive language style, Nahriah Idrus emphasizes psychological conflict rather than physical action. The narrative unfolds gradually, allowing readers sufficient space to understand the emotional complexity experienced by each character, particularly in confronting repeated and unavoidable loss. This narrative technique strengthens readers' emotional engagement while encouraging deeper reflection on the psychological consequences of grief, guilt, fear, and unresolved trauma.

The conclusion of *7 Kematian* offers a profound reflection on concealed crime, collective silence, and intergenerational trauma. Through Galang as the perpetrator, Ginda as the witness, and Firman as the father who speaks only after years of silence, the novel demonstrates that silence can be as destructive as the crime itself. Beyond presenting a sequence of tragic events, *7 Kematian* explores grief, guilt, forgiveness, and the process of accepting irreversible loss. The novel further portrays the resilience of individuals attempting to survive amidst layered psychological trauma while questioning the boundaries between destiny and human choice. Through its emotionally driven plot, psychologically complex characters, and coherent narrative structure, Nahriah Idrus presents a literary work that not

only evokes deep emotional responses but also encourages readers to reflect upon the meaning of death, human responsibility, and the continuity of life after profound loss.

Analysis of Intrinsic Elements in *7 Kematian* by Nahriah Idrus (Part 1)

The analysis of intrinsic elements in Nahriah Idrus's *7 Kematian* demonstrates that the novel is constructed through a coherent interaction of narrative components that collectively establish its literary unity. From a structuralist perspective, a literary work should not be interpreted merely as a collection of independent elements but rather as an integrated system in which every component contributes to the formation of meaning (Sukarto, 2017). The findings of this study indicate that the novel consistently integrates theme, characterization, plot, setting, point of view, language style, and moral message into a unified narrative structure. Rather than functioning independently, these intrinsic elements complement and reinforce one another throughout the story, producing psychological depth and narrative coherence. The predominance of psychological conflict over physical action illustrates the author's intention to foreground emotional development and moral reflection. The repeated occurrences of death, secrecy, and family conflict are not presented as isolated events but as interconnected narrative devices that gradually reveal hidden truths. This finding supports the structuralist argument proposed by Sangidu (as cited in Lestari et al., 2016) that literary meaning emerges from the relationships among textual elements rather than from individual components alone. Furthermore, the organization of these elements corresponds to Nurgiyantoro's conception of literary structure as an aesthetic unity whose effectiveness depends upon the harmonious integration of its constituent parts (Cahyadi et al., 2014). Consequently, the intrinsic elements identified in *7 Kematian* function collectively to construct a psychologically complex narrative that invites readers to interpret the hidden motives, emotional struggles, and ethical dilemmas experienced by the characters.

Among the intrinsic elements identified, **theme** functions as the central organizing principle governing the progression of the narrative. The analysis reveals that the dominant themes encompass grief, family loyalty, guilt, sacrifice, hidden crime, emotional resilience, and the search for truth. These thematic dimensions are consistently reflected throughout the novel and become increasingly apparent as each death uncovers previously concealed conflicts within the family. The document analysis further indicates that themes are reinforced through various narrative situations, including familial affection, emotional suffering, and moral responsibility, as evidenced by the quotation emphasizing unconditional family love: *"We are family. A mother will continue to love her child despite knowing the many flaws within that child"* (7 K, p. 15), which illustrates the central theme of unconditional familial devotion and forgiveness. In another example, the relationship between Ginda and Sadzelly reflects themes of love and sacrifice that drive the emotional development of the narrative. These findings are consistent with Abrams and Harpham (2012), who define theme as the central idea that unifies narrative events and conveys broader human experiences through literary representation. Likewise, Vendra (2019) argues that theme functions as the conceptual foundation guiding readers' interpretation of the entire narrative. In *7 Kematian*, the thematic emphasis extends beyond individual loss to encompass broader reflections on collective silence, moral accountability, and the enduring consequences of unresolved trauma. Consequently, the thematic construction not only determines the direction of the plot but also shapes readers' understanding of the psychological and ethical dimensions embedded within the novel.

The analysis of characters and characterization demonstrates that characterization functions as one of the strongest structural components supporting the narrative development of *7 Kematian*. The document analysis identifies Ginda as the central protagonist whose psychological development becomes the primary medium through which readers interpret the unfolding mystery. Rather than portraying an idealized heroine, Nahriah Idrus constructs Ginda as an emotionally dynamic character whose perceptions gradually evolve from confusion into critical awareness. Meanwhile, Galang is presented as a multidimensional antagonist whose outward compassion conceals manipulation, obsession, and violence. Other major characters, including Tias, Firman, Rubaya, Sadzelly, Puspita, and Elea, are not merely complementary figures but serve distinct narrative functions that enrich the psychological complexity of the story. The findings further indicate that each character represents particular emotional conditions, including grief, guilt, fear, sacrifice, hope, and moral responsibility. For instance, Sadzelly is portrayed as an independent and rational individual despite being raised within an affluent family, illustrating themes of responsibility and personal integrity. Likewise, Rubaya's silence and Firman's emotional restraint contribute significantly to the atmosphere of uncertainty that dominates the narrative. These findings correspond with Abrams and

Harpham (2012), who argue that characterization encompasses not only physical description but also the moral, intellectual, and emotional qualities manifested through thought, dialogue, and action. Similarly, Nurgiyantoro (as cited in Putri et al., 2023) emphasizes that literary characters acquire meaning through their interactions and behavioral development within the narrative. Consequently, characterization in *7 Kematian* functions not only to individualize fictional personalities but also to embody the novel's broader psychological and moral concerns.

The plot structure of *7 Kematian* illustrates a carefully organized sequence of interconnected events in which every episode of death gradually contributes to revealing the hidden truth behind the family's tragedy. Rather than relying exclusively on chronological narration, the novel combines progressive narrative movement with retrospective revelations, allowing readers to reconstruct the causal relationships among past and present events. This narrative organization creates continuous suspense while encouraging readers to interpret fragmented information alongside the protagonist. The analysis further reveals that every conflict emerges logically from preceding events, demonstrating a clear causal progression consistent with Stanton's (1925) conception of plot as an ordered sequence of events connected through cause-and-effect relationships. Likewise, Heni (2021) argues that plot functions as an artistic arrangement intentionally designed by the author to produce emotional and aesthetic effects. In *7 Kematian*, repeated deaths are not isolated incidents but interconnected narrative milestones leading toward the exposure of Galang's hidden crimes. The gradual disclosure of evidence through Ginda's observations intensifies psychological tension and sustains readers' curiosity throughout the novel. Moreover, emotional conflicts are consistently intertwined with external events, allowing the plot to function simultaneously as a mystery narrative and a psychological exploration of guilt, trauma, and family disintegration. Such findings demonstrate that the effectiveness of the plot derives from its ability to integrate emotional progression with structural coherence, thereby maintaining both narrative continuity and thematic consistency.

The remaining intrinsic elements—setting, point of view, language style, and moral message—collectively reinforce the emotional atmosphere and philosophical depth of the narrative. The findings indicate that the family house functions not merely as a physical location but as a symbolic space representing trauma, secrecy, distrust, and emotional imprisonment. Likewise, environmental descriptions such as heavy rain, thunderstorms, and darkness repeatedly accompany scenes of death and mourning, strengthening the psychological atmosphere experienced by both characters and readers. These observations support Wellek and Warren's (1949) argument that setting functions simultaneously as narrative context and symbolic representation of character psychology. Furthermore, the predominance of the first-person narrative perspective allows readers direct access to the protagonist's emotional reflections, making abstract experiences such as confusion, grief, and inner conflict more immediate and persuasive. The stylistic analysis also demonstrates Nahriah Idrus's extensive use of figurative language, including simile, metaphor, hyperbole, personification, and multisensory imagery to intensify emotional expression. For example, the comparison of a character's gaze to "the sharp edge of a sword" and the metaphor describing emotional calm as "embers slowly cooled by clear water" significantly enhance readers' visualization of psychological transformation. Finally, the novel consistently conveys moral messages emphasizing critical thinking, self-control, familial responsibility, and ethical awareness, particularly through explicit reminders not to accept information uncritically and to recognize the destructive consequences of uncontrolled desire. Collectively, these intrinsic elements complement one another to produce a unified literary structure characterized by psychological realism, emotional intensity, and profound moral reflection.

Table 3. Recapitulation of the Intrinsic Elements Identified in *7 Kematian* by Nahriah Idrus

Intrinsic Element	Principal Findings	Structural Function
Theme	Grief, family loyalty, guilt, hidden crime, sacrifice, and the search for truth.	Organizes the overall narrative meaning and integrates all intrinsic elements into a coherent story.
Characters and Characterization	Ginda, Galang, Firman, Rubaya, Tias, Sadzelly, Puspita, and Elea, each representing different psychological and moral dimensions.	Develops psychological conflict, advances the storyline, and reinforces the novel's central themes.
Plot	A progressive investigative plot combined with retrospective	Creates suspense, maintains reader curiosity, and establishes logical

	revelations that gradually uncover past events.	cause-and-effect relationships throughout the narrative.
Setting	The family house, rainy weather, storms, darkness, and a pervasive atmosphere of mourning and tension.	Reinforces emotional intensity, strengthens symbolic meaning, and supports the development of the narrative conflict.
Point of View	Predominantly first-person narration from the protagonist's perspective.	Enhances psychological intimacy, encourages reader empathy, and provides direct access to the narrator's internal experiences.
Language Style	Frequent use of simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, and multisensory imagery.	Increases aesthetic quality, deepens emotional expression, and enriches the literary experience for readers.
Moral Message	Critical thinking, self-control, family responsibility, honesty, and moral awareness.	Communicates ethical values and life lessons while encouraging readers to reflect on personal and social responsibilities.

Source: Compiled by the researcher based on the content analysis of *7 Kematian* by Nabriah Idrus.

Following the identification of the intrinsic elements, a deeper examination demonstrates that their significance lies not merely in their individual presence but in the way they interact to establish a coherent literary structure. Structuralist criticism emphasizes that literary meaning emerges from the interdependence of textual components rather than from isolated narrative features (Sukarto, 2017). This principle is clearly reflected in *7 Kematian*, where every intrinsic element consistently supports the others throughout the narrative progression. The central theme of grief and hidden truth, for example, cannot be fully understood without considering the characterization of Ginda, whose gradual psychological transformation directs readers toward the revelation of concealed family secrets. Likewise, Galang's characterization acquires greater significance because it continuously interacts with the development of the plot, the symbolic setting, and the reflective narrative perspective. Such findings indicate that Nahriah Idrus deliberately constructed a narrative in which emotional development becomes the principal mechanism for advancing the story. This observation supports Sangidu's structuralist perspective that literary texts should be interpreted as integrated systems whose constituent elements function collectively to generate meaning (Lestari et al., 2016). Consequently, the effectiveness of *7 Kematian* derives not only from the strength of each intrinsic element but also from the harmonious relationships established among them, producing a narrative that is psychologically convincing and structurally coherent.

The thematic construction identified in this study also reveals substantial similarities with previous research while simultaneously presenting distinctive characteristics. Fadhilawati (2023), in analyzing *Laskar Pelangi*, concluded that the dominant themes of perseverance and hope were consistently reinforced through characterization, narrative progression, and cultural description. Similarly, the present study demonstrates that the themes of grief, guilt, sacrifice, and family loyalty in *7 Kematian* are continuously strengthened by the interaction between plot development and characterization. However, unlike *Laskar Pelangi*, whose thematic orientation emphasizes educational optimism, *7 Kematian* focuses predominantly on psychological trauma and concealed violence within family relationships. This thematic distinction broadens the scope of structural literary analysis by illustrating that similar structural principles may produce substantially different emotional and philosophical outcomes depending on the narrative context. Moreover, the findings indicate that the novel consistently transforms abstract psychological experiences into concrete narrative situations, allowing readers to experience moral dilemmas through emotionally engaging fictional events. Such thematic complexity confirms Abrams and Harpham's (2012) assertion that literary themes represent universal human experiences expressed through integrated narrative structures rather than through explicit moral statements alone.

The findings concerning characterization also correspond closely with contemporary studies examining the role of fictional characters in constructing literary meaning. Jannah and Rahmawati (2025), for instance, reported that characterization in *Teruslah Bodoh Jangan Pintar* effectively embodied ideological conflict through the interactions of activists confronting social injustice. In contrast, the present study demonstrates that characterization in *7 Kematian* primarily functions to reveal psychological conflict rather than ideological opposition. Ginda, Galang, Firman, Rubaya, and Tias each represent different emotional responses to trauma,

guilt, fear, and responsibility. Their interactions gradually disclose hidden truths while simultaneously illustrating the psychological consequences of prolonged silence and unresolved family conflict. This narrative strategy allows readers to observe character development not as isolated personal experiences but as interconnected psychological processes shaping the entire storyline. Furthermore, the gradual transformation of Galang from a seemingly compassionate individual into the central perpetrator illustrates the author's sophisticated use of indirect characterization, enabling readers to reinterpret earlier narrative events as new information emerges. Such complexity supports Abrams and Harpham's (2012) view that characterization develops through cumulative actions, dialogue, internal reflection, and interpersonal relationships rather than through direct description alone.

The analysis of language style further demonstrates that Nahriah Idrus deliberately employs figurative language not merely for aesthetic ornamentation but as an essential narrative strategy for intensifying emotional experience. The research data reveal frequent use of similes, metaphors, hyperbole, personification, and multisensory imagery to portray psychological transformation and emotional suffering. Expressions comparing a character's voice to "the roar of a waterfall" and a gaze to "the sharp edge of a sword" exemplify how figurative language transforms emotional states into vivid sensory experiences. Similarly, symbolic expressions describing emotional calm as "embers gradually cooled by clear water" reinforce the process of psychological healing through metaphorical representation. These findings are consistent with Abrams and Harpham's (2012) explanation that literary style encompasses diction, imagery, rhythm, and figurative expression working together to produce aesthetic and interpretative effects. Rather than functioning independently, the figurative language identified throughout *7 Kematian* consistently strengthens thematic development, characterization, and emotional atmosphere, thereby confirming that stylistic expression constitutes an indispensable structural component within the novel.

Overall, the analysis confirms that the intrinsic elements identified in *7 Kematian* collectively establish a unified literary structure characterized by psychological depth, emotional intensity, and strong narrative coherence. The integration of theme, characterization, plot, setting, point of view, language style, and moral message demonstrates the successful realization of structuralist principles proposed by Sukarto (2017), Sangidu (Lestari et al., 2016), and Nurgiantoro (Cahyadi et al., 2014). Furthermore, comparison with previous studies indicates that while the structural organization of *7 Kematian* shares common theoretical foundations with other Indonesian novels, its dominant focus on intergenerational trauma, concealed crime, and psychological conflict provides a distinctive contribution to contemporary Indonesian literary studies. The findings therefore suggest that the artistic quality of *7 Kematian* lies not simply in the presence of complete intrinsic elements but in the sophisticated manner through which these elements interact to produce multilayered meanings, sustained emotional engagement, and coherent literary unity. Accordingly, this study supports the argument that structural analysis remains a highly relevant analytical approach for revealing the internal organization and aesthetic significance of contemporary Indonesian novels, particularly those emphasizing psychological realism and complex family relationships.

Functional Relationships among Intrinsic Elements in *7 Kematian* by Nahriah Idrus (Part 1)

The structural analysis of *7 Kematian* demonstrates that the literary quality of the novel is established not only through the presence of complete intrinsic elements but also through the functional relationships that connect these elements into an integrated narrative system. Structuralist criticism emphasizes that literary meaning emerges from the interaction among textual components rather than from the isolated examination of individual elements (Sukarto, 2017). The findings derived from the content analysis indicate that theme, characterization, plot, setting, point of view, language style, and moral message continuously interact throughout the novel, creating a coherent literary structure capable of sustaining emotional intensity and psychological realism. These relationships are dynamic rather than static, allowing each intrinsic element to influence and reinforce the development of the others. Consequently, the novel achieves narrative unity because every literary component contributes to revealing the central conflicts surrounding grief, family loyalty, betrayal, trauma, and concealed crime. This finding supports Sangidu's argument that literature functions as an integrated system in which every element derives its meaning from its relationship with the entire narrative structure (Lestari et al., 2016). Therefore, the functional analysis provides a deeper understanding of how the internal architecture of the novel generates both aesthetic value and interpretative richness.

One of the strongest functional relationships identified in this study is the interaction between theme and plot. The findings indicate that every major narrative event consistently develops the dominant themes of grief, sacrifice, emotional resilience, and the search for truth. Rather than presenting random sequences of tragedy, the deaths occurring throughout the novel are organized into a carefully structured chain of causally connected events. The document analysis demonstrates that the romantic relationship between Ginda and Sadzelly, together with the successive family tragedies, gradually develops the themes of love, sacrifice, and psychological endurance. Each plot progression serves to strengthen the thematic message by transforming abstract emotional experiences into observable narrative events. This structural relationship confirms Stanton's (1925) proposition that plot should be understood as an intentional organization of events designed to produce artistic and emotional effects. Similarly, Abrams and Harpham (2012) argue that theme emerges progressively through the accumulation of narrative incidents rather than through explicit authorial explanation. In *7 Kematian*, the revelation of hidden crimes becomes increasingly meaningful because every stage of the plot contributes directly to the thematic exploration of guilt, silence, and moral responsibility. Consequently, the relationship between theme and plot constitutes the primary mechanism through which the novel communicates its psychological and ethical significance.

Equally significant is the functional relationship between theme and characterization. The findings reveal that each major character embodies particular dimensions of the novel's central themes, thereby transforming abstract concepts into concrete human experiences. Ginda represents perseverance, emotional resilience, and the determination to uncover truth despite overwhelming psychological pressure. Conversely, Galang embodies obsession, manipulation, and the destructive consequences of unchecked ambition, while Firman symbolizes moral hesitation and the painful consequences of prolonged silence. The document analysis further indicates that Sadzelly's rational and independent personality reinforces themes of responsibility and integrity despite difficult circumstances. This interaction demonstrates that characterization does not merely populate the narrative with fictional individuals but serves as the primary vehicle through which thematic meanings become emotionally accessible to readers. Abrams and Harpham (2012) emphasize that literary characters function as representations of moral, emotional, and intellectual qualities manifested through narrative action. Likewise, Nurgiyantoro (as cited in Putri et al., 2023) argues that characterization acquires literary significance through the consistency of characters' actions and psychological development. Accordingly, the present findings indicate that the thematic complexity of *7 Kematian* is inseparable from the carefully constructed personalities and emotional transformations of its principal characters.

Another important relationship identified concerns the interaction between theme and setting. The content analysis demonstrates that physical settings consistently reinforce the emotional atmosphere required by the narrative. Rather than functioning merely as locations where events occur, settings become symbolic representations of psychological suffering and hidden conflict. For example, descriptions of heavy rain, thunder, darkness, and the family home repeatedly accompany scenes involving grief, fear, and moral uncertainty, thereby intensifying readers' emotional responses. The family residence itself evolves into a symbolic space that preserves traumatic memories, concealed secrets, and unresolved emotional wounds, reflecting the deterioration of family relationships throughout the narrative. These findings strongly support Wellek and Warren's (1949) assertion that setting operates simultaneously as narrative context and symbolic representation of characters' internal conditions. Similarly, Normayunita et al. (2015) explain that setting encompasses spatial, temporal, and sociocultural dimensions that collectively shape readers' interpretation of literary events. Consequently, the interaction between theme and setting in *7 Kematian* significantly enhances both narrative realism and symbolic depth by translating psychological conflict into concrete environmental imagery.

The analysis also reveals a close functional relationship between theme, point of view, language style, and moral message, illustrating the multidimensional integration of intrinsic elements throughout the novel. The predominance of the first-person perspective allows readers to experience emotional confusion, fear, and grief directly through the protagonist's consciousness, thereby intensifying thematic engagement. At the same time, the author's consistent use of figurative language—including similes, metaphors, hyperbole, and personification—transforms emotional suffering into vivid sensory imagery that deepens readers' interpretative experience. Finally, these stylistic and narrative strategies culminate in moral messages encouraging critical thinking, ethical responsibility, emotional self-control,

and unconditional familial compassion. Rather than appearing independently, these elements function simultaneously to communicate the novel's philosophical reflections on humanity, trauma, and moral accountability. This integrated relationship confirms the structuralist assumption that literary meaning is generated through the interaction of all intrinsic components rather than through any single narrative element.

The functional relationships identified in the present study further demonstrate that the effectiveness of *7 Kematian* originates from the reciprocal interaction among all intrinsic elements rather than from the dominance of any single narrative component. This finding is consistent with structuralist criticism, which argues that literary texts should be interpreted as unified systems whose meanings emerge through internal relationships among constituent elements (Sukarto, 2017). Throughout the novel, characterization shapes the progression of the plot, while the plot simultaneously reveals thematic development and transforms the symbolic meaning of the setting. Likewise, the first-person narrative perspective intensifies readers' emotional engagement, allowing figurative language and moral messages to become more persuasive. These interconnected relationships produce a multilayered narrative structure in which every literary element performs both an independent and a complementary function. Consequently, the novel succeeds in presenting psychological realism without sacrificing structural coherence, demonstrating that literary aesthetics derive primarily from the harmonious integration of textual components rather than from isolated stylistic achievements.

Table 4. Functional Relationships among Intrinsic Elements in *7 Kematian* by Nahriah Idrus

Intrinsic Element	Related Element(s)	Functional Relationship	Contribution to Narrative Unity
Theme	Plot	Determines the direction of narrative events and the development of conflicts throughout the story.	Creates a coherent progression of events and maintains narrative consistency.
Theme	Characterization	Shapes the motivations, emotions, decisions, and psychological development of the characters.	Reinforces the novel's central message concerning grief, sacrifice, family loyalty, and the search for truth.
Plot	Characterization	Characters' actions, choices, and interactions determine the sequence of narrative events.	Establishes clear causal relationships that sustain the logical flow of the narrative.
Setting	Theme	Physical and psychological settings symbolize emotional trauma, loss, and concealed family conflicts.	Strengthens the psychological atmosphere and deepens thematic interpretation.
Setting	Plot	Provides the contextual background in which major conflicts and investigations unfold.	Enhances realism while reinforcing the symbolic dimensions of the narrative.
Point of View	Characterization	Presents the protagonist's internal thoughts, emotions, and personal reflections directly to readers.	Increases reader empathy, emotional engagement, and psychological immersion.
Language Style	Theme	Conveys emotional experiences and symbolic meanings through figurative language and expressive narration.	Intensifies the novel's aesthetic quality and enriches readers' interpretation of the central themes.
Moral Message	Theme and Plot	Emerges naturally through the consequences of characters' decisions and the resolution of narrative conflicts.	Communicates ethical reflection and universal life values, providing meaningful closure to the narrative.

Source: Developed by the researcher based on the content analysis of 7 Kematian by Nabriah Idrus.

The functional relationships identified in this research also correspond with, while extending, the findings reported in previous studies concerning intrinsic literary elements. Fadhilawati (2023) concluded that the interaction among theme, characterization, and

narrative progression in *Laskar Pelangi* generated a coherent representation of perseverance, education, and hope. Likewise, Jannah and Rahmawati (2025) found that the structural organization of *Teruslah Bodoh Jangan Pintar* integrated theme, plot, and characterization to portray ideological resistance against social injustice. Similarly, Zikra and Nucifera (2025) demonstrated that the structural harmony of *Home Sweet Loan* emerged from the balanced interaction among characterization, urban setting, progressive plot, and communicative language style. The present study confirms these structural principles while revealing a distinct narrative orientation. Unlike previous novels emphasizing education, social activism, or economic struggle, *7 Kematian* primarily explores psychological trauma, family disintegration, and concealed criminality. Consequently, the novel contributes a distinctive model of structural organization in which emotional tension and psychological complexity become the dominant mechanisms linking intrinsic elements into an integrated literary system.

From a theoretical perspective, the findings strongly reinforce Abrams and Harpham's (2012) proposition that literary meaning develops progressively through the interaction of narrative components rather than through explicit explanation by the author. Throughout *7 Kematian*, readers are not directly informed about the complete truth behind successive deaths. Instead, understanding emerges gradually through the accumulation of characterization, symbolic settings, fragmented memories, dialogue, and sequential plot development. Likewise, Wellek and Warren's (1949) theory concerning the symbolic function of setting is consistently reflected in the narrative, particularly through the recurring representation of the family house as a repository of silence, trauma, guilt, and hidden violence. The first-person perspective further strengthens this structural configuration by allowing readers to experience psychological conflict from within the protagonist's consciousness. These findings demonstrate that the intrinsic elements continuously perform reciprocal functions, collectively constructing a narrative that remains emotionally engaging while preserving structural consistency and interpretative openness. Another important implication concerns the educational significance of the novel's structural organization. Because every intrinsic element contributes directly to the communication of ethical values, *7 Kematian* possesses considerable potential as instructional material in literature courses, particularly those emphasizing structural analysis, narrative interpretation, and literary appreciation. Students examining the novel through a structuralist framework are able to observe how themes are developed through characterization, how settings reinforce emotional symbolism, how figurative language shapes interpretation, and how moral messages emerge naturally from narrative consequences rather than explicit instruction. Such analytical practice encourages critical reading skills by requiring learners to recognize relationships among literary elements instead of identifying isolated textual features. Consequently, the findings support previous educational research suggesting that structural literary analysis enhances students' interpretative competence, critical reasoning, and appreciation of literary aesthetics by emphasizing the interconnected nature of narrative construction.

Overall, the functional analysis confirms that *7 Kematian* represents a structurally coherent literary work in which every intrinsic element contributes systematically to the construction of narrative meaning. Theme functions as the conceptual foundation governing characterization, plot, setting, language style, point of view, and moral message, while these supporting elements reciprocally strengthen thematic interpretation through continuous interaction. Rather than operating independently, each component performs complementary functions that collectively establish emotional depth, psychological realism, aesthetic quality, and philosophical reflection. The structural integration identified throughout the novel substantiates the central assumptions of structuralist literary criticism proposed by Sukarto (2017), Sangidu (Lestari et al., 2016), Abrams and Harpham (2012), Wellek and Warren (1949), and Nurgiyantoro, demonstrating that literary excellence derives from the harmonious organization of textual elements into a unified artistic whole. Accordingly, this study concludes that the enduring literary value of *7 Kematian* lies not merely in its compelling storyline but in the sophisticated structural relationships that transform individual intrinsic elements into a coherent and meaningful representation of human trauma, moral responsibility, resilience, and the enduring search for truth.

5. Conclusions

Based on the findings of the content analysis, this study concludes that the intrinsic elements in Nahriah Idrus's *7 Kematian* are systematically integrated to construct a coherent and psychologically compelling literary work. The analysis demonstrates that the novel

incorporates the seven principal intrinsic elements—theme, characterization, plot, setting, point of view, language style, and moral message—which function interdependently rather than independently. The dominant themes of grief, guilt, family loyalty, hidden crime, sacrifice, and the search for truth are consistently developed through the progression of the plot and the psychological transformation of the characters. Ginda functions as the central narrative consciousness through whom readers gradually uncover concealed truths, while Galang embodies the destructive consequences of obsession, manipulation, and moral deviation. The symbolic setting, particularly the family house and recurring images of darkness and rain, reinforces the emotional atmosphere of trauma and secrecy. Furthermore, the first-person narrative perspective strengthens readers' psychological engagement, whereas the extensive use of figurative language enhances the novel's aesthetic quality and emotional intensity. Collectively, these intrinsic elements establish a unified narrative structure that successfully represents complex human experiences while maintaining strong structural coherence. The findings therefore confirm the applicability of the structuralist approach in revealing how the internal organization of literary elements contributes to the overall artistic and interpretative quality of contemporary Indonesian fiction.

The principal contribution of this research lies in demonstrating that the literary significance of *7 Kematian* extends beyond the identification of individual intrinsic elements to the analysis of their functional relationships within a unified narrative system. Unlike previous studies that primarily described intrinsic elements separately, this research explains how theme, characterization, plot, setting, point of view, language style, and moral message continuously interact to generate psychological depth, emotional realism, and narrative consistency. This integrated perspective contributes to structuralist literary criticism by providing empirical evidence that literary meaning is produced through the reciprocal interaction among textual components. In addition, the study expands scholarly discussion on contemporary Indonesian literature by illustrating how psychological conflict, family trauma, and moral ambiguity are represented through carefully organized structural relationships. The findings also suggest that *7 Kematian* possesses considerable pedagogical value as instructional material for teaching structural literary analysis, narrative interpretation, and literary appreciation at both secondary and higher education levels. Consequently, this research contributes theoretically to Indonesian literary studies while offering practical implications for literature education and future analyses employing structural approaches.

Despite these contributions, several limitations should be acknowledged. First, the analysis is confined to a single novel, limiting the generalizability of the findings to the broader body of Nahriah Idrus's literary works or contemporary Indonesian fiction as a whole. Second, the research focuses exclusively on intrinsic structural analysis through content analysis, without incorporating reader-response criticism, sociological criticism, psychological criticism, feminist criticism, or comparative literary approaches that might generate complementary interpretations. Third, the availability of scholarly literature specifically discussing *7 Kematian* remains limited, restricting opportunities for broader comparative discussion. Finally, although the structural analysis was conducted systematically, literary interpretation inevitably contains an element of subjectivity because textual meaning may vary according to different theoretical perspectives and interpretative frameworks. Future studies are therefore encouraged to investigate additional works by Nahriah Idrus, employ interdisciplinary and comparative approaches, integrate reader reception and socio-cultural contexts, and examine the relationship between intrinsic and extrinsic elements to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the author's literary contributions.

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