

INTERNAL FOCALIZATION OF CHARACTERS IN FRANKENSTEIN BY MARY SHELLEY

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ABSTRACT

This research analyses the internal focalization of characters in the novel *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley. Based on narratology, focalization can be divided into three kinds zero focalization, internal focalization and external focalization. Internal focalization is when narrator knows what character thoughts, they cannot explain the thought of others character. *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley told us about the story about a man named Victor Frankenstein who created monster and brought that back to life. After that Victor was terrorized by the monster and ruin his life. The story mostly uses internal focalization as every character told the story through their perspective. This paper uses a qualitative method. The data are collected and represented in direct quotes from the book. The theory that is used in this research is based on Gérard Genette's theory about narratology, which is provide the information about how the story is told based on narrator. The research reveals that Mary Shelley uses more than one internal focalization in *Frankenstein*. The first is coming from Captain Walton to Victor Frankenstein to the monster and come back to Victor and ended with Captain Walton. The shifts point of view in internal focalization shows others character perspective about how the story goes.

Keywords: Focalization, Internal Focalization, Narratology.

INTRODUCTION

Narratology is theory used in literature criticism. The term "narratology" is globally used as equivalent of term "narrative theory" which is include in narrative studies as a genre (Fludernik, 2009: 8). Bortolussi and Dixon (2003:10) states narratology as a study that basically identify and describe the characteristic of narrative text.

Narratology also include some definition about narrative aspect like narrative perspective. Narrative Perspective is a distinction between narrative voice and narrative perspective. This latter point of view that is adopted by the narrator is called focalization by Genette. "So by focalization I certainly mean a restriction of 'field' – actually, that is, a selection of narrative information with respect to what was traditionally called *omniscience*" (1988, p. 74).

"The first term [zero focalization] corresponds to what English-language criticism calls narrative with omniscient narrator and Pouillon 'vision from behind,' and which Todorov symbolizes by the formula Narrator > Character (where the narrator knows more than the character, or more exactly, says more than any of the characters knows). In the second term [internal focalization], Narrator = Character (the narrator says only what a given character knows); this is narrative with 'point of view' after Lubbock, or with 'restricted field' after Blin; Pouillon calls it 'vision with.' In the third term [external focalization], Narrator < Character (the narrator says less than the character knows); this is the 'objective' or 'behaviorist' narrative, what Pouillon calls 'vision from without'" ([1972] 1980: 188–89).

Genette distinguished three kinds of focalization. Zero Focalization is when narrator knows more than the character, they know what's going on and what's the characters have in mind. Zero focalization is also called "omniscient narrator" in traditional. Basically, zero focalization is the 3rd person point of view Pouillon called this vision from behind with formula Narrator > Character. Narrator knows the fact about character, where the characters are and what the character thought. The narrator also knows more than one information of more than one character.

The second one is Internal Focalization. Internal Focalization is when the narrator knows as much as the focal character. Narrator doesn't know what other characters have in their mind. Internal focalization is also known as 1st person point of view. Pouillon called this as vision with formula Narrator = Character.

External Focalization The narrator knows less than the characters. He acts a bit like a camera lens, following the protagonists' actions and gestures from the outside; he is unable to guess their thoughts. Pouillon called this vision from without with formula Narrator < Character. Narrator cannot know what character think,

One of the focus is internal focalization which is used in Frankenstein novel. Shelley shows us how the story goes based on different person perspective. The story about Captain Walton who send the letter to his sister and found a man in snow storm. The man was Victor Frankenstein and told Captain Walton how can he ended up in that situation. Victor loved to study about science based on his curiosity. Eventually his curiosity turned into ambition to bring back human to life. He finally made a hideous creature and it ran away. Victor rejected the creature and the creature took a revenge by killing everyone Victor knew. In this novel Shelley use internal focalization but the different is that Shelley used it in more than one perspective.

There's a similar research like this research is "Unnatural" Narratology, Frame Narrative, and Intertextual in Frankenstein by Hassen, Jessica Allen. The research is about how Mary Sally use unusual way to deliver the story based on narratology, frame narrative and intertextuality. The similarity is that both article explains about narratology and the way the story is deliver; the difference is that this article is more focus on how the story is delivered through different perspective or point of view or in this case ins through different focalization.

DATA SOURCE

The data for this research are collected from Frankenstein novel by Mary Shelley as source of the proof of the research. The data that support this research also comes from quotes from literature expertise and from another journal research that related with the topic of this research. The journals that are used in this research are written by Burkhard Niederhoff from Hamburg University stated in his research about Focalization, Lucie Guillemette and Cynthia Levesque from Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières about narratology, and Herman Didipu from Universitas Negeri Gorontalo about *Gérard Genette Narratology Theory (Conceptual Review)*.

METHODS

This research uses qualitative methods. Qualitative research method means is the method to do research by collecting non-numerical data like words, sentence, and concept. It could involve with some quotes and data from any trusted source and describe exiting data (Juanda, 2020). One of the steps that can be used is to collect data from various sources (Juanda, 2021). the other step is to make a review of the data (Juanda, 2021). The data that represented in this research is based on direct quotes and journal research (Moleong, 2018: 11). In order to find how the internal focalization is used in Frankenstein novel, this research use quotes and data mainly based on *Genette* theory about narratology.

THEORETICAL REVIEW

Internal Focalization Based on *Genette*

The framework theory about focalization is *Genette* said the second term of focalization is internal focalization Narrator = Character (the narrator says only what a given character knows); this is narrative with 'point of view' after Lubbock, or with 'restricted field' after Blin; ([1972] 1980: 188–89). Based on the quotes, internal focalization is when the narrator is the character. They view the story based on the 1st person's point of view. They know what happen and they see what happen. The internal focalization does not know what's other character think because they can only see what happen.

Internal Focalization and Zero Focalization Based on Bal

"The narrative mood of the Recherche is very often internal focalization through the hero" ([1972] 1980: 199). It explains that the story is seen based on "hero" perspective. There's also other's vision about the difference about *Genette's* theory with other one. According to Bal about the revision of *Genette's* theory in terms of point of view, the distinction between *Genette's* zero focalization and his internal focalization lies in the agent or subject that "sees" the story (the narrator in the first case, a character in the second); Bal believes that there's difference between *Genette's* zero focalization and internal focalization based on how subject see the story.

Internal focalization is narrower than zero focalization because internal focalization cannot understand the situation more than zero focalization. Internal focalization only see and knows the situation that happen in front of their eyes they do not know how other's character think and how the situation happen in other place, since focalization plays as part of the character that tell us the story that they see.

Three Kinds of Internal Focalization

Internal vocalizations can be grouped into three types, namely. First of all is fixed focalization, which is a narrative narrated by a character from a fixed position. It means that the point of view doesn't change, only one character that tell the story from start to end.

Second is variable focalization, in which a narrative is narrated by several characters in turn. This focalization is when different character tells us the story. They do not tell the story based on the same vision or same event. They tell us the different story on the different event.

The last one is multiple focalizations, namely the narrative of an event from the point of view of several characters. Multiple focalizations happen when there's one event that is watched by more than one characters. They tell us the story about one event in their different point of view. Unlike variable focalization the event of the story that they told us is same, the different is how the character see the even based on their point of view or their version.

RESULTS AND DISSCUSSION

The first focalizer is from Captain Walton who told the story through his letter about his encounter with the stranded man in the snow near the ship, it was Victor Frankenstein. Walton told his sister, Margaret at 1st August he found the stranded stature that was found in the snow and rescued him.

"Yesterday the stranger said to me, "You may easily perceive, Captain Walton, that I have suffered great and unparalleled misfortunes. I had determined at one time that the memory of these evils should die with me, but you have won me to alter my determination..." (Mary Wollstonecraft (Godwin) Shelley: Letter 4)

Based on his at 19th August Victor began to speak to Walton. From the quote we can see there from Walton's point of view as it says "Yesterday the stranger said to me," It comes from Walton's point of view. The stranger is referring to the stranded man, Victor. The stranger refer to Victor and me refer to Walton.

"He then told me that he would commence his narrative the next day when I should be at leisure." (Mary Wollstonecraft (Godwin) Shelley: Letter 4)

From this point on is how the focalization or point of view will change to Victor's point of view. "He" was referring to Victor Frankenstein. Victor began to tell his story from the perfect children and turned into someone who was stranded in the snow with his eyes full of anguish, sadness and misery.

"On the evening previous to her being brought to my home, my mother had said playfully, "I have a pretty present for my Victor—tomorrow he shall have it." And when, on the morrow, she presented Elizabeth to me as her promised gift..." (Mary Wollstonecraft (Godwin) Shelley: Chapter 1)

It can be seen that the point of view from Victor based on the possessive pronoun that is used like "my mother", and referring words such as "to me". It is also shown that the narrator was Victor based on "mother" referred to on her speech that she mentioned "...for my Victor..." and followed with claim that Elizabeth was presented "to me".

The story goes on as Victor told about the early of his life. Victor Frankenstein son of Alphonse and Caroline Beaufort Frankenstein and got present named Elizabeth Lavenza as cousin and will become Victor's wife as the last wish from his mother before she died, Victor also had friend named Henry Clerval and he went to the University in Ingolstadt from that time he wanted to learn about physic and science and full of curiosity.

Victor was very curious about science from the curiosity of science and physic knowledge it growth into thirst of science and physic knowledge and growth into ambition that would back fired him in the future, he shut himself from the world to make a creation about his experiment about science based on his ambition about the line of death and live that he probably can cross.

From Victor's point of view, it told us how ambitious about science that went through something that beyond human can do he made a creation from dead body. A long lot night passed by he spent all his time in his laboratory to create a new creation, after finished it he was not really satisfied with the creation otherwise he felt scared, afraid and disgust toward his creation. After that he fell into depression of fear which lead him to the sleepless night and uneasy feeling he had this is what he gets from his thirst of knowledge which is the surface of the bigger problem that he will get in the future. He quite relieved after visit of his friend Henry Clerval he was so thrilled and forget about the monster that he created, not to mention when he found about that his creation vanished from his laboratory.

However, his happiness didn't last long when he got the letter from his home in Geneva that his youngest brother, William has been murdered by someone. On his way Victor is really shocked that he saw a gigantic figure looked like his creation and assumed that it's the murderer. After his arrival in Geneva everybody was in sorrow about William's death, he was killed by someone who strangle him Elizabeth blamed herself since she was mad at William before he went, but unfortunately, people accused Justine as the murderer, Justine is a girl who lived with Frankenstein's Family.

No one believed that Justine is the murderer, Frankenstein's believed that she is innocent especially Elizabeth, but unfortunately, Justine admits that he murdered William since the evidence, Elizabeth's pendant/locket found in Justine pocket. Frankenstein's more shocked after known that Justine's confession was fake, but she still has to be executed, from that Victor fall into more depression and fear because he known that the one who murdered his brother and accused Justine is his creation.

Victor's point of view ended at chapter 10. As Victor encountered the monster, the monster who complain about why did Victor brought his back to life yet he rejected him. As the monster speak with anguish and angry tone he asked him to listen his story.

"...Hear my tale; it is long and strange, and the temperature of this place is not fitting to your fine sensations; come to the hut upon the mountain..." (Mary Wollstonecraft (Godwin) Shelley: Chapter 10)

"But I consented to listen, and seating myself by the fire which my odious companion had lighted, he thus began his tale." ... (Mary Wollstonecraft (Godwin) Shelley: Chapter 10)

The monster asked are shown "hear my tale" from the quotes it was still Victor's point of view, as the monster speaks. In the second quotes where Victor decided to hear the monster's story, from that point on is the part when the point of view will shift to the monster's point of view. From chapter 11 to chapter 16 the story will be told from monster's perspective, how misery his life after he brought back to life.

The monster explained that what made him do such a terrible thing was because he was rejected. How he was supposed to be Victor's Adam but instead he become the fallen angle. Explain how Victor action as the monster creation not only led Victor into fear and misery but also to the monster itself when nobody wanted to accept him he only could learn from distant become an outcast and just wanted to be friend of De Lacey family, a poor family that come from rich family in Paris. Monster only could observe from distant learn from their language and from the book on Victor's jacket after he learnt from Agatha, Felix and blind father from De Lacey, he confident that he would be accepted but to bad no one would accept the monster.

"Cursed, cursed creator! Why did I live? Why, in that instant, did I not extinguish the spark of existence which you had so wantonly bestowed?" ... (Mary Wollstonecraft (Godwin) Shelley: Chapter 16)

From that part where the narrator cursed the creator was in monster point of view. The creator itself referred to Victor. The moment happened after how monster was brought back to life, wandered alone and meet De Lacey family. He learned about human through De Lacey and yet still rejected from them.

De Lacey departed was really made Monster realized no one would accept him and humankind was his enemy, and made William Frankenstein became his first victim, it was a warning from him to Victor, Monster asked the proposal to Victor as the creator to make him a mate and promised to leave Europe

Victor's point of view started again at chapter 17 to chapter 24 as shown in the quote:

"The being finished speaking and fixed his looks upon me in the expectation of a reply. But I was bewildered, perplexed, and unable to arrange my ideas sufficiently to understand the full extent of his proposition." ..." (Mary Wollstonecraft (Godwin) Shelley: Chapter 17)

The moment when the monster finished the story show that the point of view is not coming from the monster anymore. "The being" refer to the monster and the subject "I" is refer to Victor. As the monster asked Victor to create another monster as the mate of his first creature. The point of view keep steady at Victor's point of view.

Victor return to Ingolstadt, Henry asked him to accompany him to have tour through England, meanwhile Henry was happy Victor only feel an uneasy feeling and haunt by Monster proposal and how could he make another monster.

When he returned to his laboratory, Victor tried to make another monster but he could not so he broke the promise in front the Monster. The Monster was so angry and threat Victor that he will meet him on his wedding day, misery came when Victor in Ireland and found out that his friend Henry died, sorrow misery, guilt filled Victor's heart. Victor ready to die after his marriage with Elizabeth but unfortunately the one who would die was Elizabeth, and made his father sad till died. Victor's heart filled with the anger and vengeance and chased the monster and lost it. Victor was found by Robert Walton and died a few days after that the monster come and saw the death of his creator and leave Europe.

In the middle chapter 24, the narrator shifted from Victor to Walton as the letter format begin in the chapter. In the last part of the novel

"He sprang from the cabin-window as he said this, upon the ice raft which lay close to the vessel. He was soon borne away by the waves and lost in darkness and distance." ..." (Mary Wollstonecraft (Godwin) Shelley: Chapter 24)

The narrator returns to Captain Walton. Based on the letter that tell Victor was dying, soon in the cold winter the monster come to meet his creator for the last time, leave and disappear in the snow. "He" is referring to the monster, the narrator is no longer Victor, since the story told that Victor is already dead in coffin.

Mary Shelley uses both variable and multiple focalizations, because of the way she use more than one character to tell the story, and how the perspective change and shift from one to another. Captain Walton, Victor and the monster variable focalization since they take turn to tell the story but

the event is different. Captain Walton told the story how he found Victor through the letter, Victor told the story about the monster and the monster told Victor the story about how him spent the time being rejected and watched De Lacey. Multiple focalizations come between Victor and monster about how monster kill William. The various focalizer that tell the story from their point of view. Most of the focalization shows how dark the story was. The anguish, depression, and madness reflects in the focalizer. Victor mostly focalize how the curiosity turned into ambition and lead into anguish, depression and regret. The focalize that come from the monster mostly how miserable l\his life when he doesn't ask to be brought to life only to find himself being rejected by every man even from his creator himself.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, internal focalization is the focalization that come from the first person's point of view of the story. The narrator is coming from the first person's point of view based on how the first person see what's happening through the story. One of the types of internal focalization are both multiple and variable focalization which means, Mary Shelly use both type of internal focalization to tell the story in her novel Frankenstein. The story is told based on the first person's point of view, it just the narrator changed as the story goes on to tell the story based on how they see it. The point of view itself comes from Captain Walton who found Victor Frankenstein through his letter to his sister Margaret, the Victor continue the story through his point of view when he created the monster and face all kind of misery, the point of view change to the monster's point of view to tell Victor what happened after he brought him to life, the point of view shifts back to Victor's point of view until the end of the story and the last point of view come back to Captain Walton.

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