

## The Implementation of the Actantial Model to Analyze the Narrative Structure of O. Henry's "the Gift of the Magi"

Muhammad Zeeshan Akram Malik<sup>a</sup>, Bushra Shoukat<sup>b</sup>, Ali Ahmad Kharal<sup>c</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Lecturer in English, Higher Education Department, Punjab & PhD Scholar, International Islamic University, Islamabad, Pakistan.

<sup>b</sup> Assistant Professor, Department of English, Islamia University of Bahawalpur, Bahawalnagar Campus, Bahawalnagar, Pakistan.

<sup>c</sup> Professor of English & Principal, Islamabad College for Boys, G-6/3, Islamabad, Pakistan.

**Corresponding author's email:** [zee.linguist@gmail.com](mailto:zee.linguist@gmail.com)

**Received:** 10 October 2022, **Published:** 31 December 2022

### Abstract:

The present study aims at analyzing the narrative structure of the famous short story "The Gift of the Magi" by implementing Greimas's (1966) Actantial Model. "The Gift of the Magi" is written by O. Henry. It is quite enigmatic to find out the real subject of the story as both Della and Jim seem to be the subject and object at the same time. The Actantial model of Greimas is a wonderful framework to solve this puzzle. Therefore, the study tries to identify the real 'subject' of the story, analyzing the text of the story by applying Greimas' model of Actantial. Not only this, but the study also identifies the other actants' roles such as the object, the helper, the opponent, the sender, and the receiver in the story, their contribution to the narrative structure, the character and non-character actants and their role in the development of the plot. The textual analysis of the narrative, by the implementation of Greimas' model, shows that Della is the real 'subject' of the story, Jim the object and the receiver both, the non-character actant 'Christmas' as the sender, Della's passion of love and sacrifice as the helpers and her poverty as the opponent.

### Keywords:

Actantial Model, Actants, Subject.

### DOI Number:

© 2022 The authors. Published by SPCRD Global publishing. This is an open access article under the Creative Commons Attributions-NonCommercial 4.0

## Introduction:

'Story' is one of the ancient times genres that has a central role in human affairs. Story deals with the passions and feelings of human beings. It is a record of the sequences of human civilization. It reflects human social and cultural behavior. When we explore the structure of a story, we are actually trying to study the pattern of human behavior (G Pradl · 1984). Hence, the analysis of the narratives of stories is of vital importance. A short story is the best form of a story. Novels, as we know, are also built on smaller stories, which act as the building blocks of novels. A short story is an ideal piece of writing because it reflects the impressions of human beings and can be read in a short time and analyzed easily (Stanton, Robert. 2007).

The present study falls under the subject of Narratology. Narratology is the study of narratives and their structures. The structuralist's view of analyzing a story deals with the structure of the narrative of the story: From the analysis of the minor elements to the overall understanding of the story. The study of narratology makes it possible to find out the similarities and differences in the narratives. Narratology evolved from Vladimir Propp's "*Morphology of the Folk Tale*" (1928). The works that helped narratology emerge as one of the most widely explored fields of study include Claude Lévi-Strauss's "*Structural Anthropology*" (1958), A.J. Greimas's "*Structural Semantics*", and Tzvetan Todorov's "*The Grammar of the Decameron*" (1969). Other important names to mention are Gérard Genette, Roland Barthes, Claude Bremond, Gerald Prince, Seymour Chatman, and Mieke Bal.

The present study analyzes the story, '*The gift of Maggi*' which is a very famous short story written by an American story writer named O. Henry. The story revolves around the relationship of the two characters namely Della and Jim. They are very loving couples ready to do anything for the happiness of each other. They are not financially sound but still managed to live happily with each other. When Christmas is approaching, Della becomes worried because doesn't have enough money to buy a special gift for her loving husband. Anyhow, she manages to buy a chain of watch for her husband by selling her most valuable asset which was her hair. Ironically, Jim is also prepared to present a gift to her beloved wife Della, and sells his most valuable asset which is his watch. Both are anxious to make each other surprised but when the gifts are exchanged, they come to know that their gifts are practically of no value. The writer gives a biblical reference to their wisdom of choosing the gift for each other to the gifts of the Magi who came from different countries to present the most valuable gifts for the newborn Jesus Christ.

The aim of the study is to analyze the story by applying the model of Actantial by Greimas (1966, pp. 174-185 and 192-212) based on the theories of Viladimir Prop. Vladimir Propp was a prominent Russian folklorist and structuralist who formulated a theory of narrative structure in fairy tales. He put forth the idea that all fairy tales share a common structure, which he identified as 31 narrative elements or "functions." These elements include characters such as a hero, villain, and helper, as well as actions like the hero's departure, the villain's deception, and the hero's return. In his book "*Morphology of the Folktale*," Propp suggests that these elements are universal in fairy tales and can be used to analyze and understand any narrative. (Propp, 1968).

Greimas was a well-known structuralist. The model was proposed in the 1960s. This model is

used to study the actions represented in any literary piece of work. In the story 'The gift of Maggi' the actions in the story are divided into six components which are named 'actants'.

These six actants are further divided into three oppositions.

- The axis of desire
- The axis of power
- The axis of transmission

The axis of desire is further divided into subject and object. The axis of power is further divided into helper and opponent and then the third axis is divided into sender and receiver. It is important to note that helper and opponent can be humans, animals, or abstract things. A helper can be a friend, saint, or any other person, a horse, courage, and passion. While an opponent can be a human character termed as a villain, a ghost, timidity, and fear.

According to the actantial model, the subject of the story is the person who desires the object. In other words, the 'subject' has a target to achieve which is termed as 'object'. In the "Gift of the Magi", we have two major characters i.e., Jim and Della and both have their targets. Jim wants to make his wife Della happy and sells his watch to buy a beautiful comb for Della, while Della sells her most valuable asset, her hair, to buy chain for Jim. Usually, it is the protagonist who plays the role of the 'subject' in a story: C Newman (2014) calls Mr. and Mrs. Young both as the protagonists of The Gift of the Magi. Hence, apparently, both Della and Jim seem to be the subject and object at the same time. The study tries to identify the real 'subject' of the story, analyzing the text of the story by applying Greimas' model of Actantial. Not only this, the study also identifies the other actants' role in the narrative structure of the story.

The Research Question are as follows;

1. Who is the subject of "A Gift of the Magi" according to Greimas' Actantial Model?
2. What is the role of other actants and how do they contribute to the narrative structure?
3. What are the character and non-character actants in the story and how do they contribute to the development of the plot?

The Objective of the Study are to identify the subject of "A Gift of the Magi" by applying Greimas' Actantial Model, to examine the role of other actants in "A Gift of the Magi" and how they contribute to the narrative structure and to identify and analyze the characters and non-character actants in the story and examine their role in the plot.

### **Literature Review:**

Previous studies in the field of the analysis of short stories have shown a significant preference for implementing narratology models. Actantial model is one of such models which has gained wide acceptance when it comes to analyzing the characters and structural narrative of short stories. No surprise that a big number of studies have applied actantial model for the analysis of different narratives. Riyawati, B. (2011) has analyzed three short stories from the book 'Karma' by Rishi Reddi. He chose three stories from the collection of short stories on purpose. In fact, he wanted to see if all three short stories are structurally the same or not. The result

shows some similarities and differences and not a complete homogeneity of the structure of all those three stories. Dzikriya, U. (2019) has analyzed the structure of the plot of 'The hunger Games' using actantial model. He tries to find out the kind of plot applied, the elements of the plot, and what part such elements take into the overall structure of the story. The results show that it has a dramatic plot.

Vilhjálmsson & Tulinius (2009) studied how career counselors build their narrative for their clients. This model addressed the considerations and concerns of both the counselors and the clients. This study also gives us a clue that it's not always a typical fairy tale or a short story that has a narrative but it can also be the least story-like discussion of a counselor that fulfills the criteria of a narrative.

Not only short stories but also novels have been analyzed applying actantial model. Pabiona, H.Y. (2021) uses actantial scheme to analyze "The Girl on the Train", a novel written by Paula Hawkins. He used the qualitative method to analyze the novel. He aims to analyze the 'deep meaning' of the story.

Narrative and the functions of the characters of a very famous Pakistani folk tale 'Sohni Mahiwal' have been studied by Qasim, Z & Qasim, A. (2022). Actantial model has been implemented for the structural analyses of the aforementioned folktale. It has been found that all the actants introduced by Greimas have been found in the folktale of 'Sohni Mahiwal'.

"The Gift of the Magi" has been analyzed by scholars from different angles. Bilal, H. A. (2012) has studied the story from a discourse analysis perspective. He explored the discourse modes of the story, which according to him could help understand the story better. Lin, T. A. (2010) has applied the metacognition concept to the text of O' Henry's "The Gift of the Magi". He studies the inner and outer layers of the story. In his view it is "knowing beyond knowing and thinking behind thinking".

Narratology, the study of narrative structure, has been a popular subject of study in literary analysis for several decades. One of the key approaches within narratology is the actantial model, developed by A.J. Greimas. This model is particularly useful for analyzing the underlying dynamics of a story and uncovering deeper themes and meanings.

The actantial model identifies six key characters or "actants" in a story, including the subject, object, helper, opponent, sender and receiver. These actants are connected through their relationships and interactions, and their roles in the story are defined by their desires, functions, and goals. The model also identifies three main actions that drive the plot: the desire, the function, and the goal. (Greimas, 1970)

The actantial model has been applied to a variety of literary texts, including novels, plays, and folktales. It has been used to analyze the characters and plot of works such as Shakespeare's "Hamlet" (Pavel, 1986) and Jane Austen's "Pride and Prejudice" (Jahn, 2002). The model has also been used to analyze the narrative structure of myths and fairy tales, providing a framework for understanding the universal elements of these stories. (Propp, 1968)

In addition to its usefulness in literary analysis, the actantial model has also been applied in other fields such as film studies and communication studies. (Ryan, 1991) It has been used to

analyze the narrative structure of movies and television shows, as well as advertising and political speeches. (Frye, 1957)

Overall, the actantial model is a valuable tool for analyzing the narrative structure of a story. It allows for a clear and systematic examination of the characters and actions that drive the plot, providing a comprehensive understanding of the underlying dynamics of the story and revealing deeper themes and meanings. While it was primarily developed for literary analysis, it has also been applied in other fields with promising results.

In conclusion, the actantial model of narratology provides a powerful framework for analyzing the narrative structure of a story. It has been applied to a wide range of literary texts and has proven to be a valuable tool for understanding the underlying dynamics of a story, uncovering deeper themes, and revealing the motives and actions of the characters. Furthermore, it has been applied in other fields such as film studies and communication studies, proving its versatility and usefulness.

### **Framework:**

A.J. Greimas's Actantial model is used for the structural analysis of the story. It is also termed as 'Actantial Narrative Schema'. This model helps in analyzing the action and identifying the roles of the characters in the story; or more appropriately called the actants of the story.

A.J. Greimas's Actantial Model is an effective way of analyzing the story's narrative structure. The model breaks down the story into key characters, known as actants, and their relationships with each other. These actants are subject, object, helper, opponent, sender and receiver. The model also examines the three main actions of the story, desire, function and goal, and how they connect to the actants. This model is useful as it allows for a systematic and clear examination of the characters and actions that drive the plot, providing a comprehensive understanding of the underlying dynamics of the story, including the motives and actions of the characters and their interactions, revealing deeper themes and meaning. (Greimas, 1970; Pavel, 1986). The model comprises three axis and six actants:

### ***The Axis of Desire:***

It includes the two actants, the subject, and the object. The subject is the one who has the desire or the target to achieve the object who is desired. There is a relationship between the subject and the object which is called a 'junction'.

### ***The Axis of Power:***

The axis of power includes the 'helper' and 'the opponent'. The helper is the one who helps 'the subject' to reach its destination and achieve the target i.e., 'the object'. The 'opponent' on the other hand creates hindrances in the way of 'the subject'. Remember that the 'helper' or the 'opponent' both can be human beings, non-human beings, or abstract forces. As a human, a character who guides the 'object' to achieve its destination would be acting as a 'helper' while the villain is who can be termed as 'the opponent. If we talk about non-human beings or abstract forces, a sword, a horse, and courage act as 'helpers' while a dragon or a witch act as 'opponent'.

### ***The Axis of Transmission:***

It can also be termed as ‘the axis of knowledge which includes the sender and the receiver. The sender is the one who assigns a duty to the ‘subject’ to go for ‘the object’. It can be a king, for example, who sends a hero, ‘the subject’ to rescue a prince, ‘the object. The ‘receiver’ on the other hand is the one who benefits from the junction of the subject and object. The receiver can be the object, the sender, or even the subject depending upon the plot of the narrative.

### **Textual Analysis of the Story Implementing A. J. Greimas’s Actantial model:**

#### **Roles of the Actants in the Story:**

The table 1 shows that we have six actants. It shows how and what these actants structurally do in the story.

**Table 1: The Scheme of the Actantial Model**

<b>Sender</b> —————→	<b>Object</b>	—————→ <b>Receiver</b>
	↑	
<b>Helper</b> —————→	<b>Subject</b>	←———— <b>Opponent</b>

The subject is the hero or the protagonist of the story. Though, both, Della and Jim seemingly are the subjects of the story, but when we deeply look into the text it is Della is shown worried about the Christmas gift for her husband and the story continues to build up the plot while Della remains more prominent subject of the story. She has been presented as the actants who acts as the subject of the story. The story starts with Della. She has been presented as a poor girl who has only one dollar and eighty-seven cents:

*That was all. She had put it aside, one cent and then another and then another, in her careful buying of meat and other food. Della counted it three times. One dollar and eighty-seven cents. And the next day would be Christmas. Henry, O. (1972)*

Although Jim has the plans to buy a gift for her Della but it’s Della who has been clearly shown as planning to buy a Christmas gift for her love.

*Only \$ 1.87 to buy a gift for Jim. Her Jim. She had had many happy hours planning something nice for him. Something nearly good enough. Something almost worth the honor of belonging to Jim. Henry, O. (1972)*

On the other hand, Della intends to show her deepest love to Jim. At the beginning of the story, we see Della planning how to manage the amount to buy a valuable gift for Jim. She manages to do so by selling her most valuable asset, her hair.

The question of who structurally plays the role of the sender is complex as we have only two ‘character actants’ in the story which are the subject and object. Anyhow, we can have a ‘Non-character Actant’, in which it makes the subject do the action. We can easily say, its Christmas eve that has made Della think of presenting a gift for Jim. Here are some of the textual evidences where we see Christmas is the sender;

*Della counted it three times. One dollar and eighty-seven cents. And the next day would be Christmas.*

*Tomorrow would be Christmas Day, and she had only \$1.87 with which to buy Jim a gift.*

*I couldn't live through Christmas without giving you a gift. My hair will grow again. You won't care, will you? My hair grows very fast.*

*It's Christmas, Jim. Let's be happy. You don't know what a nice—what a beautiful nice gift I got for you.*

*It's the night before Christmas, boy. Be good to me*

*Della," said he, "let's put our Christmas gifts away and keep them a while. They're too nice to use now. Henry, O. (1972)*

Here in the story, we see the strongest point of Della, is her quality and bravery to sacrifice her most valuable asset for the sake of her true love.

*If a queen had lived in the rooms near theirs, Della would have washed and dried her hair where the queen could see it. Della knew her hair was more beautiful than any queen's jewels and gifts. Henry, O. (1972)*

When she was unable to manage the amount to buy a valuable gift for Jim, she didn't even think of losing her hair and went out to sell the hair, which was more beautiful than any queen's jewels and gifts. Why would she even think of selling her most valuable gift if she was not very poor. She was afraid if she couldn't buy a gift for her beloved Jim. The poverty of Della is shown in the story in different ways;

*Della counted it three times. One dollar and eighty-seven cents. And the next day would be Christmas. There was nothing to do but fall on the bed and cry. So, Della did it. Henry, O. (1972)*

*She had only \$1.87 with which to buy Jim a gift. She had put aside as much as she could for months, with this result. Twenty dollars a week is not much. Everything had cost more than she had expected. It always happened like that. Henry, O. (1972)*

### **Discussion and Results:**

"A Gift of the Magi" by O. Henry is a story that centers on the lives of a young couple, Jim and Della, who are struggling to buy each other Christmas gifts despite their limited financial means. The actantial model can be used to analyze their relationships and the roles they play in the story. Through the characters' interactions and decisions, the reader can see how the minor actants in the story contribute to the narrative structure and the portrayal of the main characters.

One of the minor actants in the story is the financial struggles that Della and Jim face. This actant serves as an obstacle for the couple, limiting their ability to buy each other gifts and emphasizing their poverty. However, it also serves to highlight the true meaning of love and sacrifice as they both make sacrifices to buy each other meaningful gifts despite their financial

limitations. This actant is also significant in showing how much they care for each other and how they are willing to give up something important to them for the other person's happiness.

Another minor actant is the Christmas spirit, which helps to bring the couple together and helps them to understand the true value of their gifts and the sacrifices they made for each other. The Christmas spirit serves as a reminder of the importance of giving and sacrifice, which is a theme that runs throughout the story. The Christmas spirit also serves to bring the couple closer together and to help them to appreciate the true meaning of love.

The gifts themselves also serve as minor actants in the story. Della's combs and Jim's watch chain are both symbols of the sacrifices that the couple has made for each other. They serve to highlight the true meaning of love and sacrifice, as well as to show the deep connection that the couple shares. The gifts also serve to bring the couple closer together, as they both realize the true value of their gifts and the sacrifices, they made for each other.

The story has only two character-actants which play significant role in the structure and plot of the story. The two character-actants are Della and Jim which are the main characters in the story. Della wants to buy Jim a Christmas gift but only has \$1.87 to her name. She sacrifices her long hair, which she treasures, to sell for money to buy Jim a chain for his watch. Jim is also wants to buy Della a gift, but he only has \$3.87 left after paying the rent. He sells his watch, which is a family heirloom, to buy Della a set of combs for her hair. Both Della and Jim's actions reflect their love and dedication to each other, as they are willing to give up something important to them for the other person's happiness.

The non-character actant in this story is the financial struggles that Della and Jim face. This actant serves as an obstacle for the couple, limiting their ability to buy each other gifts and emphasizing their poverty. However, it also serves to highlight the true meaning of love and sacrifice as they both make sacrifices to buy each other meaningful gifts despite their financial limitations. This actant is also significant in showing how much they care for each other and how they are willing to give up something important to them for the other person's happiness.

Another non-character actant is the Christmas spirit, which helps to bring the couple together and helps them to understand the true value of their gifts and the sacrifices they made for each other. The Christmas spirit is a reminder of the importance of giving and sacrifice, which is a theme that runs throughout the story. The Christmas spirit also serves to bring the couple closer together and to help them to appreciate the true meaning of love.

The sender is the one who sends the subject on a mission to achieve his target i.e., the object. The receiver is ultimately going to benefit from all the action going on. Naturally, the subject, who sets on a mission should get the ultimate benefit but there can be the subject and the object both receiving the benefit. We see both Della and Jim apparently seem to be senders and the receivers but the textual analysis show that Della is the one who has been given more importance throughout the story. She is the one who has been shown in the very beginning of the story as planning to buy a gift for her husband. Though she can also be regarded as the receiver same as Jim, but the in-depth textual analysis clearly determines Della as the subject of the story aslo. If we talk about the object, it is the character which is the target of the subject. Apparently, Della and Jim both seem to be the object but in fact it is Jim who is the object. Della can be regarded as the 'Possible object' as explained by Hébert, L. (2011). A possible object is



the one which seems to be the object but the in-depth textual analysis and the plot of the story reveals it to be not the object.

The role of the helper is to push the narrative forward. In binary opposition, we have 'Opponents'. The opponents are the hindrance for the subject to reach and win for the object. The opponents oppose the subject getting through the object. A helper can be a strong point of the subject and an opponent can be the weaker point of the subject.

The other roles being poverty of the couple as the opponent, their pure soul, willing to sacrifice and their passion of love being the helper. Christmas eve is the reason they are trying to buy a gift for each other; hence Christmas being the sender.

**Table 2: Actantial Model Represented in Table Format**

No	Actant	Actant Class	Actant Sub-class
01	Della	Subject & Receiver	Possible Object
02	Jim	Object & Receiver	Possible Subject
03	Christmas	Sender	Non-Character Actant
04	Poverty	Opponent	Non-Character Actant
05	Passion Of Love & Sacrifice	Helper	Non-Character Actant

### Conclusion:

In the end, it can be concluded that the analysis of the story in the light of "The Actantial Model" provides deep insight into understanding the structure of the story. Certainly, the framework of Greimas proved to be appropriate for the analysis of this story. The objective and the research questions of the story were satisfyingly studied and answered. The enigma of the real subject of the story was solved with the help of this framework. Della, the wife of Jim, was given a more active role in the story and the deep textual analysis concluded that she is the real subject of the story. Moreover, all six actants can be traced in the story, even though we have only two character-actants in the story. The role of the subject is dedicated to Della, the object to Jim, the helper is the passion of love, courage, and sacrifice of Della, and the opponent is the poverty factor which makes it hard for both wife and husband to buy the presents for each other but they manage to buy those with the help of the true love, courage and the passion of sacrifice. From one angle we see Della and Jim both as Subjects, Objects, and receivers but from the structure of the story, it becomes vivid that though both are the receivers but it's Della who has been put more stress by the writer and acts as the subject. Moreover, the minor actants in "A Gift of the Magi" play an essential role in the narrative structure and the portrayal of the main characters Della and Jim. They serve to highlight the themes of love and sacrifice, to bring the couple closer together, and to show the deep connection that the couple shares. These minor actants contribute to the overall emotional impact of the story, making it a powerful and moving tale of love and sacrifice.

## References:

- Arvidsson, A. (2006). Vladimir Propp's fairy tale morphology and game studies. Aston, E. & Savona, G. (1991). Theatre as sign system: A semiotics of text and performance. Routledge
- Azar, E., Abbasi, A., & Azad, V. (2014). The study of the narrative function of two stories from Ilahi-nameh of Attar based on Greimas Pattern and Gerard Genette. *Language Related Research*, 5(4), 17-43.
- Bal, M. (1985). *Narratology: Introduction to the theory of narrative*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.
- Bauman, Z. (1991). *Modernity and ambivalence*. Oxford: Polity Press.
- Brown, R. H. (1985). Historical science as linguistic figuration. *Theory and Society*, 14 (5), 677-703.
- Cooper, M. (2000). Being the "go-to-guy": Fatherhood, masculinity, and the organization of work in Silicon Valley. *Qualitative Sociology*, 23 (4), 379-405.
- Culler, J. (1975). *Structuralist poetics: Structuralism, linguistics and the study of literature*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.
- Dzikriya, U. (2019). Analysis of Actantial Model in Suzanne Collins's "The Hunger Games". *Rainbow: Journal of Literature, Linguistics and Culture Studies*, 8(2), 85-94
- Edwards, D. (1997). *Discourse and cognition*. London: SAGE.
- Greimas, A. J. (1966 [1983]). *Structural semantics: An attempt at a method*. Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press.
- Greimas, A. J. (1987). *On meaning: Selected writings in semiotic theory*. (P. J. Perron, F. H. Collins, Trans.). London: Frances Pinter.
- Greimas, A. J., & Courts, J. (1982). *Semiotics and language: An analytical dictionary*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press.
- Hasanah, U. (2014). *Gender Meaning as Narrated in Toni Morrison's Beloved: Greimas' Actantial Analysis*. MA Thesis. Jember University English Department Faculty of Letters.
- Hebert, L. (2006). *Tools for Text and Image Analysis: An Introduction to Applied Semiotics*. [http://www.revue-texto.net/Parutions/Livres-E/Hebert\\_AS/Hebert\\_Tools.html](http://www.revue-texto.net/Parutions/Livres-E/Hebert_AS/Hebert_Tools.html)
- Henry, O. "The Gift of the Magi." 1905. Henry, O. *The Four Million*. New York: Page & Company. 1906.
- Herman, D. (2000). Existentialist Roots of Narrative Actants. *Studies in 20th & 21st Century Literature*, 24(2), 5. <https://doi.org/10.4148/2334-4415.1484>
- Hébert, L. (2011). *Tools for text and image analysis: An introduction to applied semiotics*. *Translated from the French version by Julie Tabler, version, 3, 2011.*

- Herman, D. (2000). Pragmatic constraints on narrative processing: Actants and anaphora resolution in a corpus of North Carolina ghost stories. *Journal of Pragmatics*, 32(7), 959-1001. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0378-2166\(99\)00071-5](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0378-2166(99)00071-5)
- Pabiona, H. Y. (2021). The Actantial Scheme of AJ Greimas In Paula Hawkins' *The Girl On The Train*: Structuralist Approach (Doctoral dissertation, Prodi Sastra Inggris).
- Qasim, Z., & Qasim, A. (2022). Narratology and character functions of Sohni Mahiwal: An actantial analysis. *Journal of Humanities, Social and Management Sciences (JHSMS)*, 3(1), 154-168.
- Riyawati, B. (2011). The actantial and function structure analysis of three sohrt stories in the book of Karma and other stories by Rishi Reddi.
- Schleifer, R., Davis, R., & Mergler, N. (1992). *Culture and cognition: The boundaries of literaryand scientific inquiry*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.
- Wang, Y. (2003). *The discursive structures of totalitarian ideology*. Dissertation, Iowa State University.