



A Genetic Structuralism Analysis of the Short Story *Peradilan Rakyat* by Putu Wijaya

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Abstract

This study aims to analyze Putu Wijaya's short story *Peradilan Rakyat* using a genetic structuralism approach. This approach is employed to examine the relationship between the intrinsic structure of the literary work and the social structure underlying its creation. The study uses a descriptive qualitative method, with Putu Wijaya's *Peradilan Rakyat* as the primary data source. The research data consist of words, phrases, sentences, dialogues, narratives, and textual passages that reveal the intrinsic structure and the author's worldview. Data were collected through intensive reading, note-taking, identification, and classification. The analysis applies the concepts of genetic structuralism, including intrinsic structure, human facts, collective subject, worldview, and the relationship between literary works and social conditions. The findings indicate that *Peradilan Rakyat* is constructed around the themes of justice, law, power, and social criticism. The characterization reveals conflicts between individual interests, authority, and the pursuit of justice. The setting strengthens the representation of a social environment characterized by legal problems and injustice. From the perspective of genetic structuralism, the short story is not merely an imaginative work but also represents a critical worldview concerning the practices of power and problems of justice in society. Therefore, *Peradilan Rakyat* can be understood as a literary work that connects individual experiences with broader social realities.

Keywords: genetic structuralism, short story, *Peradilan Rakyat*, Putu Wijaya, social criticism.

INTRODUCTION

Literature is one form of human expression that has a close relationship with social life. Literary works do not emerge in a social vacuum but are shaped by human experiences, thoughts, values, and the social and cultural conditions surrounding their production. Consequently, literature can be understood not only as an aesthetic creation but also as a representation of social reality and human experience (Faruk, 2019; Ratna, 2015). Literary texts may preserve social values, express conflicts, and provide critical perspectives on the conditions experienced by individuals and communities.

A short story, as a form of literary work, has the ability to present social issues through relatively concise narratives. Although a short story has limited narrative space, it can intensively represent human problems through characters, characterization, plot, setting, conflict, and language (Nurgiyantoro, 2019; Stanton, 2012).

Through these elements, writers can construct complex relationships between individual experiences and broader social conditions.

Contemporary literary studies also demonstrate that literary works can be examined as representations of social relations, power, gender, cultural values, and social inequality. Studies of Indonesian literary works, for example, have examined how literary narratives represent gender relations and social structures (Yulianeta & Ismail, 2022; Mukhibun & Wardani, 2023). Other studies have demonstrated that literary characters can function as representations of social conflicts and forms of resistance within particular cultural contexts (Widayanti et al., 2024; Tiwery et al., 2024). These studies reinforce the view that literary analysis can move beyond textual elements toward an examination of the social structures represented through literature.

One Indonesian writer who frequently presents social issues in his works is Putu Wijaya. He is widely recognized as an Indonesian literary figure whose works encompass novels, short stories, dramas, and journalistic writings. His literary works frequently present social tensions, moral problems, cultural conflicts, and criticism of social conditions. Such characteristics make his works relevant to approaches that examine the relationship between literature and society.

The short story *Peradilan Rakyat* is one of Putu Wijaya's works that is interesting to examine because it presents issues related to law and justice. The problems represented in the story can be interpreted not only through its intrinsic structure but also through the broader social context represented by the narrative. Literary representations of social conflict frequently reveal tensions between individual interests, social expectations, authority, and moral values (Faruk, 2019; Ratna, 2015).

The issue of justice in literature is not merely concerned with whether something is legally right or wrong. It can also involve power relations, social interests, morality, and the position of individuals within society. In this sense, literature may function as a medium for questioning established social structures and exposing contradictions within social life. Contemporary studies of literary resistance similarly demonstrate that literary texts can represent struggles against dominant structures and social inequalities (Pasaribu et al., 2025; Suharyo et al., 2025).

To understand the relationship between the structure of the literary work and social reality, this study employs a genetic structuralism approach. Genetic structuralism was developed by Lucien Goldmann as an approach that examines the relationship between literary structures and social structures. Goldmann argues that literary works should be understood as meaningful structures related to the worldview of particular social groups (Goldmann, 1975, 1980). Thus, literary works are not regarded as isolated products of individual imagination but as expressions

that may reflect the consciousness of a social group.

Genetic structuralism does not analyze literary works solely through their intrinsic elements. The approach also considers human facts, collective subjects, social structures, and worldview. Human facts refer to meaningful human activities and behaviors, while the collective subject refers to social groups whose consciousness may be expressed through literary works (Goldmann, 1980). These concepts enable researchers to connect textual structures with social realities.

The relevance of genetic structuralism can also be observed in recent literary studies that examine the relationship between individual experiences and broader social structures. Research on women, gender, patriarchy, and resistance, for example, demonstrates how literary characters can represent broader social conflicts rather than merely individual experiences (Dinanti & Tjahjani, 2021; Amanda & Nugroho, 2024; Tanjung & Hayati, 2025). Similarly, studies of literary resistance show that characters may represent social groups negotiating with dominant cultural structures (Faiz & Koca, 2024; Jannah & Handayani, 2026).

The concept of genetic structuralism is therefore relevant to the analysis of *Peradilan Rakyat* because the issues of law and justice presented in the short story can be associated with broader social realities. The conflicts experienced by the characters may represent not only individual problems but also social tensions involving law, authority, morality, and justice. From this perspective, the meaning of the short story can be understood through the relationship between its internal structure and the social structure represented in the narrative.

Based on this background, this study is entitled **“A Genetic Structuralism Analysis of the Short Story *Peradilan Rakyat* by Putu Wijaya.”** The study seeks to reveal the intrinsic structure of the short story and analyze its human facts, collective subject, worldview, and relationship with social reality.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Based on the background above, the research questions are formulated as follows:

1. What intrinsic structures are found in Putu Wijaya's short story *Peradilan Rakyat*?
2. What human facts are represented in *Peradilan Rakyat*?
3. How is the collective subject represented in *Peradilan Rakyat*?
4. What worldview is represented in *Peradilan Rakyat*?
5. How is the relationship between literary structure and social reality represented in *Peradilan Rakyat*?

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

This study aims to:

1. Describe the intrinsic structure of Putu Wijaya's short story *Peradilan Rakyat*.
2. Describe the human facts represented in the short story.
3. Describe the collective subject represented in the short story.
4. Analyze the worldview represented in the short story.
5. Analyze the relationship between literary structure and social reality in *Peradilan Rakyat*.

RESEARCH SIGNIFICANCE

Theoretically, this study is expected to contribute to literary studies, particularly the application of genetic structuralism in analyzing Indonesian literary works. Genetic structuralism provides a framework for connecting textual structures with social structures and collective consciousness (Goldmann, 1975, 1980).

Practically, this study is expected to benefit students and researchers in Indonesian Language Education by providing an analytical model that connects literary texts with social contexts. Literary analysis can thus encourage students to understand not only how a story is constructed but also why particular social issues emerge within a literary work (Faruk, 2019; Ratna, 2015). For readers, this study is expected to demonstrate that literature does not merely

serve an aesthetic function but can also become a medium for reflecting on social problems, values, power relations, and human experiences. Recent studies similarly indicate that literary works can function as spaces for examining social inequality, resistance, and dominant cultural structures (Widayanti et al., 2024; Suharyo et al., 2025).

RESEARCH METHOD

This study employs a **descriptive qualitative method**. The qualitative approach is appropriate because the research data consist of words, phrases, sentences, dialogues, narratives, and events contained in the short story. Literary research requires interpretive analysis because meaning is constructed through relationships among textual elements, social contexts, and cultural values (Endraswara, 2013; Ratna, 2015).

The approach used in this study is **genetic structuralism**. This approach analyzes the relationship between the intrinsic structure of the literary work and the social conditions represented through the work. The analysis is therefore not limited to theme, character, plot, setting, and conflict but also considers human facts, collective subjects, and worldview (Goldmann, 1975, 1980).

Data Source

The primary data source is Putu Wijaya's short story *Peradilan Rakyat*. The primary data consist of textual passages that reveal the theme, characters, characterization, plot, setting, conflict, and representations of social life.

Secondary data consist of books, scholarly journal articles, and academic references relevant to literary theory, genetic structuralism, sociology of literature, and studies of social issues in literary works. Secondary references are used to strengthen the interpretation of the primary textual data (Faruk, 2019; Ratna, 2015).

Data Collection Technique

Data were collected through several stages. First, the researcher read *Peradilan Rakyat* comprehensively to obtain an overall understanding of the narrative. Second,

textual passages related to intrinsic elements were identified. Third, passages representing human facts, social relationships, conflict, law, authority, and justice were recorded. Fourth, the data were classified according to the analytical categories of genetic structuralism.

The process of intensive reading and classification is important in qualitative literary research because interpretation needs to be based on identifiable textual evidence rather than on general assumptions (Endraswara, 2013).

Data Analysis Technique

The data were analyzed descriptively and interpretively. The classified data were analyzed by connecting textual structures with the social context represented in the short story.

The analysis consisted of three major stages. First, the researcher analyzed the intrinsic structure of the short story. Second, the researcher examined human facts, collective subjects, and worldview. Third, the researcher connected the literary structure with the broader social structure. This analytical procedure follows the fundamental principle of genetic structuralism, which views literary works as meaningful structures that are dialectically related to social structures and collective consciousness (Goldmann, 1975, 1980).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Intrinsic Structure of *Peradilan Rakyat*

A. Theme

The major themes in *Peradilan Rakyat* concern **justice, law, authority, morality, and social life**. These themes are developed through conflicts that reveal tensions between formal legal principles and broader social perceptions of justice.

Theme is an important intrinsic element because it provides the central meaning that organizes other narrative elements. A theme is not simply a single word or topic but an underlying idea that connects the events and conflicts in a literary work (Nurgiyantoro, 2019; Stanton, 2012).

In *Peradilan Rakyat*, the theme of justice becomes significant because law ideally provides protection, order, and certainty for society. Nevertheless, the implementation

of law can encounter interests, authority, and differences in interpretations of justice. This tension creates the central social problem represented in the story.

From a genetic structuralist perspective, the theme can be connected with social reality. The concern with justice is not merely an individual concern but can represent a broader social consciousness concerning the relationship between citizens, authority, and legal institutions (Goldmann, 1975).

B. Characters and Characterization

Characters play an important role in constructing conflict and communicating the author's ideas. Through actions, dialogue, attitudes, and relationships, characters represent different positions within the social structure.

The characters in *Peradilan Rakyat* can therefore be interpreted as representations of social positions associated with authority, individuals facing legal problems, and members of society concerned with justice.

Characterization becomes significant because it transforms abstract social issues into human experiences. Through characters, readers encounter questions concerning responsibility, authority, morality, and justice.

Such representation is consistent with the sociological understanding of literature, in which individual characters may embody social tensions and collective experiences (Faruk, 2019; Ratna, 2015).

C. Plot

The plot develops through a causal sequence of events that establishes the central conflict. Issues concerning law and justice function as important forces in the development of the narrative.

At the beginning of the story, the readers are introduced to the situation and problems that establish the conflict. The conflict subsequently develops through the actions and decisions of the characters. As different interests confront each other, narrative tension increases.

The climax emphasizes questions concerning the meaning of justice and the relationship between formal law and moral considerations. The resolution provides an

opportunity for readers to reflect on the social problems presented in the story.

Therefore, the plot functions not only as a sequence of events but also as a mechanism through which social contradictions become visible (Nurgiyantoro, 2019; Stanton, 2012).

D. Setting

The setting in *Peradilan Rakyat* contributes to the social atmosphere of the narrative. Setting includes not only the physical location of events but also the social environment in which the characters interact.

The social setting reflects a community characterized by rules, values, norms, authority, and expectations concerning justice. Consequently, individual conflicts become connected with broader social circumstances.

From the perspective of genetic structuralism, this relationship between individual experience and social environment is important because literary structures can reflect broader social structures (Goldmann, 1980).

E. Conflict

The central conflict concerns the tension between **law and justice**. Law operates through formal rules, while justice may involve broader moral and humanitarian considerations.

This tension provides the basis for social criticism within the story. The formal application of law does not necessarily correspond to every individual's understanding of justice. Consequently, the story invites readers to consider the distinction between legality and justice.

Literary works frequently use conflict to expose contradictions within society. Recent studies of literary resistance similarly demonstrate how narrative conflicts can represent struggles against dominant social and cultural structures (Pasaribu et al., 2025; Suharyo et al., 2025).

2. Human Facts in the Short Story

Human facts constitute an important concept in genetic structuralism. Human facts refer to meaningful human activities, behaviors, and social actions that become

part of historical and social life (Goldmann, 1980).

Several human facts can be identified in *Peradilan Rakyat*, particularly:

1. legal problems;
2. relationships between individuals and authority;
3. struggles to obtain justice;
4. conflicts of interest;
5. moral responsibility; and
6. relationships between individuals and society.

These human facts indicate that the conflicts represented in the short story are connected with social experiences.

Law and judicial processes can be understood as social facts because they are institutions that regulate relationships among individuals. When individuals encounter legal institutions, their personal experiences become connected with broader social structures.

This relationship demonstrates the importance of analyzing literature not merely as an autonomous text but as a representation of human activity and social consciousness (Faruk, 2019; Goldmann, 1975).

3. Collective Subject

The **collective subject** is a central concept in genetic structuralism. Goldmann argues that literary works can express the worldview of social groups rather than simply the personal consciousness of an individual author (Goldmann, 1975, 1980). In *Peradilan Rakyat*, the collective subject can be understood through the representation of members of society who experience and respond to issues of law and justice.

The community represented in the story possesses particular expectations concerning justice, morality, and social order. These expectations create a relationship between individual experiences and collective consciousness.

The collective subject is therefore not necessarily represented by a single character. Instead, it emerges through shared social values and attitudes toward authority and justice.

This interpretation is consistent with sociological literary studies that emphasize the relationship between individual characters and broader social structures (Faruk, 2019; Ratna, 2015).

4. The Author's Worldview

Worldview is one of the central concepts of genetic structuralism. It refers to a coherent way of understanding humanity, society, values, and social relationships that may be represented through a literary work (Goldmann, 1975).

In *Peradilan Rakyat*, the worldview can be interpreted as a **critical worldview concerning law, authority, and justice**.

Putu Wijaya does not present legal issues merely as formal questions. Instead, legal problems are connected with moral and social considerations. Justice is represented as a concept that cannot be separated from humanity and social relations.

The worldview represented in the story therefore questions situations in which formal authority does not necessarily produce substantive justice.

The critical perspective becomes an important characteristic of literary works that address social contradictions. Contemporary literary studies have similarly identified critical representations of dominant structures, inequality, and resistance in literary texts (Dinanti & Tjahjani, 2021; Jannah & Handayani, 2026).

5. The Relationship between Literary Structure and Social Reality

One of the fundamental principles of genetic structuralism is the relationship between literary structure and social structure. A literary work is understood as a meaningful totality that is connected to a broader social totality (Goldmann, 1975, 1980).

In *Peradilan Rakyat*, the relationship can be observed through the connection between individual conflict and broader questions concerning law and justice.

The narrative presents individual experiences, but these experiences are connected with social institutions and collective values. Legal authority, social

expectations, moral responsibility, and perceptions of justice interact within the narrative structure.

The relationship can therefore be illustrated as follows:

individual problems → legal conflict → authority relations → social problems → social criticism

This relationship demonstrates that the meaning of *Peradilan Rakyat* extends beyond the individual experiences of its characters. The narrative also represents broader social concerns.

6. Social Criticism in *Peradilan Rakyat*

Social criticism is an important dimension of the short story. The criticism is primarily directed toward problems concerning law, authority, justice, and social relations.

Through the narrative, Putu Wijaya questions situations in which formal legal mechanisms may not always correspond to society's expectations of justice.

Literature can perform such a critical function because it provides a symbolic space in which social contradictions can be represented and examined. Contemporary literary research has demonstrated that literary texts can represent resistance to dominant structures and provide alternative perspectives on social reality (Tiwery et al., 2024; Pasaribu et al., 2025).

In this context, *Peradilan Rakyat* can be interpreted as a literary representation of social concerns regarding the relationship between law and justice.

The story therefore has both aesthetic and social functions. Its narrative structure entertains readers while simultaneously encouraging them to question social realities.

7. Relevance of Genetic Structuralism to Indonesian Language Education

The analysis of *Peradilan Rakyat* through genetic structuralism is relevant to Indonesian Language and Literature Education.

Students should not only be encouraged to identify intrinsic elements but also to understand how literary texts are connected with social realities. Such an approach

encourages students to read literary works critically and contextually.

Through this learning approach, students can develop the ability to:

1. critically read literary works;
2. identify intrinsic elements;
3. understand the social context of literature;
4. connect literary works with social life;
5. develop critical thinking; and
6. understand social values such as justice, morality, and humanity.

Literary learning that connects textual analysis with social context can encourage students to understand literature as both an aesthetic and social phenomenon. This is consistent with contemporary literary studies that use literary works to examine social issues and cultural values (Yulianeta & Ismail, 2022; Widayanti et al., 2024).

CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis, it can be concluded that Putu Wijaya's short story *Peradilan Rakyat* possesses a narrative structure that strongly represents issues of law, justice, authority, morality, and social life.

From the intrinsic perspective, the short story is constructed through themes concerning justice and law, characters representing different social positions, a plot developed through conflict, and a social setting that strengthens the representation of social problems.

From the perspective of genetic structuralism, *Peradilan Rakyat* cannot be understood solely through its intrinsic structure. The work is also connected with human facts involving legal problems, conflicts of interest, authority relations, moral responsibility, and struggles concerning justice. These elements demonstrate the relationship between individual experiences and broader social structures (Goldmann, 1975, 1980).

The collective subject is represented through social groups that possess particular values and expectations concerning justice and authority. Meanwhile, the worldview represented in the short story demonstrates a critical

orientation toward the relationship between law, power, and justice.

The analysis also demonstrates that the literary structure of *Peradilan Rakyat* is connected with social reality. Individual conflicts in the story function as representations of broader social concerns. Consequently, the short story can be understood as a literary work that transforms social experiences into an aesthetic and critical narrative.

Therefore, *Peradilan Rakyat* possesses not only aesthetic value but also significant social value. Through the story, Putu Wijaya invites readers to examine law and justice critically and to recognize the importance of morality and humanity in social life.

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