

**THE NARRATIVE STRUCTURE OF LUC BESSON’S MOVIE :
“LUCY” IN GREIMAS NARRATOLOGY**

A GRADUATING PAPER

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for Gaining
the Bachelor Degree in English Literature



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A FINAL PROJECT STATEMENT

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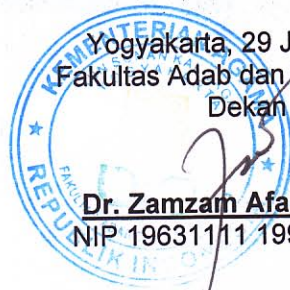
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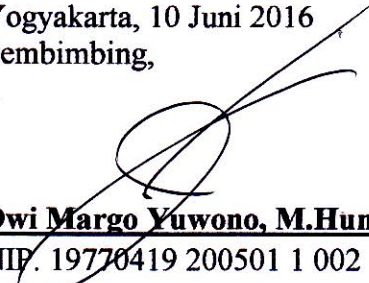
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Saya menyatakan bahwa skripsi tersebut sudah dapat diajukan pada sidang Munaqosyah untuk memenuhi sebagian syarat memperoleh gelar Sarjana Sastra Inggris.

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THE NARRATIVE STRUCTURE OF LUC BESSON'S MOVIE : "LUCY" IN GREIMAS NARRATOLOGY

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ABSTRAK

Film adalah karya sastra yang paling modern abad ini. Film juga merupakan karya sastra yang sering dianalisis oleh para akademisi baik dalam kuliah maupun peneliti lapangan. Keuntungan lebih dari jenis karya sastra ini adalah penggambaran audio-visual yang membungkus cerita, sehingga membuat orang akan lebih mudah memahami makna dari apa yang mereka lihat. Namun, pemahaman makna sebenarnya terletak lebih mendalam pada cerita atau plot, sehingga untuk memahaminya harus dilakukan penelitian terhadap struktur penyusun cerita tersebut. Penelitian ini membahas struktur naratif cerita dalam film Lucy karya Luc Besson dengan menggunakan teori strukturalisme naratologi AJ Greimas. Lucy dipilih karena mempunyai plot yang menarik, bagaimana tokoh protagonis menggunakan narkoba untuk melakukan kebaikan. Hal ini sangat tabu ketika dilihat dalam kacamata dunia nyata. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menemukan dan menentukan struktur naratif cerita tersebut melalui dua skema, yaitu skema naratif fungsional dan skema naratif aktansial. Dalam skema naratif aktansial terdapat tujuh fungsi aktan, yaitu pengirim, subjek, objek, receiver, pembantu, dan opposant. Sedangkan dalam model fungsional ditentukan melalui beberapa tahapan seperti situasi awal, tahap transformasi, dan situasi akhir. Hasil penelitian ini menyimpulkan, dari sembilan adegan cerita yang dianalisis diproduksi sembilan skema aktan. Dari sembilan skema aktan tersebut ditemukan ketidakseimbangan aktan, karena ada enam skema aktan yang mengalami kesempurnaan (peran utuh), sementara tiga lainnya menderita skema aktan nol (\emptyset).

Kata kunci: film, struktur naratif, teori strukturalisme naratologi, Greimas, aktan dan fungsional.

THE NARRATIVE STRUCTURE OF LUC BESSON'S MOVIE : "LUCY" IN GREIMAS NARRATOLOGY

By : Achmad Said Rois

ABSTRACT

Film is the most modern literary works of the century. Film is also a literary work that is often analyzed by academics in both the lectures and field researchers. More advantages over this type of literature is the audio-visual depictions that wraps the story, making people will more easily understand the meaning of what they see. But, understand the meaning includes deeply in the plot, then it needs more research about the plot structure. This research discusses the narrative structure of the story in the film Lucy, the Luc Besson works by using the theory of AJ Greimas structuralism narratology. Lucy was chosen because its interesting plot, how the good character uses drugs to do goodness. It is a taboo thing in the real world. The purpose of this research was to find and determine the narrative structure of the story through two schemes, namely canonical and actantial narrative scheme. In actantial scheme there are seven function of narrative actants, it is the sender, subject, object, receiver, helper, and opposant. While the canonical model is determined through several stages such as the initial situation, the transformation stage, and the final situation. The results of this study concluded that of the nine stories analyzed scenes produced nine actant schemes. Of the nine schemes were found imbalance actant, because there are six actants schemes experienced perfection (integral role), while the other three suffered of zero actant scheme (\emptyset).

Keywords: film, narrative structure, structuralism theory narratology, Greimas, actants and functional.

MOTTO

Life is a gift...Live to give..

Don't be afraid to fail, Be afraid not to try...

فِي أَيِّ آيَاتِ رَبِّكُمَا تُكَذِّبَانِ ۝١٣

So which of the favors of your Lord would you deny ?

(Q. S. Ar-Rahman 55 : 13)

DEDICATION

This final project I dedicated to :

- ♣ My beloved Mother
- ♣ My beloved Mother
- ♣ My beloved Mother and Father
- ♣ All of my family and friends
- ♣ And definitely English Literature Department of UIN Sunan Kalijaga
Yogyakarta

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Finally, I realize that this paper is far away from perfect word so I do allow all readers can give critics and suggestions for this graduating paper in order to make it better next time.

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Yogyakarta, June 10, 2016

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of Study

A film, also called a movie, cinema, or motion picture, is the copyrighted work of art and culture is a mass communication media-heard view which is based on the principles of cinematography with recorded on tape celluloid, video tapes, video discs, and/or material; Other technological inventions in all forms, types, and sizes through chemical processes, electronic process, or other processes, with or without sound, which can be displayed and/or screened Projection system with mechanical, electronic, and/or other (UU 8/1992). According to Severny (2013), the contemporary definition of film or cinema is the art of simulating experiences to communicate ideas, stories, perceptions, feelings, beauty or atmosphere by the means of recorded or programmed moving images along with other sensory stimulations.

Film is the most modern literature of this century. No doubt that the film is a kind of literature that is so attractive to the public. The film is also a literary work that is often analyzed by academics in both the lectures and field researchers, because in many interesting elements to be explored in more depth. More advantage from this kind of literary works is the presence of the film and audio visual depictions that wraps the story, so that makes the film more attractive than other types of literary works. People will more easily grasp the meaning of the story they watch. In other words, the movie

will give a larger effect on the audience because of what people see they will imitate what they write people will remember, and what they memorized will be forgotten (Barton, 2010:245). In other words, film is a mirror of the real human's life, this is why the writer choose film as an object of this research.

One of famous film genre today is science fiction (sci-fi). Science fiction film is a film genre that uses science fiction as the basis for the story. It is speculative, the depiction of the story with the basis of science fiction about a phenomenon that is not fully accepted by science in a real world. In other words, science fiction film is a mixed results between fiction and reality that include a science plot in it. People also feel enjoy with this genre of literary because it makes them think more. This is a reason why many people criticize a science fiction film because it seems unreasonable, especially if the film is taking the thory which still debatable as the basis for the plot. For example, Darwin's theory of evolution that used in Lucy film by Luc Besson.

Lucy, a film directed by Luc Besson is the film that the writer will discuss in this research. This film was released on July 25, 2014, and success in the top grossing box office films, generating more than \$ 458 million to the budget of the manufacture of only \$ 40 million. It get a lot of personal awards and the overall movie actor and became a science fiction movie that is much in demand by people (Gettell, Oliver (2014). This film is chosen by the writer because Lucy has an interesting idea for the plot. This film tells about creation and human existence. The story about human always been

complicated and needs more research to understand it. The complicated plot was raised when the good character used drugs to do goodness. This may be a big question considering that drugs is a bad thing in the real world. When human consumed drugs, it was a bad behavior. But, how this film told another perception about using drugs?

The second reason of this research is another film in a same genre and style entitled *Limitless* (2011). Both of films has a same idea about using drug as a way to increase brain capacity, but *Lucy* is more interesting because this film use a science theory of evolution to strenghten the plot. The year when it made is also affecting the quality of the film shot. *Lucy* better than *Limitless*.

Lucy contemplates the creation of life and the purpose of human existence. In Islam, the perspective about creation of life and human existence was written in Holy Quran. Allah says :

خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ نَفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ ثُمَّ جَعَلَ مِنْهَا زَوْجَهَا وَأَنْزَلَ لَكُمْ مِنَ الْأَنْعَامِ ثَمَانِيَةَ
 أَزْوَاجٍ يَخْلُقُكُمْ فِي بُطُونِ أُمَّهَاتِكُمْ خَلْقًا مِنْ بَعْدِ خَلْقٍ فِي ظُلُمَاتٍ ثَلَاثٍ
 ذَلِكَ اللَّهُ رَبُّكُمْ لَهُ الْمُلْكُ وَاللَّهُ لِلْإِنْسَانِ عَلِيمٌ قَائِلٌ يُصْرَفُونَ^١

“He has created you [all] out of one living entity, and out of it fashioned its mate; and he has bestowed upon you four kinds of cattle of either sex; [and] He creates you in your mothers' wombs, one act of creation after another, in threefold depths of darkness. Thus is God, your Sustainer: unto Him belongs all dominion: there is no deity save Him: how, then, can you lose sight of the truth?” (Q.S. Az-Zumar 39:6)

As same as the Quran said, the beginning of this film is also explain the same thing about this human creation. The plot of this film is very interesting to analyze because this film use literature to express science theory and how it works. Considering the different background of science and literature theory makes this film is interesting to discuss as it position in the middle of both science and literature. The plot was so complicated, then it needs deep understanding about every part that construct the plot. So, the writer choose theory narratology of Greimas to analyze the film.

Greimas structuralism style allows the reader to see how any specific instance of narrativity relates to a larger process of general meaning-making. With this theory, the writer will discuss how the specific instance of Lucy relates and build a meaning of this film. In other words, Lucy is a building that made by many parts. The writer will makes something new when uses Greimas narratology to analyse this film, because this theory mostly applied to analyse written literature. It will very interesting because the writer combines the analysis also with film theory to strengthen this research.

Furthermore, this research aims to learn more about how the perspective of Greimas' theory of narratology see the narrative structure which is portrayed in this film. The writer will explain this research in two part of schemes, the first is Canonical Narrative schema and Actantial Narrative schema.

1.2. Research Question

The research questions of this research is: “How the canonical narrative schema of Lucy?” and “How its actantial narrative schema, according to Greimas method?”

1.3. Objective of Study

According to the problem of statement, the objective of this research is to know how the canonical narrative and actantial narrative schema of Luc Besson’s Lucy. This research will help the reader to know the plot of the story through the text as communication media between the writer and the reader (Ratna, 2009).

1.4. Significances of Study

This research has two significances of study as the purpose in the future. Two significances that stated before is include theoretical and practical significances. The writer hopes that this research can give more contribution to knowledge development for the next literary researcher. They can consider this research as references when using Greimas’ theory of Narratology to analyze literary works, especially in film. It includes in theoretically significances.

In practical significances, this research can help or be an alternative material in film research of literary teaching or in literary criticism. The

writer hopes this research can help to understand the film through structuralism method.

1.5.Literature Review

When making this research, the writer find some researchers that has been analyzed this “Lucy” film by Luc Besson. But as far as this research written, the writer has not found a formal research like a graduating paper or a thesis which analyzed this Lucy film. But the writer found some works used narratological approach. Here are the related literature review.

The first review is an article written by Manohla Dargis (2014:1) titled *Deep in Her Gut, She Knows She's Not Ordinary: In Lucy, Scarlett Johansson Transforms Into a Superwoman*. This article was written for The New York Times on July 25, 2014. In the article does not explain more clearly about the theories and methods used to analyze the film Lucy. However, the authors more leaning towards expressive approaches. According to (Ratna, 2008) from the way the authors analyze the plot, and also filmmakers, thinking, as well as other works of filmmakers is to find a final conclusions, then this article is included in the scope of the expressive approach.

Second, almost the same thing expressed by Joe Morgenstern in his article for The Wall Street Journal dated 24 July 2014. In the movie review column he wrote *Lucy: A Diamond in the Action-Thriller Sky (Gleefully bold, visually adventurous, funny Often, Strikingly Concise and 100% entertaining)*. In his writing, Joe more comparing character Lucy against the

main characters in the film Luc Besson others. This makes the advantages of Lucy increasingly visible, and it is no doubt the action of Scarlett Johansson (2014:1).

The third review entitled “Lucy; a Feminist Film Review of Epic Disappointment” which has written by Sherronda Brown. As stated in the title of her article, the authors analyze the film Lucy in the viewpoint of feminism. The authors compared the presence of women in Lucy with other science fiction films. At the end of the paragraph the author says :

“On the plus side, Lucy spares us the gratuitous cleavage and crotch shots, booty close-ups, and pointless shower/nudity scenes that are often present in action movies, and delivers a female sci-fi/action lead who is not overly sexualized. Sadly, even though it (barely) passes the Bechdel test, it still follows the trend of the many sci-fi/action films which under-represent female characters and reinforce the value of whiteness”(Sherronda, 2014).

The next research, fourth review is conducted by Nandita Agati as the student of Dian Nuswantoro University, Semarang (2009). She analyzes about narrative structure of Yodaka no Hoshi tale by Miyazawa Kenji using theory of structuralism narratology AJ Greimas. Her research find a narrative structure through six functions actants, that is sender, subject, object, receiver, helper, and opposant. She was done in search of the narrative structure with the functional model determined through several phases such as the initial situation, the transformation stage, and the final situation. The research was made based on the qualitative paradigm according to the theory

of AJ Greimas's actants and functional. The result of her research concluded of 3 scenes stories analyzed produced 6 actant scheme. From 6 actant scheme is a balance actants, because there are 3 actant schemes who experienced perfection (the role intact), while the others sustained zero actants scheme (2009:7).

The other student of UDINUS Semarang, Eva Resita and Sri Oemiati have conducted a research too according to AJ Greimas theory. A research entitled "*Analisis Struktural dalam Cerpen Hana Karya Akutagawa Ryounosuke*" was analyzes about the plot of *Hana* using Greimas method. Those actant schemes including six functional actants as a sender, receiver, object, subject, opposant, and receiver. Greimas canonical narrative scheme based on three phases ; first situation phase, transformation phase, and last situation phase. The analysis took a conclusion that *Hana* tale has twelve actant schemes which is has a perfect function. This is the last literature review that the writer found (2009:5).

Further, this research differs from the research mentioned above earlier. This research aims to use Greimas theory to understand Lucy movie as a narrative. It is different with earlier research, because this research use another object with the same theory (fourth and fifth research), and same object with another theory approach (first, second, and third research).

1.6.Theoretical Approach

Narratology is a the structuralist study of narrative. This study aims to understand how re-current elements, themes, and patterns yield a set of universals that determine the makeup of a story. The theory of narrative structure included in the theory that the concept of its structure analysis through approach of structuralism. Text descriptions effort do with the theory of narrative structure through its role as a tool and a way to disassemble the structure of literary works through the story (Sukadaryanto, 1996: 1)

According to Abrams (2009: 173), Narratology denotes recent concerns with the general theory and practice of narrative in all literary forms. It deals especially with types of narrators, the identification of structural elements and their diverse modes of combination, recurrent narrative devices, and the analysis of the kinds of *discourse* by which a narrative gets told, as well as with the narratee that is, the explicit or implied person or audience to whom the narrator addresses the narrative.

In this research, the writer will focuses on the development of narratology theory by A.J. Greimas. Algirdas Greimas seeks in his writing to find the "deep structure" of all narrativity. As a result, he is less interested in what Roland Barthes terms the proairetic and hermeneutic codes than he is in the formal elements in a narrative that create implicit oppositions. To tie Greimas to Barthes once again, Greimas could be said to explore those codes

that Barthes sees as outside of the mere forward temporal progression of narrative; that is, the symbolic, semantic, and cultural codes.

Structuralism theory Narratology of Algirdas Julien Greimas according to Ratna (2009: 128 and 138) includes the class of narratology structuralism because it has advantages in detailed concept presentation, in which there are storylines about characters life which can build bridges of understanding the story through text as a communication media between the author and readers.

Greimas has two model of his presentation concept, functional/canonical and actantial model. The functional model is the sequence of events that called a function. Those functions are the initial situation that characterized by a state that is still in tranquility. Initial situation continues into the transformation stage, that time of qualifying test experienced by the characters, and then toward the decisive test that ended with a time of glorifying test. Then the final situation in which figures have been obtained the goal better (Greimas in Susanto, 2012: 128).

The first model of Greimas is Functional Narrative Scheme (Canonical Narrative schema). According to Jabrohim (1996: 17-19) Functional narrative scheme has a function to parse the subject's role in carrying out the duties of the shipper. Operating structure functional model is divided into three parts, namely :

1. The first part is the initial situation is a situation in which the 'Sender' own desire wanting achieved by assigning the subject as a tool to obtain a desirable thing, namely object.
2. The second part is the transformation stage that is divided in three stages as follows:
 - a) Qualifying test that is the stage at which the subject began the task of obtaining the desired object 'Sender' with the obstacles caused by the opposant 'opponents'. Then came 'Helper' which helps the subject in performing their duties reach object.
 - b) The primary stage, called decisive, is the stage at which the subject is successful in achieving the object by winning his opposition to opposant 'opponents'.
 - c) Phase magnificence or glorifying test, that is the stage at which the subject who has managed object clearance can submit the results to the 'Sender'. Then the subject of getting payment for its services from the 'Sender', while opposant 'Opponents' reckoning.
3. The third part is the end of the situation which is the return of the balance of the situation in which all the problems have been completed and the object has been received by the 'Receiver'. This is the final state.

When described in chart form, then the third part into the chart as follows :

First part	Second part			Third part
Initial State	Transformation			Final State
	Qualifying Test	Decisive Test	Glorifying Test	

The second model of Greimas narratology is actantial model. Greimas said in Martin (2000: 20), actant is someone or something that enhance or live action. Actant can be a person, anthropomorphic (actor who personified), zoomorphic (in general, the term refers to something that is the shape of animals, but according to Greimas, the offender may be in the form that is an animal or something else, in particular god or the existence of superhuman), an item or abstract existence. One actant can take multiple roles. Meanwhile, the actant is not the same as the actor or character.

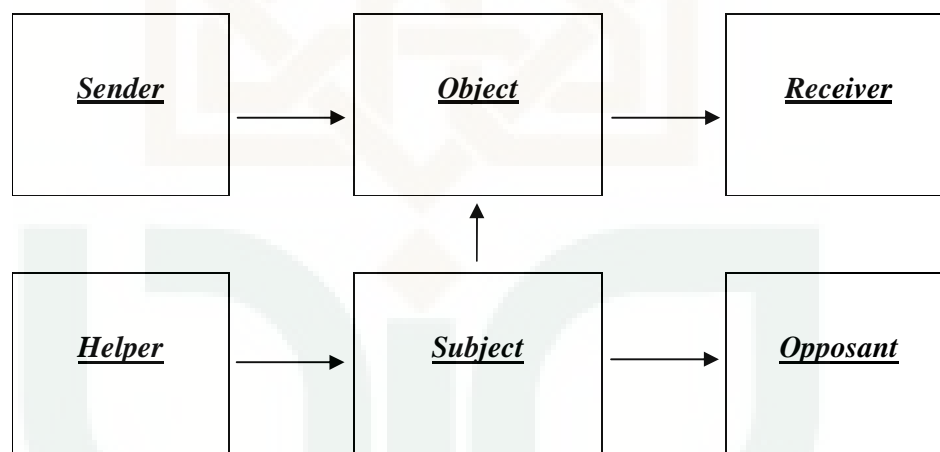
Actant's emphasis on the role and position of animating characters and build the narrative elements of the story. Characters in the narrative locates the position and function of each. A narrative characterized by six fundamental roles : subject, object, sender, receiver, helper, and opponents (Greimas in Eriyanto, 2013: 96).

Greimas in Susanto (2012: 128) describes the terms of the six character actants as follows: The sender is someone or something that has the desire or the will to get the object. The subject is someone or something that the sender used as a tool to get the object. The object is someone or something that is desired by the sender through the subject. Helper is someone or something that came to help the subject to the task in achieving the object. Opponents

are someone or something comes against the activities of subject to achieve the object. The receiver is someone or something that receives the work of getting the subject in the object, sometimes the receiver itself is sender.

Actantial Narrative Schema here is a fundamental narrative structure that underlies the entire text. This scheme has six actantial roles or functions that are arranged in three pairs of binary opposition; the subject / object, sender / receiver, and a helper / opponent (Greimas in Budiman, 2006: 16).

Greimas illustrates in Jabrohim (1996: 13) about schematic actantial form as shown below:



The second theory that will be used in this research is film theory by Amy Villarejo. It will help to describe the shot in Lucy film. According to Villarejo (2007: 38) the basic important thing about film is framing and types of shot.

Framing in the film strongly considers some aspects very influential on the emotions and motivations of the target by a director or film maker. The one aspect of which is the types of shot (type of shot). Basically the type of

this shot is divided into three major parts namely Close Shot, Medium Shot, and Long Shot. But three types of shot are then developed into some kind again for an understanding of the psychological impact of shot and needs in decision picture varied. The division of these include being (2007: 38) :

1. ECU (extreme close-up) Shot which show details of the object, such as eyes, nose, or ears.
2. BCU (Big close-up) Shot which features from below the chin to top of forehead.
3. CU (close-up) Shot which features of the shoulder to the upper limit of the head.
4. MCU (medium close-up) Shot which displays objects from the chest to the upper limit of clod.
5. MS (medium shot) Shot which displays limited object belly up to the head.
6. MLS (medium long shot) Shot featuring the object waist to head. Sometimes it can also beto the extent of the knee to the head. Filming is also often referred to Knee Shot.
7. LS (long shot) Shot featuring overall object starting from the feet up to the top head and slightly visible objects background so it looks full

frame. The type of this shot is also sometimes referred to as FS (full shot).

8. VLS (very long shot) Shot slightly wider than long shot. In this shot, the background or setting seemed more dominant than its main object.
9. ELS (extreme long shot) Taking pictures with the main display objects positioned very far. This shot sometimes also referred to as ES (establish shot).

In this research the writer will focus on Greimas's perspective of narrative structure to analyse the script of Lucy film by Luc Besson as the main data. The writer will find canonical narrative schema and actantial narrative schema as Greimas rule to analyse Lucy movie script and analyze the film visualization through Villarejo way.

1.7. Method of Research

1.7.1. Type of Research

This research uses qualitative method. Qualitative research seeks to construct reality and understand its meaning. Thus, research qualitative usually very attention to the process, events and authenticity. Indeed, in research qualitative researchers value explicit presence in limited circumstances, involving subjects with the number relatively few. Thus, the general done he struggled with thematic analysis. researcher qualitative typically involved in the interaction with reality studied (David and Julia Jary,

1991:513). Moreover the specific kind of this qualitative research is library research. Library research relates to the collecting data or some information by reviewing several books or another media that supporting the research. So, the writer will focus on the intrinsic elements of Lucy through objective approach. It means that the writer will only see Lucy as it seen and ignoring all of extrinsic elements of this film.

1.7.2. Data Sources

This research take the data or the subject of the research from the script of Lucy film by Luc Besson as the main source data. The writer will also analyse the film to gain more objective conclusion when making the research. A part of film sequences will help to explain the analysis. Thus, the main source of data will be interpreted and explored more deeply by the secondary data sources; like books, journal, articles, or dictionary which it related to the main source data.

1.7.3. Data Collection Technique

Documentation is the technique of collecting data in this research. Basrowi and Surandi (2008: 158) said that documentation is to collect some data that exist in a document. Some of data in the documents should be collected and selected according to the need of a research.

Therefore, the carefulness become the first needed when the process of selecting and collecting data in this research. To make a good process in

understanding main data, the writer is also review the other sources like dictionary and journal.

1.7.4. Data Analysis Technique

Data analysis is a term of process in seeking and editing the data. There are some ways to analyze the data. One of them that be used in this research is descriptive analysis. Descriptive analysis is a method to explain and analyze an object which is hoped to get the most comprehensive meaning (Ratna, 2008: 336).

Descriptive analysis will be used after documentation process by the writer. The step of analysis are :

1. Reading the data and identifying according to the research questions.
2. Classifying the data into two models of schemes.
3. Analysing the data by canonical narrative concept, and actantial narrative concept.
4. Concluding the result of this research.

1.8. Thesis Organization

This research is presents fourth chapters. The first chapter consist of the background of study, problem of statement, objective of study, significances of study, some literature reviews, theoretical approach, method that used, and the last paper organization. The second chapter primarily explain about the subject of this research, Lucy film by Luc Besson to find out what is Lucy

actually. It will explain Lucy film from its intrinsic elements. The next chapter is the chapter of all analysis, and in the last chapter the writer will explain about conclusion of this research and also a suggestions.



CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

4.1. Conclusion

In this research, the authors analyzed the structure of the narrative in the film Luc Besson Lucy works with the theory narratology A. J. Greimas actantial and canonical models. From the analysis results obtained from the previous chapter, the writer can draw several conclusions, including:

- a. In the film Lucy analyzed with actant scheme, the authors did not find a balance in the role of nine actant scheme. This occurs because the authors found six perfect scheme and three schemes are experiencing zero (□) of nine schemes that were analyzed.
- b. Most results of actant scheme is driven by the main character from the movie is Lucy. Lucy became very dominant with position as the sender in the fourth scheme, then Lucy as a subject in 5 scheme, and Lucy as a receiver within 5 scheme. From the composition above, it can be seen that the driving force in the story in Lucy film is none other than Lucy as the main character. Her main enemy, Mr. Jang, helping role of the story to be completed. He runs each of the three sections as sender, subject, and receiver.
- c. Of the nine scenes from the movie that writer Lucy defined, analyzes the overall canonical table is perfect and none having zero (□).

4.2. Suggestion

This research applies the theory of A. J. Greimas narratology to understand more deeply the film *Lucy* by Luc Besson. Basically, the theory of Greimas narratology more often and tend to be used to analyze written literary works like short stories, novels or fairy tales. In this case, the author tries to apply it to the movie, so the focus of the theory of Greimas narratology are researching a story that displayed in the film.

The author hopes that this research may help in further studies that want to apply the theory of narratology on visual story like a movie. This research is also expected to provide inputs and contributions to the application of theory in understanding the film in more depth.

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