Representation of Magical Realism in the Short Story Scream in the Bottle by Intan Paramadhita

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to interpret the short story Scream in the Bottle by Intan Paramadhita in the perspective of magical realism using the theory of Wendy B. Faris. This study uses a qualitative research method by finding and analyzing texts textually using the four characteristics of magical realism Wendy B. Faris; (1) irredurable element; (2) phenomenal world; (3) unsettling doubt; and (4) merging realism. The data in this study was generated in several stages, namely reading the short story text repeatedly, selecting the necessary data, and analyzing the data. Then, the data was obtained from the analysis of the story text based on Wendy B. Faris' theory, namely: (1) Irreducible Elements were found to be three data; (2) Phenomenal World found two data; (3) Unsettling doubt found three data; (4) Merging realms found two data. Short Stories Scream in Bottles is one of the anthologies of short stories by Intan Paramadhita which is written using magical stories and has a moral message conveyed. The topics taken in this story are mystical, dark, gloomy, but full of hidden meanings. This Women's Magic book processes the genre of horror, myth, and old stories with a feminist perspective, one of which is Scream in a Bottle. In the stories, it carries a real life and collaborates with a fantasy world that seems to be a real story. The content in this book can also be related to Javanese culture, because there are so many myths or Javanese culture that can be included in the analysis of magical realism.

1. Introduction

Literary works that are born and develop in the midst of society are written works that are born from human imagination. Literary works have their own forms, characteristics, and conditions that vary. Literature also has many types, including novels, poems, romances, and short stories (Anam & Purnama, 2021). Short stories are stories or fictions, also called narrative texts or narrative discourses. Poe (Wicaksono, 2014, p. 55) said that "a short story is a story that can be read once you sit down, approximately ranging from half to two hours, something that is probably impossible to do for a novel". Short stories as a type of literary work can actually provide benefits to its readers. Among them, it is possible to provide alternative experiences, pleasure, develop imagination, develop an understanding of human behavior, and provide universal experiences. This universal experience is certainly closely related to human life and life and humanity.

A literary work is a plan that develops human thinking patterns and reveals all the contents of life in detail and thoroughly. Creative literary works in which there is a mirror of people's lives, literary works also contain the identity of an area where there is culture, as well as a symbol of community behavior. Social and cultural values in the author's environment are a description of the author's own background conditions (Fatoni et al., 2022; Nahdi et al., 2022). However, literature also displays fantasy narratives beyond the boundaries of logic, making readers confused between reality and fantasy. This literature is part of the literary characteristics of magical realism.

Magical realism is a school of realism in the field of art that is used to criticize a painting. Then, this school mushroomed in the field of literature to make a literary work even more interesting when

using the school of magical realism in its work. Literary products such as poetry, drama, and prose appear in society by carrying various genres, one of which is magical realism. The school of magical realism describes a literary work in which there is an element of fantasy that sneaks into everyday life. There is a mixture of reality and magic in the history of magical realism that tries to capture the mysteries of life beyond surface reality. Another opinion expresses magical realism as a literary genre that juxtaposes mystical, magical, fantasy, with real narratives or authentic events in daily life (Ulhaq, 2023; Yudono et al., 2023; Zamora & Faris, 1995)

Human life has always coexisted with those who are different in dimension from human nature. But in reality, mystical things can maintain harmony between humans and nature. Where that harmony no longer occurs, when the era of modernization comes and the empiricists who even make damage to the environment for personal interests. There are several definitions of the word "mystic", where the number is almost the same as the author The opinion of one of the authors, Louis Bouyer, states that "mystic" comes from the Greek word mysticos which means secret. So, mysticism is an understanding that teaches about goib things, things that are hidden, so that it will only be understood by people who believe in it. Belief in mystical things began hundreds of years ago and will continue to be passed down from one generation to the next (Annisah & Waliyudin, 2024; Saleh, 2022; Syafiq, 2023).

Relevant research that has discussed magical realism is Magical Realism as a Representation of Criticism of Conditions in Batman by Damhuri Muhammad with the author Ulhaq (2023), Elements of Magical Realism by Wendy B. Faris in the Short Story The Marriage of Goib by ITS Zahra Chan Gacha with authors Annisah & Waliyudin (2024) . In his research, he discusses mysticism that is still closely attached to the Javanese tribe, resulting in a discussion that Javanese spiritual science is manifested in various forms. This mystical knowledge is gained through feelings and thoughts. With the existence of these two previous studies, it is explained that magical realism can be used as a reflection of the author's life in the form of literary works to respond to the social conditions that occur.

In the short story Scream in a Bottle by Intan Paramadhita, the main character experiences a mystical phenomenon because he meets an old woman who has supernatural powers. If it is connected with reality, such a phenomenon cannot be explained using the laws of nature and is accepted logically. For this reason, the purpose of this study is to represent the short story Scream in the Bottle by Intan Pramataditha in the perspective of magical realism using the theory of Wendy B. Faris. Wendy B. Faris (2004) decomposes the markers of magical realism works into four, namely, irreducible element, phenomenal world, unsettling doubt, merging realms (Zamora & Faris, 1995)

2. Method

This research method uses qualitative research methods. The source of the data comes from the sentences and dialogues in the short story Scream in the Bottle. Data collection is produced through reading and note-taking techniques, then classified according to the theory used, namely Wendy B. Faris's magical realism theory; (a) irreducible element; (b) phenomenal worlds; (c) merging realism; and (d) unsetting doubts.

The data in this study was generated in several stages, namely reading the short story text repeatedly, selecting the necessary data, and analyzing the data. In analyzing the data needed, the researcher carried out several stages, interpreting the meaning and intent of each data that had been collected and analyzing the data. The data that has been collected will be analyzed by textual methods (Iskandar et al., 2023). This is done in order to be able to interpret the data according to the theory used, namely the magical realism of Wendy B. Faris.

3. Results and Discussion

Based on the data analysis that has been carried out, in the short story Scream in the Bottle there are elements of magical realism according to Wendy B. Faris's classification, namely Irreducible Element, Phenomenal World, Unsettling Doubt, Merging Realms. The data findings regarding the analysis of magical realism in the short story Scream in the Bottle, will be presented in sequence and interpreted by involving cultural systems as constructive elements in the imagination of magical realism. The results are described as follows to help you understand them better.

3.1. Irreducible Element

Irreducible elements mean that in works of magical realism, stories are written without paying attention to logic so that sometimes it is difficult to accept as something real or real (Nastikaputri & Ardi, 2022). Magical elements in the Irreducible Element aspect are classified into four categories, namely those derived from magical objects, magical sounds, places where magical events occur, and characteristics (Pamungkas et al., 2022). In the short story Scream in the Bottle, the Irreducible Element element is influenced by the cultural aspect by the author in imagining the story. The following Irreducible Element data findings are described in Table 1.

Table 1.   Irreducible Element in the short story Scream in a Bottle

No	Data	Cultural Influence	Code
1	*Gita Shivered. Suddenly he heard the thumping of the foot, the more it became clearer and clearer*	Culture Jawa	JDB.100/IE:01
2	*You can't hear anything from the outside. You open your mouth but can't scream.*	Culture Jawa	JDB.101/IE:02
3	*Gita heard a long, heartbreaking howl. The sound is getting closer.*	Culture Jawa	JDB.102/IE:03

Information:

IE: Irreducible Element

JDB: Scream in a Bottle

Based on table 1, the irreducible element in the short story Scream in the Bottle has a cultural aspect, namely Javanese culture which is used as a source of the author's imagination. In the JDB.100/IE:01 data, the Irreducible Element aspect is shown when the main character, Gita, hears the sound of footsteps that are getting clearer and clearer when there are only Gita and Mrs. Sumarni in the house. This event is an element that is not reduced because it is told that the sound of the feet he hears is a mystical sound which is the sound of the feet of an invisible creature. The voice is heard because the main character's physique in the story is weakened and can draw mystical power to the subconscious, which results in the voice being heard by Gita. In Javanese belief, if a person experiences mental or physical weakness, it will be easily carried under human consciousness (Zahroh et al., 2023).

Similar to the JDB.102/IE:03 data, the main character hears a long heartbreaking howl. This voice is told as a woman's scream that came to Mrs. Sumarni fifteen years ago , and now she is dead. This event is an element that is not reduced because the voice it hears is the voice of a person who is no longer there. From this, it shows that the element is not reduced in the form of a mysterious voice that appears in front of modern humans. Because it is impossible, if a sound suddenly appears without any clarity from the source of the sound it is coming from.

Then, in the JDB.101/IE:02 data, the irreducible element aspect is shown by the main character not being able to hear voices or scream. In this data, it is related to Javanese culture where people believe that if a person is sleeping experiencing something like wanting to move but can't, opening his mouth and wanting to speak but can't, this is called the term "ketindihan". Thus, the elements that are not reduced in the short story Scream in the Bottle by Intan Paramadhita, are dominated by Javanese culture that still holds firmly to the element of animism, namely the spirit that inhabits all the entire universe. The tradition of Javanese culture assumes that the spirits of the dead will always coexist with living beings (Rahayu et al., 2024; Rosidi, 2023).

3.2. Phenomenal World

The phenomenal world is one of the realistic parts of a work of magical realism. This creates a blurring of the boundary between the real and the magical, and phenomenal events are seamlessly integrated into everyday life. So, the phenomenal world is interpreted as there is still an element of realism or logical elements, in the story of realism, which makes the difference between magical realism and surrealism (Firdausy & Dwisusilo, 2023). The findings of the Phenomenal World data are described in Table 2.

Table 2. Phenomenal World in the short story Screams in Bottles

No	Data	Cultural Influence	Code
1	*Bottles contain screams.*	Culture Jawa	JDB.101/PW:01
2	*He took a bottle and then held it.*	Culture Jawa	JDB.102/PW:02

Information:

PW: Phenomenal World

JDB: Scream in a Bottle

Based on the table above, in the JDB.101/PW:01 data, it is found that magical realism with the category of phenomenal world has a tendency towards Javanese culture. In some parts of Javanese society, there are still those who believe that the bottle can accommodate mystical things, such as a bottle in which there is a paper in it and then thrown into the river and flowing with the river current. If the bottle is found by someone, then that person will be affected. This is also the same as the data above, that there is a belief that the bottles owned by Sumarni contain human screams. The data can be categorized in the phenomenal world because there is a mixture between things that are real or rational and unreal or irrational. In the meaning in real life, a bottle is an object that is usually used to hold water, but in the short story it is found that there is a bottle that holds screams, making it an extraordinary event and impossible to find in real life. This is proof of the mixing of the real and the mystical.

Furthermore, in the JDB.102/PW:02 data, it is told that Sumarni took a bottle and then took it. This shows a phenomenal world, which means that there is a magical behavior of the characters and without having a realistic goal. In rational life, bottles are inanimate objects whose existence is only to meet the needs of human life, but in the short story the presence of bottles seems to be something alive and respected. Making the bottle owner willing to carry and treat him specially. This is influenced by the aspect of dynamism, which is a belief in the mysticism of an object that is believed to provide salvation and an antidote to spirits (Ristiningsih, 2023). The phenomenal world element can be clearly seen because there is a mixture of irrational aspects present in the rational world.

3.3. Unsettling Doubt

Unsettling doubt is doubt or confusion felt due to logic and fantasy. This causes the reader to be a little hesitant to believe something in the work. This hesitation arises from the clash between the rational and the irrational, the logical and the illogical, between the cultural system that exists in the narrative of the story and the cultural system of the reader (Fajrin et al., 2023; Istibillah et al., 2021). The findings of Unsettling Doubt data are described in Table 3.

Table 3. Unsettling Doubt in the Short Story Scream in a Bottle

No	Data	Cultural Influence	Code
1	*Are you a girl or a demon? I don't know where the limit is.*	Culture Jawa	JDB.97/UD:01
2	*A skull-like figure with long pointed ears. His black robe flashed across the sky. The face of the black robe is getting closer to Gita's face.*	Culture Jawa	JDB.102/UD:02
3	*I am allied with Satan.*	Culture Jawa	JDB.99/UD:03

Information:

UD: Unsettling Doubt

JDB: Scream in a Bottle

The table above shows part of magical realism with the category of unsetting doubts, such as in the JDB.102/UD:02 data, which is about skulls and demon women. The two creatures have conflicting biological reconstructions, such as a skull depicted with pointed ears with a black cloak that covers the sky. The appearance of the two creatures gives different meanings and new body shapes, it raises doubts for the reader as well as contradicts biological concepts in the field of scientific science that are believed by modern society. The ambiguity in the identity in the table

above occurs because of the connection with Javanese culture, which says that the philosophy of a robe is a form of identity of nobility and power (Herusatoto, 2018).

In the JDB.99/UD:03 data, it is said that Sumarni is allied with Satan. This caused a discussion among the public because there were people who believed that some people could fellowship with spirit beings through various media such as having the seventh sense. However, there are also people who don't believe that people can't ally with spirit beings because they are invisible. In this way, it is still an endless question.

3.4. Merging Realms

Merging realism is the merger between two worlds, namely the real world and the fantasy world by blurring the boundaries between the two. A realistic and magical amalgamation of nature occurs in the community environment (Komariya, 2022). In the short story Scream in the Bottle, it tells the story of a young woman named Gita who comes to Sumarni's house, who has the nickname of a witch because her profession smells of mystical things or beyond the control of ordinary humans. The findings of Merging Realms data are described in Table 4.

Table 4. Merging Realms on the Short Story Screams in a Bottle

No	Data	Cultural Influence	Code
1	*Babies can feel the embrace in nature. The cloth is the soul of the baby*	Culture Jawa	JDB.100/MR:01
2	*Incense for spirits*	Culture Jawa	JDB.96/MR:02

Information:

MR: Merging Realms

JDB: Scream in a Bottle

In the table above, it shows the concept of two opposite worlds, such as in the JDB.96/MR:02 data, marked by Incense which is a guide for the Spirit, it causes a conflict of different worlds between Incense as a real object and the Spirit is a creature that has died a long time ago but came back in the modern world, it can be attributed to the influence of Javanese culture. In the perspective of Javanese culture, philosophically each element of Incense can be interpreted in various meanings, such as the embers that burn from the burned Incense to give the meaning that all human hearts always depend on hopes and desires, while the puff of smoke can mean as a hope offered to the Almighty. (Indra Wirawan, 2021; Trispratiwi et al., 2023). Incense is believed to be a connecting medium with the mystical realm that can bring back the ancient people in the modern world, in the form of spirits or spirits. Meanwhile, in the JDB.100/MR:01 data, it is characterized by a cloth that connects the baby's soul to its mother and this creates a conflict between reality and the supernatural. This data can be categorized as a merging Realms element because it tells the story of a baby who has died a long time ago and has had a different world from his mother, but he can feel his mother's embrace from there through a piece of cloth that is believed to be able to connect the soul of a baby who has passed away to the barzah with his mother's soul in the world.

4. Conclusion

Short Stories Scream in Bottles is one of the anthologies of short stories by Intan Paramadhita which is written using magical stories and has a moral message conveyed. The topics taken in this story are mystical, dark, gloomy, but full of hidden meanings. This Women's Magic book processes the genre of horror, myth, and old stories with a feminist perspective, one of which is Scream in a Bottle. In the stories, it carries a real life and collaborates with a fantasy world that seems to be a real story. The content in this book can also be related to Javanese culture, because there are so many myths or Javanese culture that can be included in the analysis of magical realism. As such, the blend of realism and magic, with human characters and genies, can provide important insights for readers. Then, from the short story Scream in a Bottle, it is known that there are four categories of realism from Wendy B. Faris' magical theory and its data. In this short story there are 10 data found,

including three irreducible element data, two phenomenal world data, three unsettling doubt data, and two merging reality data, in other words all the characteristics of Wendy B. Faris' magical realism are narrated in this short story.

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