

BACKGROUND AS METAPHOR AND ATMOSPHERE IN THE NOVEL NORUWEI NO MORI

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to describe the use of setting as a metaphor and atmosphere and function in the novel *Noruei no Mori* by Haruki Murakami. The method used in this research is descriptive analysis with an objective approach to the material objects of the novel *Noruei no Mori* by Haruki Murakami. The research results show that the metaphorical setting and atmosphere of death uses elements of music, old buildings, billiard playing areas, and also mental hospital dormitories. The metaphorical setting and atmosphere in this novel give the effect of happiness, anxiety, loss, loneliness, calm and sadness.

Keywords: Haruki Murakami, *Noruei no Mori*, Background, Metaphor, Atmospher

INTRODUCTION

The success of an author in creating literary works is based on their ability to use the environment around them as a source of story concepts which are packaged in such a way that readers can become immersed in the atmosphere of the story created by the author which is based on society and the situation at that time. Literary works usually aim to do more than just express the author's emotions, they also want to encourage readers to understand, appreciate, and even understand the concepts and problems expressed. As a result, literary works are useful for readers and connoisseurs of different literary works. In a literary work, especially a novel, the setting is very important in the depiction of a story.

A novel is a type of literary work that appears to provide a picture and facts about society at a certain time. The novel itself discusses various problems and human relationships with their environment, both with themselves and with God.

According to Abrams in Nurgiyantoro (2015: 302) states that background or setting, also referred to as the fulcrum, refers to our understanding of place, historical time relationships, and the social environment in

which the event occurs. In a novel, setting is divided into three categories, namely place setting, time setting, and social setting. The setting shows the place and time where the event is told, and the time setting shows when the event occurred. Setting is very important to make the events in a novel look real.

Apart from explaining when and where the story takes place, such as the location, name of the city, village, street and place where the event occurred. Readers will also find time, such as years, dates, or changes of day, or events that refer to certain times, as well as things related to the social behavior of people in certain environments.

The setting also functions as a main determinant, according to Wellek (1995:291). According to Nurgiyantoro (2002:225), character characteristics are influenced by the setting. So it can be concluded that a person's background conditions will shape his character.

According to Nurgiyantoro (2015) setting is divided into two categories based on its function, namely setting as a metaphor which refers to a comparison between certain characteristics, circumstances, atmosphere symbolically describing the atmosphere within the character, and setting as an atmosphere in the form of an explanation of a situation which can create a certain atmosphere that creation itself is not described directly, but rather something suggested.

Therefore, the author carried out a background analysis in the novel *Norwei no Mori* by Haruki Murakami. This novel is one of the best selling novels in Japan and has been translated into many languages by equally famous authors.

The reason the researcher chose this research title is because by identifying the setting, readers can see the story as a whole by knowing where, when, and how the characters' social events occurred. Previous research using the novel *Norwei no Mori* by Haruki Murakami as a material object has been carried out. The first research, entitled "Analysis of Moral Values in the Novel *Norwegian Wood* by Haruki Murakami" by Khairul Mazidah in 2021. This research raises the problem of interpreting or interpreting signs which are indexical of the moral values carried out by the story characters in the novel *Norwegian Wood* using semiotic theory. The second research, entitled "Conflict Toru Watanabe's personality in Haruki Murakami's *Norwei no Mori*" by Panca Lena and Sri Oemiati in 2018. This research discusses the personality conflict experienced by Toru Watanabe, the main shop, analyzed using Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theory. The third research, entitled "Aspects of Romance in the Popular Japanese Novel *Norwegian Wood* by Haruki Murakami" by Mega Laura Lubis in 2021. This research discusses issues regarding aspects of romance and novel structure using a review of literary psychology. The fourth research, entitled "Analysis of Love and Sex in the Novel *Norwei no Mori* by Murakami Haruki" by Anita Sari BR Sitepu in 2014. This research discusses love and sex in the novel using Abraham Maslow's self-actualization theory and examines the intrinsic elements in the novel regarding characters, plot and setting in general.

Therefore, in this research the author will focus on analyzing and discussing the setting and its function as a metaphor and atmosphere which perhaps ordinary people are not too aware of the setting in a story such as the song Norwegian from The Beatles which is played at the airport which can bring the main character and readers to reminisce about the story of the main character, Toru, when he was young, which was full of sadness and loss.

This research uses the Miles & Huberman method, namely data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions or verification. Based on this, this research aims to determine: 1) the use and function of the metaphorical setting that describes death in the novel *Norwei no Mori* 2) the use of the setting as an atmosphere and its function to describe death in the novel *Norwei no Mori*.

LITERATURE REVIEW

This research is a study of setting as metaphoric and atmospheric and its function in a novel literary work. According to Abrams in Nurgiyantoro (2015), the background or setting is referred to as the fulcrum, referring to our understanding of place, historical time relationships, and the social environment in which the event occurred. The setting also functions as a main determinant, according to Wellek (1995:291).

According to Nurgiyantoro (2015), character characteristics are influenced by the setting. So it can be concluded that a person's background conditions will shape his character. Nurgiyantoro (2015) states that settings are divided into two categories based on their function, namely settings as metaphors which refer to comparisons between certain characteristics, circumstances, atmospheres that symbolically describe the atmosphere within the characters, and settings as atmospheres in the form of explanations of situations that can create a certain atmosphere. What is created itself is not described directly, but rather something suggested.

METHODOLOGY

This research is library research using descriptive analysis methods, which means emphasizing the scientific aspects and characteristics of the data, then providing an in-depth explanation of what is found in the data. The approach used is an objective approach, namely the setting of the novel.

According to Ratna in Negarawati (2019), descriptive analysis is carried out by describing the facts which are then followed by analysis. Etymologically, description and analysis mean to describe. Then, qualitative methods are a type of research that focuses on in-depth investigation of certain phenomena. The aim of this research is to collect very detailed data about the role of the metaphorical setting and atmosphere of death, so that novel readers who are usually not familiar with this setting can understand this information.

For qualitative descriptive data analysis, the data that has been collected from observations, interviews and documentation studies is described and conclusions are drawn. According to Miles & Huberman in Sugiono (2014) data analysis consists of three activity elements which occur together, namely data reduction, data presentation and withdrawal conclusion or verification.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Use and Function of Metaphorical Settings Depicting Death

A metaphorical setting is a setting that presents an atmosphere that indirectly presents the character's fate. According to Nurgiyantoro (2015) metaphorical background is a comparison between characteristics, circumstances, atmosphere, and so on. Metaphorically in principle is a way of seeing or receiving something through something else. Setting descriptions that describe certain characteristics, circumstances, or atmosphere symbolically describe the atmosphere within the character.

Based on the results of the analysis of the novel *Noruei no Mori* by Haruki Murakami, four quotes were found relating to the use of metaphorical settings depicting death, namely as follows:

Instrumental Norwegian Wood The Beatles at the Airport

Finding 1

飛行機が着地を完了すると禁煙のサインが消え、天井のスピーカーから小さな音で BGM が流れはじめた。それはどこかのオーケストラが甘く演奏するビートルズの「ノルウェイの森」だった。そしてそのメロディーはいつものように僕を混乱させた。いや、いつもとは比べものにならないくらい激しく僕を混乱させ揺り動かした。

(ノルウェイの森, 2023: 7)

Hikōki ga chakuchi o kanryō suru to kinen no sain ga kie, tenjō no supīkā kara chīsana oto de BGM ga nagare hajimeta. Sore wa doko ka no ōkesutora ga amaku ensō suru bītoruzu no “noruei no mori” datta. Soshite sono merodī wa itsumo no yō ni boku o konran sa seta. Iya, itsumo to wa kurabe mono ni naranai kurai hageshiku boku o konran sa se yuriugo kashita.

(*Noruei no Mori*, 2023: 7)

When the plane landed, the lights on the no-smoking sign went out, and from the ceiling speakers began to play softly the Beatles' Norwegian Wood instrumentals played sweetly by an orchestra from nowhere. As usual, this song makes me nervous. Ah, no, not like usual, this time it was so powerful it made my head shake like it was going to explode.

Finding 1 is a metaphor of sadness and anxiety. The metaphor of sadness and anxiety felt by the main character, Toru Watanabe, is because he accidentally heard the instrumental of the song Norwegian Wood which reminded him of his past, Naoko, his ex-lover who had died by suicide.

Place to Play Billiards

Finding 2

でもハツミさんとビリヤードをやったその夜、僕は最初のゲームが終るまでキズキのことを思いだしもしなかったし、そのことは僕としては少なからざるショックでした。というのはキズキが死んだあとずっと、これからはビリヤードをやるたびに彼を思いだすことになるだろうなという風に考えていたからです。でも僕はゲーム終えて店内の自動販売機でペプシコーラを買って飲むまで、キズキのことを思いだしもしませんでした。どうしてそこでキズキのことを思いだしたかという、僕と彼がよく通ったビリヤード屋にもやはりペプシの販売機があって、僕らはよくその代金を賭けてゲームをしたからです。

(ノルウェイの森[㊦], 2023: 145)

Demo Hatsumi-san to biriyādo o yatta sono yoru, boku wa saisho no ichi gēmu ga owaru made kizu ki no koto o omoidashi mo shinakattashi, sono koto wa boku to shite wa sukunakarazaru shokku de shita. To iu no wa kizuki ga shinda ato zutto, korekara wa piri yādo o yaru tabi ni kare o omoidasu koto ni narudarou na to iu kaze ni kangaete itakaradesu. Demo boku wa ichi gēmu tsui ete ten'nai no jidō hanbaiki de pepushikōra o katte nomu made, kizuki no koto o omoidashi mo shimasendeshita. Dōshite sokode kizuki no koto o omoidashita ka to iu to, boku to kare ga yo ku tōtta biriyādo-ya ni mo yahari pepushi no hanbaiki ga atte, bokura wa yoku sono daikin o kakete gēmu o shitakaradesu.

(Noruwei no Mori (shita), 2023: 145)

But the night I played billiards with Hatsumi-san, until the first round ended I didn't think of Kizuki, and that for me was no small amount of therapy. The reason is, after Kizuki's death, I always thought that every time I played billiards I would definitely remember Kizuki. But after the first round was over, I bought a Pepsi Cola at the self-service machine at the pool hall and drank it, I don't remember it at all. But why only after drinking Pepsi Cola did I remember Kizuki? You see, at the billiards place where Kizuki and I usually play, there are also self-service machines, and we often bet by paying the Pepsi Cola money.

Finding 2 is a metaphorical background as a metaphor of happiness mixed with sadness, because Toru remembers that the day before Kizuki's death they played billiards together then in the afternoon Kizuki was found dead in the garage due to suicide. Toru feels happy because he feels he has recovered and feels that he has accepted Kizuki's death.

Use and Function of Setting as an Atmosphere Depicting Death

Setting as atmosphere is a background that can influence changes in the character's attitude when the character is in that place. According to Nurgiyantoro (2015) setting as atmosphere is an explanation of a situation that can create a certain atmosphere, such as a happy, romantic, sad, angry, death, mystery, and so on.

Ami Dormitory Mental Home

Finding 3

そんな緩やかな上り道を十五分ばかり進むと右手に車がやっと一台通れそうな枝道があり、その入口には「阿美寮・関係者以外の立ち入りはお断りします」という看板が立っていた。

(ノルウェイの森, 2023: 190)

Sonna yuru ya kana nobori michi o juugobun bakari susumu to migite ni kuruma ga yatto ichi dai toore souna edamichi ga ari, sono iriguchi ni wa "amiryō kankei sha igai no tachi iri wa okotawarishimasu" toiu kanban ga tatte ita.

(Noruwei no Mori, 2023: 190)

After about fifteen minutes along the fairly sloping road, on the right there is a fork in the road where cars can pass. At the mouth of the road there is a sign that says "Ami Dormitory, unauthorized entry is prohibited."

Old building

Finding 4

言われたとおりにロータリーの左から二本目の道を進んでいくと、つきあたりにはいかにも一昔前の別荘とわかる趣きのある古い建物があつた。庭には形の良い石やら、灯籠なんか配され、植木はよく手入れされていた。この場所はもともと誰かの別荘地であるらしかった。

(ノルウェイの森, 2023: 192)

Iwa reta tōri ni rōtarī no hidari kara nihon me no michi o susunde iku to, tsuki atari ni wa ikanimo hito mukashi mae no bessō to wakarū omomuki no aru furui tatemono ga atta. Niwa ni wa katachi no yoi ishi yara, tōrōnaka ga haisare, ueki wa yoku teire sa rete ita. Kono basho wa motomoto dareka no bessō-chi dearura shikatta.

(Noruwei no Mori, 2023: 192)

While walking along the second road to the left of the roundabout as the guard said earlier, at the end of the road I saw an old building that looked like an ancient villa. In the yard there are well-shaped rocks, the arrangement and ornamental grass are well maintained. It seems that this place was originally someone's resting place.

In the novel *Norwei no Mori* by Haruki Murakami, there is a function of the atmospheric background in Findings 3 and 4 as an atmosphere of loneliness and loss. The atmosphere of silence and loss is a setting that describes an atmosphere of loneliness, desolation, and feeling empty, because Ami Dormitory is a place for mental healing for people who have depression, stress, and people who have thoughts of wanting to end their lives. So, when they imagine this place, the characters feel lonely and calm.

CONCLUSION

It can be concluded that in the novel *Norwei no Mori* by Haruki Murakami there are four settings related to death which are divided into two categories of setting functions using Nurgiyantoro's theory. The function of the metaphorical background in this novel describes the sad, happy and anxious atmosphere found in quotes one and four. Meanwhile, the function of the atmospheric background in this novel describes the quiet, stillness and serenity found in quotes two and three. It is known from the results of the analysis carried out, the author can understand and learn that the setting of each literary work, especially novels, can have different feelings, even if it is only a glimpse.

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