

Analysis of “A Gospel According to Joan”: Short Story as a Way in Understanding Fiction Literature

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Abstract: *This study aims to analyze the intrinsic and extrinsic structures contained in the short story "A Gospel According to Joan" written by Wilkins Freeman. By knowing in depth the contents of these elements, we can find out what the author wants to convey in this story, besides that we can also find out the expressions that the author uses through the work she writes. The primary source of the data is the short story "A Gospel According to Joan". Secondary source of data is taken from journal and article that related to this study. This paper work that has drawn on or being influenced by Fauzan (2016) and Nicholes (2015). This analysis focuses on the structure, point of view, characterization, interpretation, meaning, and extrinsic elements of the story. This story was first published in Harper's Monthly Magazine (December, 1919), With a twist, Freeman's story is about charity and compassion. Who's to say what's right or wrong when it's for charity? When a young girl named Joan, the down-and-out minister's daughter, knocked on Sarah's door to sell her familiar hand-work linens just before Christmas, who's to say what's right or wrong? "I was almost ready to mortgage the place to buy her out until I saw that adorable young child, the perfect picture of my dear lost Ida." This story also shows the anger of Sarah's relative, Lottie, that she didn't have to resemble that child in her own flesh and blood, Lottie doesn't want Ida to be likened to a thief.*

INTRODUCTION

A literary analysis is more than just a synopsis of a piece of literature. Instead, it is a discussion of the work that expresses a writer's personal viewpoint, interpretation, judgment, or critical appraisal of the work. This is done by looking at the author's literary devices, word choices, and writing structures in the work. A literary analysis' goal is to show why the author chose certain ideas, words, or writing structures to deliver his or her point (<https://www.germannanna.edu/wp-content/uploads/tutoring/handouts/Literary-Analysis.pdf>)

Literature could be classified into two different groups those writings that mainly

presenting information, and the other place those mainly entertain (Jones,1968). Literature refers to the historical development of writings in prose or poetry which of the literacy techniques used in the communication of the pieces (Irshad & Ahmed, 2015: 26).

The problem highlighted in this paper is the structural analysis of the intrinsic and extrinsic features on this *A Gospel According to Joan* short story by Wilkins Freeman.

Mary Eleanor Wilkins Freeman (31 October 1852-13 March 1930) was a famous American writer of the 19th century. Freeman was born on October 31, 1852 in Randolph, Massachusetts, to Eleanor Rothrop and Warren Edward Wilkins. She originally named it "Mary Ella". Freeman's parents were Orthodox Congregational churches who had a very tough childhood. Religious constraints play a central role in some of her work. She met her doctor when she visited Metuchen, NJ in 1892. Charles Manning Freeman, an impractical doctor who was her seven-year junior. After years of courtship and delay, the two married on January 1, 1902. Shortly thereafter, she established the name "Mary E. Wilkins Freeman" and asked Harper to use it for all her work. The couple built a house in Meachen, where Freeman became a local celebrity for her writing, but she sometimes published satirical fictional expressions of her neighbors.

Freeman began writing children's stories and poems to support his family as a teenager and quickly succeeded. Her career as a short story writer began in 1881 when her entry "The Ghost Family" took first place in her short story competition. When the supernatural caught their interest, the result was a group of short stories that combined domestic realism and the supernatural, which proved to be very influential. Mary Wilkins Freeman sought to demonstrate her values as a feminist through her work in a variety of genres, including her fairy tales, poetry, and short stories. While she was writing, she did so in an unconventional way. For example, she deviated from making the female character customary in literature weak and poor. Freeman challenges contemporary ideas about women's roles, values and relationships in society through characters like Luisa in her short story "A New England Nun.", her writing also focused on the New England life.

Her husband was suffering from alcoholism and sleeping pills. He was also known for driving fast horses and making females. He was admitted to New Jersey State Hospital because of Trenton's madness [when?] And the two legally separated a year later. After his death in 1923, he left most of his fortune to the driver, leaving only \$ 1 to his ex-wife.

In April 1926, Freeman became the first recipient of the William Dean Howells Medal for Fiction Distinguishing from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

Freeman suffered a heart attack and died on March 15, 1930 in Meachen at the age of 77. She was buried in the Hillside Cemetery in Scotch Plains, NJ.

Like other of her works, *A Gospel According to Joan* is one of her posthumous short stories that several times published on Harper's Monthly Magazine especially on a special season or event. The thing is not many people or article talked about this short story since it was published a long time ago in the 1919.

Prose has distinctive characteristics, in the sense that it has intrinsic and extrinsic elements. Intrinsic elements include theme, setting, plot, character, point of view, style & tone. Character is an intrinsic element that becomes a crucial aspect because it discusses the views of the author, animates the story and carries the author's message that can bring various values to the lives of people who read it, such as morality, education, and others. It is important to know the physiological and sociological aspects of character to know the factors that influence the behaviour of the character.

The linguistic elements in the story are the elements that build the text, including the variety of everyday language, vocabulary, figure of speech or language style, and descriptive sentences used.

Meanwhile, from the social aspect, Joan's story is related to today's social problems and phenomena. This story about generosity and compassion is very relevant to today's conditions that really need human values, taken from Sarah's personality who looks a little arrogant in front of her sister Lottie, but behind that Sarah has a generous nature towards a shabby little girl

In the story *A Gospel According to Joan*, the author could explain clearly and this story has an unexpected plot so that readers will feel enthusiastic if they read this story to the end. In addition, this story mostly contains dialogue so that readers will engage with this story. With an interesting story, many things can also be learned from the story through the analysis in this paper.

The problem highlighted in this paper is the in-depth analysis of the short story *A Gospel According to Joan* by Wilkins Freeman published in 1919. Decide who the main and secondary character is, then analyze the method of characterization, followed by identifying the personality of the main and secondary characters, and also analyzing how the structure helps the author convey a message to the reader. From the backgrounds mentioned above, there are some problems that will be discussed in this paper:

1. How does the writer strengthen her feelings when compiling the short story *A Gospel According to Joan* through in-depth intrinsic analysis?
2. How is the characterization created by the author in the psychological aspect?

This study was inspired by some previous related study such as a study entitled *Analysis of Main Character, Plot and Conflict in the Novel The Witch of Portobello* by Paulo Coelho written by Hanisa (2016). This previous study analyzed about the characterization of the main character which is using descriptive method to increase understanding and knowledge about behavior and thought about processes of people, the writer focuses the main character and plot, it explains about how the main character faced several social conflicts. In this study, the author has explained what the main character in the story is facing, but the author has not elaborated on his goals related to the development of the plot in the story.

METHOD

The data in this paper is taken from the short story of *A Gospel According to Joan* by Wilkins Freeman. The data is presented in the form of all aspects of intrinsic aspects consisting of plot, character, point of view, style and tone, setting, and theme, extrinsic aspect in the sight of psychological aspect also will be analyzed in this paper. More information that are relevant to the topic was also searched on the internet. The method that we use in this research is descriptive method which aims for the reader to understand the analysis in this study in depth and comprehensively. According to Narbuko (2015, p. 44), descriptive research is research that seeks to describe current problem solving based on data, by presenting, analyzing and interpreting it.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

According to Sosiowati (2021) literary fiction is the story which is very demanding in terms of attention and insight-lending participation of the readers; while commercial or entertaining fiction is the ones for fun like stories of spy, detective, western, love, or other adventure stories.

There are several theories used in this paper, theory about **plot** by Sosiowati (2021) that

consists of kinds of plot and kinds of conflict by Kenney (1966), and structures of plot from <https://literaryterm.net/plot/>. There are theories about **characterization** by Kennedy (1979) that consists of general types (Kenney, 1966; Kennedy, 1979), the division of characterization (Momer & Rausch, 1998), the dimensions of characterization (Egri, 2009), and five methods of characterization (Kenney 1966). There are theories about **setting** (Abrams, 1999) that consists of two types of setting (Kenny, 1966), functions of setting (Kenney, 1996), the elements of setting (Kenney, 1966:40). There are theories about **point of view** (Sosiowati, 2021) that consists of kinds of point of view (Kenney, 1966). There are theories about **tones and style** (Sosiowati, 2021) that consists of composition of style (Kenney, 1996) and tone (Sosiowati, 2021). There are theories about theme by Sosiowati, 2021.

In addition to the theory on intrinsic elements, this paper will also analyze extrinsic elements with the focus on the relationship between **literature and psychology**. The theory that will be used in this discussion is taken from Wellel & Warren (1956).

1. Summary

Sarah Bannister, a middle-aged woman. She was known as a rich woman, she had the finest living room, a long room, furnished with a luxurious and aggressive mahogany table, and an onyx table, and a marble Clytie, the room was cold despite the radiators, glaring with gold in the most conspicuous wall space. Every piece of furniture—a square table, chairs, and harpsichord—is lined with tiny things, big and small, of all colors and fabrics.

She lived with his distant family, Lottie, but Lottie acted more as her assistant. Not a week before Christmas, Sarah intended to give Christmas gifts to those around her by making them herself. According to Lottie Dodd, Sarah was known to be stingy, she is not a generous person, seeing Sarah remembering people around her to give gifts made Lottie a little surprised. Lottie, who had lived with him alone, had never used Sarah's wealth in the slightest, except in the somewhat negative way of food and cast-off clothing.

One day Sarah was sick, maybe because of the cold weather in December, she shivered but was in denial of her own condition. One day someone knocked on her door, she was annoyed because who had come on that cold day. When she opened the door, she was stunned to see who had come and immediately let the person in.

Lottie, who already knew Sarah's character, was very surprised to see Sarah's warm treatment to the little girl, yes, the one who had just walked in was a shabby little girl. The little girl was a paddler, Sarah invited her to sit down and adjust the warmth of the house so she wouldn't get cold, again Lottie was surprised to see her. Sarah told the little girl named Joan to take off her jacket, after which she was stunned to see her clothes were tattered and torn.

Sarah gave the little girl some food and a glass of red wine. While the girl was enjoying her meal, Sarah saw the bag the girl was carrying and she asked what was in it, the girl replied that the bag contained the items she wanted to sell. Sarah saw what was taken out of the bag and without thinking she immediately bought it, she often said that the items were similar to the ones she made, Lottie was again surprised to see how stingy Sarah had been all this time.

After selling the goods, the little girl left for some business. Lottie was confused as to why Sarah bought so many items, Sarah replied that the items would be given as Christmas gifts. One day Mrs. Lee Wilson came to his house, telling her about the Bretts, whose father left 6 children after their mother died. Mrs. Wilson informed him that she had received a

letter from Walsingham regarding a donation to the Ladies' Aid Society, but knew that the letter would be in vain because they would not donate. After finishing her business Mrs. Wilson left.

The next morning, Sarah did not feel her body was getting better or worse, the weather was getting worse, Sarah decided to have Lottie bring the presents out from the icy parlor and see if she could not get them ready for mailing during the day. After the conversation, Lottie said that the things that Sarah bought were missing, Sarah cried.

Then Sarah told Lottie something she had been keeping, that the things Joan had sold were hers, gifts she had made herself. Lottie was angry that Sarah was being nice to her when she knew he bought hers. Sarah was being warm to Joan because she was very similar to her late daughter, Ida. Lottie was very angry because Joan is a little thief.

Lottie was angry how Sarah could match her own flesh and blood with a thief. After that someone rang the bell, it turned out to be a minister, Silas Whitman. Sarah immediately told her what had happened to her because she needed some advice, while Lottie continued to get emotional.

Silas, sitting there listening to Sarah's strange story, considered how she was shocked out of her tracks now, but how soon she would regain her step. It seemed a pity. Just now she was dramatic and interesting, and at the crucial moment of the tale, when Sarah had missed the four treasures, the doorbell rang, and Lottie, peering out of the window, announced, "It's her."

Sarah said that she knew what Joan was selling was hers, but instead Joan said that she was glad Sarah found out, because if Sarah still didn't notice, Joan would come to her house to tell herself. Joan felt that it was not wrong, Joan deliberately sold Sarah's belongings to herself because she had to support Brett's six children to eat and live.

Then Silas asked if the girl knew that what she had done was wrong, the girl did not feel that she was wrong, because Sarah had never once given the Bretts money, she had never donated to the Bretts. After that Joan left because she had to make dinner for the kids, but before that Sarah opened her bag and gave Joan the money, she asked Joan to kiss her cheek and come again, Joan happily agreed. It turned out that the problem was the girl's honesty, a pure-hearted little anarchist.

2. *Intrinsic Features Analysis*

A. Theme

The theme that can be identified in this story is 'holy dishonest'. This can be seen from how Joan, a girl who looks shabby and innocent, sells things that Sarah already knows are hers that were stolen, but Sarah can't be angry because Joan is very similar to Ida, her late daughter. This analysis determines holy dishonest as a theme because from the beginning Joan has a commendable behavior by feeding the children of the Brett family who were abandoned by her parents. Then moving on to the reason he stole because Joan wanted Sarah to at least set aside her money to feed the Bretts' children even if it was by selling Sarah's own belongings. The point is that she did stealing other people's things as it is considered as a bad thing for right purpose.

- **A Pure Hearted Little Anarchist**

“Then Silas asked if the girl knew that what she had done was wrong, the girl did not feel that she was wrong, because Sarah had never once given the Bretts money, she had never donated to the Bretts. After that Joan left because she had to make dinner for the kids, but before that Sarah opened her bag and gave Joan the money, she asked Joan to kiss her cheek and come again, Joan happily agreed. It turned out that the problem was the girl's honesty, a pure-hearted little anarchist.”

“I must sell them to you. I couldn't afford to give them to you, and I mustn't sell them to anybody else.”

This holy-dishonest can be seen from this dialogue, even though she stole Sarah's thing, she didn't want to sell this to anyone else because she knew how matter those things to Sarah, especially she made all the things with her own hands.

Yes, ma'am. Their mother died and their father thought he'd like to go and live with another lady, so he got married and the other lady didn't want six children so in a bunch, and so he didn't worry any more about them, and they were all starving to death and freezing, and there are two just little babies. And so I have them to take care of, and I can't earn money, for I am not old enough, and this is the only way, I decided, and I have just begun, and it works perfectly lovely.”

The noble reason for why she stole can be seen from the dialogue above, she stole solely to feed the Bretts' children.

They are her own things and she has them back, and she has paid me the money, and you heard her say she was going to give mesome more, and it is for the Brett children. I haven't done wrong. The lady didn't give the money in the first place to the Brett children, so, of course, I had to see to it. And now she has her presents all back and everything. I think I must go now or I shall have no time to buy some meat and cook the children's dinner.”

from the dialogue it can be seen that Joan did not feel wrong for what she did, she reiterated her reason by explaining her priority after that to cook food for Brett's children.

“There she goes, red flag flying! Our problem is her truth, and who shall judge? It may be, all of this, the celestial prototype of Bolshevism. She may be the little advance scout of the last army of the world, the child facing Pharisees, and righteous, and ancient evil, triumphant wisdom. There she goes, little anarchist, holy-hearted in holy cause, and if her way be not as mine, who am I to judge? It may be that breaking the stone letter of the law in the name of love is the fulminate which shatters the last link of evil which holds the souls of the world from God.”

It is explicitly explained that apart from the issue of honesty, Joan's goal is noble behavior. It is impossible for a human being to judge what Joan did, she is a petty anarchist with a holy purpose.

B. Plot

The structure of the plot consists of exposition, rising action, crisis, falling action, and resolution.

➤ Exposition

This story begins with describing the condition of Sarah's house and introducing the characters in the short story, such as introducing Lottie who is Sarah's distant relative who lives with her.

The two women stood in the best parlor, a long room, furnished with aggressive plush and mahogany, and onyx tables, and a marble Clytie drooping her head impudently in her out-of-place state in a New England parlor. The room was chilly in spite of the radiators, glaring with gilt in the most conspicuous wall spaces. Every piece of furniture — old-fashioned square tables, chairs, and piano — was covered with dainty things, large and small, of all colors and fabrics.

“To think you made everything here with your own hands!” commented Miss Lottie Dodd. She was a distant relative of Mrs. Bannister's, who lived with her a month at a time.

At the beginning of this story, it is told that Sarah made a gift as a Christmas gift to give to the Rice family, which she made herself with her hands.

➤ Rising Action

In this rising action, the story becomes complicated, it is shown from Sarah's indifferent nature towards herself and others who changed when the little girl came to her house, she felt warmth because the little girl was very similar to her late daughter, Ida.

“Directly Sarah spoke in a breaking voice, and tears rolled down her cheeks. “She is the living image of my Ida.”

In this part, it can be shown that from a little girl named Joan selling knick-knacks that can be used as Christmas gifts, Sarah happily buys anything that Joan sells. He even gave Joan comfort when the girl came to his house.

“Why, Sarah Bannister, I never knew you spent as much on Christmas presents in your whole life. You have never had the name of being as free as all that.”

“I didn't deserve it,” said Sarah. “All those things made up in the parlor there didn't cost fifteen dollars. I told you they didn't cost so much, and they didn't.”

➤ Crisis

The crisis in this story can be seen from the fact that Joan sold Sarah's things that she stole, in this case Sarah already knew that she actually knew Joan had stolen her things, at first she hid this fact from Lottie, but in the end Sarah was honest because of the things she stole. The purchased item is lost again. In this case Lottie was furious because until then Sarah still considered Joan as her late daughter.

“I haven't told you that the tablecloth I put in the secretary drawer, that I bought

from that dear girl, who looks so much like my own daughter who passed away, is the tablecloth I made.”

“You sure?”

“Yes, I found the place in the horn-of-plenty where I made a mistake and had to rip out something and work a leaf to hide it.”

“Sarah Bannister!”

“I made all the other things I bought, too,” said Sarah.

“I had ways of telling”

➤ **Falling Action**

At this point Sarah chooses to remain calm and tells all these almost absurd stories to Silas Whitman, a minister. He didn't care about Lottie who was very, very angry.

“I don't care,” wept Sarah. “I'm going to tell him the whole story and ask for his advice. What's a minister for? He can offer up the question to the Lord in prayer.”

➤ **Resolution**

The resolution in this section is about Joan finally returning to Sarah's house, Joan wanted to tell her that she actually sold stolen goods, but Sarah found out earlier and was glad Sarah found out. The solution is that Joan only wants Sarah to set aside money for the Brett family, even though Sarah knows that Joan is wrong, she can't stop loving her, finally the problem is solved with Sarah who gives Joan some money so that the Bretts can eat well. This story has closed plot.

Joan looked at him wearily. “They are her own things and she has them back, and she has paid me the money, and you heard her say she was going to give me some more, and it is for the Brett children. I haven't done wrong. The lady didn't give the money in the first place to the Brett children, so, of course, I had to see to it. And now she has her presents all back and everything. I think I must go now or I shall have no time to buy some meat and cook the children's dinner.”

Sarah opened her black silk bag and handed a bill to the little girl. “Kiss me, dear,” she whispered.

Joan threw both arms around her neck and kissed her, over and over.

“Will you come and see me?” whispered Sarah, fondly.

“Yes, ma'am; I'd love to.”

C. Character

In this short story, there are three main characters, namely Sarah, Lottie, and Joan. Sarah can be called the main character because she always appears in the story from

beginning to end, and the problem that occurs in the story is centered on Sarah, about her stolen goods. In addition, Joan is also called the main character because she has a direct problem with Sarah, although Sarah does not consider it a problem because she is blinded by the fact that Joan is very similar to her late daughter, Ida. Joan appears from the beginning and the end of the story. Lottie is also considered as the main character because she always accompanies Sarah from beginning to end, how she always has conflicting thoughts with Sarah regarding the problems she faces.

In addition, there are side characters such as Silas Whitman who in the end helps solve Joan's problems with Sarah. It only appears at the end of the story.

In this story, the physical appearance of each character is not explained so that the audience has to imagine it for themselves, things that are explained by the nature of the clues given, such as Sarah who lost her daughter, which means she is a middle-aged woman.

The characterization in this story can be shown by the nature of several characters, for example, Sarah is stingy

"Lottie paled, and her mouth dropped when Sarah Bannister, so careful of money, said she would take it."

In addition, there is the sly character of Joan,

"Joan," said Sarah.

"Yes, ma'am," said the child, looking up brightly.

"I have found out that you had sto— taken all those things you sold to me yesterday from me. You sold me my own things."

The little girl gazed. "I am real glad you found out so soon," said she.

Then there is Lottie's sarcastic character, *"Oh, well, if she only stole, she ain't quite so bad. I shouldn't wonder," returned Lottie, sarcastically, "if there wan' goin' to be no question of brimstun' for jest plain stealin'."*

D. Setting

➤ The Setting of Time

Christmas Season — in this story all the characters were busy preparing for the Christmas season, even the main problem was talking about the stolen Christmas present.

"Yes, and the worst of it is, it isn't quite a week to Christmas, and I haven't got the things done yet"

"Christmas is right here, next week Thursday," remarked Mrs. Wilson, helplessly.

This year — It is also regarding to give the present in this year's Christmas, as in

"I'm giving to about the whole town this year. Then, you know all our cousins out West, and the raft of relations we never see except at our funerals, that live in Watchboro, and Center Watchboro, and South and North and East."

➤ The Setting of Place

In this short story, the setting where the story is located is only in one place, namely Sarah's house. This can be proven from all the problems solved at Sarah's house.

“Sarah, you are catching cold in this room.”

...She could hear voices, and the wind came in the cracks of the sitting-room door. The front door closed with a bang...

As Sarah could not very well look at her own cheeks, and there was no mirror in the room, she gazed at Mrs. Wilson for confirmation. — it happened when Mrs. Wilson was coming to Sarah's house

Lottie crossed the room, her skirts swishing. She returned after two trips and laid the soft piles of dainty handiwork in two chairs before Sarah.

➤ The Setting of Atmosphere

The atmosphere in this story can be called 'cold', firstly because this story is set in a very extreme winter in the Christmas season, then because of the problems in this story that make the atmosphere seem cold, how stiff Sarah is, and Lottie who can be irritable to Sarah for her stubbornness, besides that Joan is not the type of cheerful little girl, she tends to be a serious and indifferent person.

Sometimes we can see the warmth given by Sarah's love for Joan who is considered her child, but it doesn't change the cold atmosphere because Lottie is very against Sarah's nature to Joan.

E. Narrator/POV

The narrator of the story *A Gospel According to Joan* is the **third person limited omniscient**. The narrator is following the side of every character but mainly to Sarah Bannister. According to Kennedy (1979) we can conclude this limited omniscient narrator but not as all-knowing, she follows what is being done by the characters, but not for what they think, the twist or unpredictable ending led the narrator to limited since the highlight on this story is about Joan and she don't centralize the point of view to that.

• Analysis in the first paragraph

“Sarah Bannister, a middle-aged woman. She was known as a rich woman, she had the finest living room, a long room, furnished with a luxurious and aggressive mahogany table, and an onyx table, and a marble Clytie,”

According to the quoted sentence above, we can see that the narrator using a third-person by using Sarah and pronoun 'she'. The narrator describes Sarah's house which it can be seen with eyes, that is why it is being called

as third person limited.

- Analysis in the second paragraph
“According to Lottie Dodd, Sarah was known to be stingy, she is not a generous person, seeing Sarah remembering people around her to give gifts made Lottie a little surprised.”

The third person point of view is still used on the 2nd paragraph which the narrator is still using the pronouns ‘she’.

Regarding to the quoted sentence above, the narrator explains about Sarah according to Lottie’s thought about her, the author doesn’t know everything about Sarah.

- Analysis on the last paragraph
“Then Sarah told Lottie something she had been keeping, that the things Joan had sold were hers, gifts she had made herself. Lottie was angry that Sarah was being nice to her when she knew he bought hers. Sarah was being warm to Joan because she was very similar to her late daughter, Ida. Lottie was very angry because Joan is a little thief.”

If we summarize the whole story, we can see that the girl has done something wrong since the very beginning but no one is shown by the narrator until it is revealed at almost the end by the character as in “*then Sarah told Lottie something she had been keeping...*”

F. Tone and Style

- Tone
This short story ‘A Gospel According to Joan’ started with lovely and warm tone as it is built up by the diction *composure* as in ‘*she looked with perfect composure, so perfect that it directly made her seem older. Her great blue eyes had a womanly wise cognizance of the two women.*’ It shows that although Sarah is not a warm person to anyone including Lottie, her relative, she can suddenly be warm to the little girl. It is also supported by the diction *kiss* as in ‘*Sarah opened her black silk bag and handed a bill to the little girl. “Kiss me, dear,” she whispered.* No matter what Joan had ever done, Sarah still loved her by telling Joan to kiss her and come back.
- Style
 - a) Diction
The diction contained in this short story is more in dialogue because most of this story is not in the form of a narrative, the author uses a lot of negative words such as ‘*don’t, couldn’t, haven’t, wouldn’t*’ as a word of affirmation, this is also because Sarah's character is firm and straight to the point. In addition to this, negative words are also used in this story which aims to

clarify the problems that occur in this short story. In this story, Wilkins Freeman chooses simple words that can be understood by all. The author chooses simple diction that makes it easier for us to understand the story, even though this short story is quite long. Not many complicated language styles and slangs are found in this story.

b) Imagery

This can be seen that every dialogue and narration is **straightforward and straight to the point** without anything implied, but besides that, there are several figure of speeches and symbols as the style of writing.

➤ Simile

Simile figure of speech is a style of language that compares an activity with an expression that has the same meaning where the delivery is explicit or more straightforward. With this style of language, the reader can guess directly what the meaning of the phrase or paraphrase is conveyed.

“mentally he towered among them like a giant among Lilliputians.”

➤ Hyperbole

Hyperbole is a language style that expresses something excessively, even compares something in a way that seems unreasonable.

“Not one could have understood.”

This is considered hyperbole because he feels as if no one understands him in this world, even though he has not confirmed to anyone in this story, it is a complaint that he is exaggerating.

➤ Metaphor

Metaphor is a style of language that is used as a figure of speech that explicitly represents another meaning based on similarities or comparisons. In other words, this style of language contains expressions where an object is compared to other objects that are similar in nature, but not human.

“they were all starving to death and freezing”

In this dialogue he uses the term to denote a symbol that they are starving to death which means that they are very, very hungry.

c) Syntax

The writer tends to choose short sentences in this short story, for instance:

“I must sell them to you. I couldn't afford to give them to you, and I mustn't sell them to anybody else.”

The minister spoke for the first time.

“Why not?” he asked.

She looked wonderingly at him. “It wouldn't be right. Are you the minister?”

Silas replied that he was.

This story begins with a word that is not understood because there is only one possession word, as in "my!", upon further analysis, it is not a person's name. Because the narrative is too little because it is dominated by dialogue, sometimes the details of the story are not conveyed because the back story is incomplete.

About the interpretation of the text, this story is interesting because it teaches us how to give love to one another regardless of who he or she looks like and how, as Sarah did to the Bretts, how she never feeds hungry children. Besides that this story is very important because it teaches us how important honesty is, it can be seen how Joan stole Sarah's goods to resell and the money will be donated to feed Brett's children, the thing that can be taken is that even if our intentions are good, it doesn't have to be done in a bad way.

3. Extrinsic Aspect

A. Psychological Dimension

When analyzing the Psychological Dimension, we talk about how the author's psychology studies are. In the story A Gospel According to Joan, Wilkins Freeman describes how Sarah is a hard woman who is lonely, this is illustrated how she only lives with Lottie and she truly understands very well how Sarah is so she never complains or wonders.

Sarah's lonely nature can be seen from how she feels happy when she sees Joan who is very similar to her late daughter, Ida. She has a deep longing for the figure of a girl who is his flesh and blood. Wilkins Freeman wrote about how Sarah loved Joan no matter what the little girl did, not even the slightest bit of disappointment when she found out that Joan stole her belongings.

“Lottie, that darling little girl!”

“Darling little limb of Satan!”

“She looked so —”

“If you say another word about her looking like your Ida I shall begin to wonder what your Ida really was. Likening your own flesh and blood to a thief and a liar!”

“Come to think of it, she didn't lie. She wouldn't tell the name of the lady who made the things.”

“Oh, well, if she only stole, she ain't quite so bad. I shouldn't wonder,” returned Lottie, sarcastically, “if there wan' goin' to be no question of brimstun' for jest plain stealin'.”

“Why, Lottie, how you do talk! What has got into you?” Sarah said, weakly. Then she began to weep again.

From this psychological dimension, it can be concluded that although Sarah's

initial character is someone who is hard and seems stingy and doesn't care about others, it turns out that she has a deep love for someone who no longer exists, if using a psychological approach, perhaps Sarah's initial character is due to the loss of life, the love of her life.

CONCLUSION

According to the analysis that has been done in this paper, it can be concluded that A Gospel According to Joan short story by Wilkins Freeman is a Christmas short story that first posted on Monthly's Harper Bazaar in 1919. This story is about a little girl named Joan who stole Sarah's things to be sold so that she could feed Brett's children, the problem is that Sarah couldn't even mad at her because she looked alike her late daughter. Based on the intrinsic and extrinsic analysis on this short story, it can be concluded that the theme of this story is about holy-dishonest. The plot ended with closed plots, the story also has several characters that dominate the story. There are three kinds of settings but it mainly discussed about them in Christmas season. The narrator of this story played role as the third person limited omniscient, the writer tended to use simple dictions with lots of dialogues, but she did not put many figures of speech. The extrinsic analysis focuses on the psychological dimension that focuses on Sarah's characterization to Joan and people around her that created by Wilkins Freeman.

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