

Abstract

This paper seeks to examine the themes of the *Atheis* novel by Achdiyat K. Mihardja entitled “**An Analysis of Theme in Mihardja's *Atheis***”. This research has two purposes: to find out how are the structure of plot, characters and setting of the *Atheis* novel by Achdiyat K. Mihardja, and to find out how do structures of the novel represent the theme. The writer limits the research focus on how to examine and search the structure of the novel to find out the theme contained in the Mihardja's *Atheis*, those structures are plot, character and setting. This research is expected to provide knowledge in analyzing theme of a novel, especially using intrinsic elements of a fictional work. The writer uses qualitative and descriptive method in analyzing the data. The writer also used the close reading method to find out the data that represent the theme and use Shipley's theory in theme level classification to classify the theme. With those methods, the descriptions of the structures and theme representations are collected through dialogues and narrations. As the result of this research showed that the plot used by Achdiyat is open ending plot. In the character the writer found four main characters and seven additional characters that have various characteristics related to their beliefs and vision of life. The setting of time used by Achdiyat are 1940's, night, evening and morning. Whereas the setting of place that used by Achdiyat are Japanese military office in Bandung, Panyeredan village in Garut, Rusli's house, Kartini house, Hasan's aunt's house, cemetery in Panyeredan, and a hotel in Bandung. the theme of this novel is beliefs and vision of life. Based on the conflicts that depicted in every phase of the story's plot, character and setting implied about atheism, religion, knowledge, religiosity problems, truth, faith and the existence of God. The theme can be understood by reading and analyzing the intrinsic elements of this novel.

Keyword: novel, theme, beliefs and vision of life.