

## ACTANTIAL MODELS IN THE OWL AND THE PUSSY-CAT (A Narrative Scheme on Poem)

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**Abstract:** *The study entitled "Actantial Model in The Owl and The Pussy Cat by Edward Lear: A Narrative Scheme on Poem " revealed a narration scheme to find out three models in narration text, namely the function model, action model, and narration model realized in the poem. The approach used to solve the problem is a structuralism approach by using Greimas' Actant theoretical base. The method of data collection in this study is objective literary research. Presentation of data processing is a report using the qualitative description design. The benefits of this study are expected to be one of the developments in literary studies, especially the study of poetic literary works for future students, teachers, researchers and literary critics. The results of this study are the discussion of narration schemes, which consist of the functional model, action model, and narration model of the poem.*

**Keywords:** *scheme, function, action, narration, model*

Narratology is a branch of structuralism that studies narration structures and how these structures influence the perceptions of the reader. Narratology is an attempt to study the story nature as a concept and as a cultural practice. Literary work is one of the results of the author's cultural practices. Starting from one concept that literature is a manifestation of the expression of thoughts and feelings of an author. The expression of thoughts and feelings is an attempt to appreciate the events around them. The thoughts and feelings are in the form of both experienced by themselves and those that occur in other people and in their community groups. The imagination results from the thoughts and feelings of the writer are poured into the form of literary works to be presented to the reader community to be enjoyed, understood and utilized.

Thus literary works are not merely blank descriptions or imaginations that are merely entertaining the reader but through literature it is hoped that the reader will be

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wiser and wiser in acting and thinking both about themselves, other people, the environment, and their problems. Because literary works convey the problems of human life and what happens in reality, it is appropriate to say that literary works are a reflection of the reality of people's lives

From the definition above, narratology can be said that it is a branch of structuralism learning narration structure and how the structure influencing readers' perception. It is an effort to learn the nature of story as a concept and as a cultural practice. Being associated with cultural practice, literary work represents one of cultural practices of its writer. Starting from one concept that literary work represents to existence of the writer's feeling and mind expression, those represent the effort to involve existing events surroundings experienced by either his or her own, or by others or by his society group. Result of imagination from the author's feeling and mind are infused into the literary work form to present to reader to enjoy, to comprehend, and to exploit.

Therefore literary work is not merely empty descriptions or the fantasy simply amusing readers but by literary work, readers are expected to be wiser and wiser in acting and thinking about themselves, others, environment, and their life problems. The literary work delivers problems of human life and what is going on in reality hence it is promptly said that the literary work reflects the reality of social life.

## **THEORETICAL BASIS**

### **Narratology**

Theory of narratology is needed in this research utilizing to know aspects of narration in text of novel and contribution of interrelation work of elements such as characters, conflicts, theme, and message reflected in novel. Etymologically, narratology can be interpreted as science of narration. Roland Barthes (1991: 166) has applied narration structure divided into sequences and syntactical element of narration called as an actant. He divides the actants become two shares, namely nuclei and catalyzes. Nuclei are actants which must attend while catalyzes are the actants which can be eliminated without destroying plot. Jonathan Culler (1975: 139) supports this

effort because the actants can see outline, by conducting verification of fact or can conduct a summary of plot or story at the same time.

Narratology can be conducted by expert readers as exploitation to circumstantial reading to gratify the readers; thus, the writer is going to apply one of methods to find the narrative scheme in a poem can be conducted with Actantial Model by A.J. Greimas.

### **Greimas' Actantial Model**

The reference of Greimas' Actantial Model that is applied in the discussion was taken from Louis Hebert. The Actantial Model, developed by A.J. Greimas, allows us to break an action down into six facets, or actants: the subject is what wants or does not want to be joined to an object is what to be rescued. The sender is what instigates the action, while the receiver is what benefits from it. Lastly, a helper is what helps to accomplish the action, while an opponent what hinders it.

The six actants are divided into three oppositions, each of which forms an axis of the description: The axis of desire: subject and object. The subject is what is directed toward an object. The relationship established between the subject and the object is called a junction, and can be further classified as a conjunction or a disjunction, the axis of power: helper and opponent. The helper assists in achieving the desired junction between the subject and object; the opponent hinders the same and the axis of transmission: sender and receiver. The sender is the element requesting the establishment of the junction between subject and object. The receiver is the element for which the quest is being undertaken. To simplify in interpreting, the receiver or positive receiver is as that which benefits from achieving the junction between subject and object. Sender elements are often receiver elements as well.

The sender is who or what initiates the action; if something else intervenes along the way to stir up desire for the junction to be achieved, this actant will be assigned to the helper class instead or the same reasoning applies to anti-sender and opponents. This problem is where position in a narration sequence and function in this sequence are mixed up, has been worked out in the canonical narration schema, Greimas' subsequent model that is more developed than the Actantial Model. In this

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model, the sender or more accurately called the sender-manipulator has been redefined as that which prompts the action by manipulating either wanting-to-do or having-to-do, or both.

Greimas' function model proposes propose an story formula as pattern of events so-called as function. Greimas tries to simplify the functions and category such as initial situation, transformation consisting of initial trials, main trials, and brilliant trials, and final situation. In Greimas' theory of Actantial, an act presents certain function in story which can be classified into Subject, Object, Sender, Receiver, Helper, and Opponent. That event is gummed by triggering of, resolving, and solving of conflict. The functions cannot be identified clearly from narration structure of a text except it has to be compiled into sequences beforehand. Afterwards, some characters possibly present some actantial functions into initial situation, transformation consisting of initial trials, main trials, and brilliant trials, and final situation. Actant is understood as a set of nouns, pronouns, people, and everything placing itself as subject and object.

Based on the function model and action model in the poem can be drawn a narration model in the form of a description of textual structure in a narration, meaning a description of the narration by revealing the story elements of the structure in this poem.

## **METHOD**

### **Data source of the study**

In this study, the writer conducted a study by determining the study corpus is poetic texts as study orientation. This corpus of study is a poem by Edward Lear. He was an English poet who lived 1812-1888. The title of this poem is *The Owl and The Pussy Cat* written in 1871.

### **Design of the study**

According to Flick (2014: 542) claimed that, "Qualitative research interested in analyzing meaning or the social production of issues, events, or practices by

collecting non-standardized data and analyzing texts and images rather than number and statistics.” This definition is focused on how people make sense of something in the world. The qualitative research is basically associated with multiple aspects. Moreover, Denzin and Lincoln (1994: 2) claimed that, “Qualitative research is multi-method in focus, involving an interpretive, naturalistic approach to its subject matter.”

Using this design, the writer interprets multiple aspects of narrative scheme qualitatively.

### **Data collecting of the study**

Technique of data collection of this study is objective orientation. On view of poem objectively means that a poem is an autonomous world, which can be separated from its creator, and social environment, and culture.

Based on this, the writer observes sequence of story to find elements of narrative, such as six actants in the poem.

### **Data analyzing of the study**

Objective data collection was analyzed based on Greimas' theory of actant and then described in the form of narrative schemes in three levels of models, namely the function model, action model, and narration model realized in the poem. The actantial model has been used to examine and describe the function, action and narration. The model can be an effective tool for initiating development processes through narrative scheme. The special strength of the actantial model is that it serves as a checklist of the key players of the project while creating a coherent display of relation, and participant in actions of actants. In short, the actantial model can be used as a tool for identifying possible development strategies, planning projects and communication.

Using this, the writer applies Greimas' Actant Model to analyze objectively the narrative scheme.

## **DISCUSSION**

The discussion is the narrative scheme poem *The Owl and The Pussy Cat* by Edward Lear consisting of function model, action model, and narration model. The

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following is the original text of the poem taken from <http://the-office.com/bedtime-story/owlpussycat.htm>.

**The Owl and the Pussy-Cat**

Edward Lear, 1812 - 1888

The Owl and the Pussy-Cat went to sea  
 In a beautiful pea-green boat:  
 They took some honey, and plenty of money  
 Wrapped up in a five-pound note.  
 The Owl looked up to the stars above,  
 And sang to a small guitar,  
 "O lovely Pussy, O Pussy, my love,  
 What a beautiful Pussy you are,  
 You are,  
 You are!  
 What a beautiful Pussy you are!"

Pussy said to the Owl, "You elegant fowl,  
 How charmingly sweet you sing!  
 Oh! let us be married; too long we have tarried,  
 But what shall we do for a ring?"  
 They sailed away, for a year and a day,  
 To the land where the bong-tree grows;  
 And there in a wood a Piggy-wig stood,  
 With a ring at the end of his nose,  
 His nose,  
 His nose,  
 With a ring at the end of his nose.

"Dear Pig, are you willing to sell for one shilling  
 Your ring?" Said the Piggy, "I will."  
 So they took it away, and were married next day  
 By the turkey who lives on the hill.  
 They dined on mince and slices of quince,  
 Which they ate with a crucible spoon;  
 And hand in hand, on the edge of the sand,  
 They danced by the light of the moon,  
 The moon,  
 The moon,  
 They danced by the light of the moon.

The writer describes three models in the poetic narrative text, namely the function model, the action model, and the narrative model. Each model is bound and related to each other according to how to integrate. This means that a function only has meaning if it gets a place in the actions taken by the actant, and this action only gets meaning if told. The writer applies structural naratology which divides into sequences and narrative elements in the form of acting, specifically the nuclei actants, which is an actant who must be present in the novel's storyline. The analysis of the poem's narrative scheme is as follows.

### **Greimas' Function Model in *The Owl and The Pussy Cat* by Edward Lear**

In the function model, the writer describes the textual structure in a discursive way, namely the model that expresses inter-actant relations and whether the relationship is in pairs or in opposition. The function model can be called as the participant model consisting of six roles, which are denoted actants: Subject is who the main character is; Object is the subject always has a project, a goal or something that he or she wants; Opponent is who or what tries to prevent the subject from getting the object; Helper is who or what helps the subject to get the object; Sender is who or what gives the object away; and Receiver is who or what gets the item in the end. The actants are placed onto three axes. Those are Project or Desire axis displays the subject and the object, Conflict or Power axis is the conflict axis shows the helper and the opponent who are respectively trying to help and to prevent the subject from succeeding, and Communication or transmission axis is the end of the story is shown with the sender handing over the object to the receiver (who is often the same as the subject).

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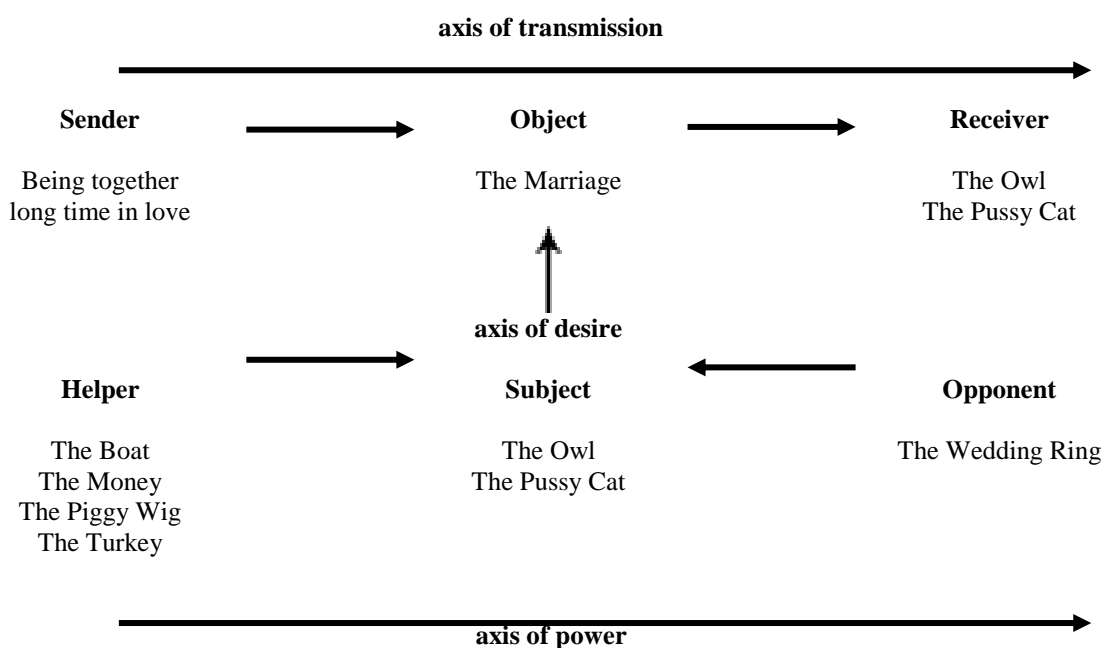


Diagram 1 the Function Model

Based on diagram.1 above, the writer determines a number of nucleic actants, namely actants that must be present in the storyline. The nuclei actants in *The Owl and The Pussy Cat* by Edward Lear are as follows.

The Sender in the poem is a condition of mutual love for a long time. This actant must exist because it is an actant that moves the story and determines the object that is desired. It becomes this act because it is the answer to what questions move the subject to get the desired object. It is an initial condition that moves the storyline.

The Subject in the poem is the Owl and the Pussy Cat. They must exist because they are actants who assume that it is their duty to get the object. They occupy these actants because they are the answer to the question of who gets the task of finding and getting objects.

The Object in the poem is the marriage. It must exist because it is an actant desired by the sender and answers the question what the sender wants and is sought by the subject.



The Receiver in the poem is the Owl and the Pussy Cat. They must exist because they are actants that accept the object sought and are the answer to the question of who receives the object.

Based on the narrative sequences, in the Owl and the Pussy Cat hold two important roles. They act as two participants, namely the subject and the receiver.

The Helper in the poem is occupied by the boat, the Piggy Wig and the Turkey. They help the subjects carry out their task of getting the object. The helps given to the subjects to get the object can be in the form of material or non-material helps.

The three figures occupy these actants because they are the answers to questions that help or make it easier for subjects to get the object. Therefore, in the poem several figures can jointly fill an important function, namely the helper act consisting of the boat, the Piggy Wig and the Turkey.

The Opponent in the poem is the wedding ring. The ring is an actant that obstructs and can even frustrate the subject to get the object. This occupies the position of this actant because it is the answer to the question that obstructs the attainment of the object. From the relationship between the six actants, there are three relationships, namely the relationship of transmission or communication axis between the sender and receiver, the relationship of power or conflict axis between the helper and the opponent, and the relationship of desire or project axis between the subject and object. These three relationships are the most important relationships where the subject and object indicate an attempt to get something and the effort to get something that will show the main problem contained in the poem that is to get married.

### **Greimas' Action Model in *The Owl and The Pussy Cat* by Edward Lear**

At the action model, the writer describes the textual structure in a narrative, meaning the presentation of conditional units in the poetry story. On diagram 2 below, It can be described a number of situations in order to see further basic problems contained in the poem. The level of action carried out by the Owl and the Pussy Cat consists of three kinds of situations, namely the initial situation, the

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transformation situation which is the trials, and the final situation experienced by them. The situations are as follows.

Initial Situation	Transformation			Final Situation
	Initial Trials	Main Trials	Brilliant Trials	
The Owl and the Pussy Cat had been together for a long time in love.	They were sailing in a beautiful green boat to land where the bong tree grew; and there in a forest that Piggy-Wig lives in.	They bought a wedding ring for one shilling from the Piggy Wig.	They got married the next day with the turkey living on the hill.	They were happy because they could get what they want, that was as husband and wife.

Diagram 2 the Action Model

The initial situation is a situation that is described as a situation that is still safe and secure. This condition can be seen when The Owl and the Pussy Cat had been together for a long time in love.

The action model in a transformation situation consists of three trials, namely the initial trials, the main trials and the brilliant trials. The description of these three trials is as follows.

The initial trial is where they were sailing in a beautiful green boat to land where the bong tree grew; and there in a forest that Piggy-Wig lives in.

The main trial is the situation that hinders and even frustrates the Owl and the Pussy Cat to get what they want, namely a wedding ring; they bought a wedding ring for one shilling from the Piggy Wig.

They got married the next day with the turkey living on the hill is what they want, and this is what has become their brilliant trial, namely the effort they have made to get what is desired after the main ordeal has struck or experienced it.

The final situation for the Owl and the Pussy Cat is that they were happy because they could get what they want, that was as husband and wife.

**Greimas' Narration Model in *The Owl and The Pussy Cat* by Edward Lear**

In line with the function and action model, it can be drawn a description of the narrative presented in diagram 3. At narration model, the writer describes the narrative structure by combining the two models above.

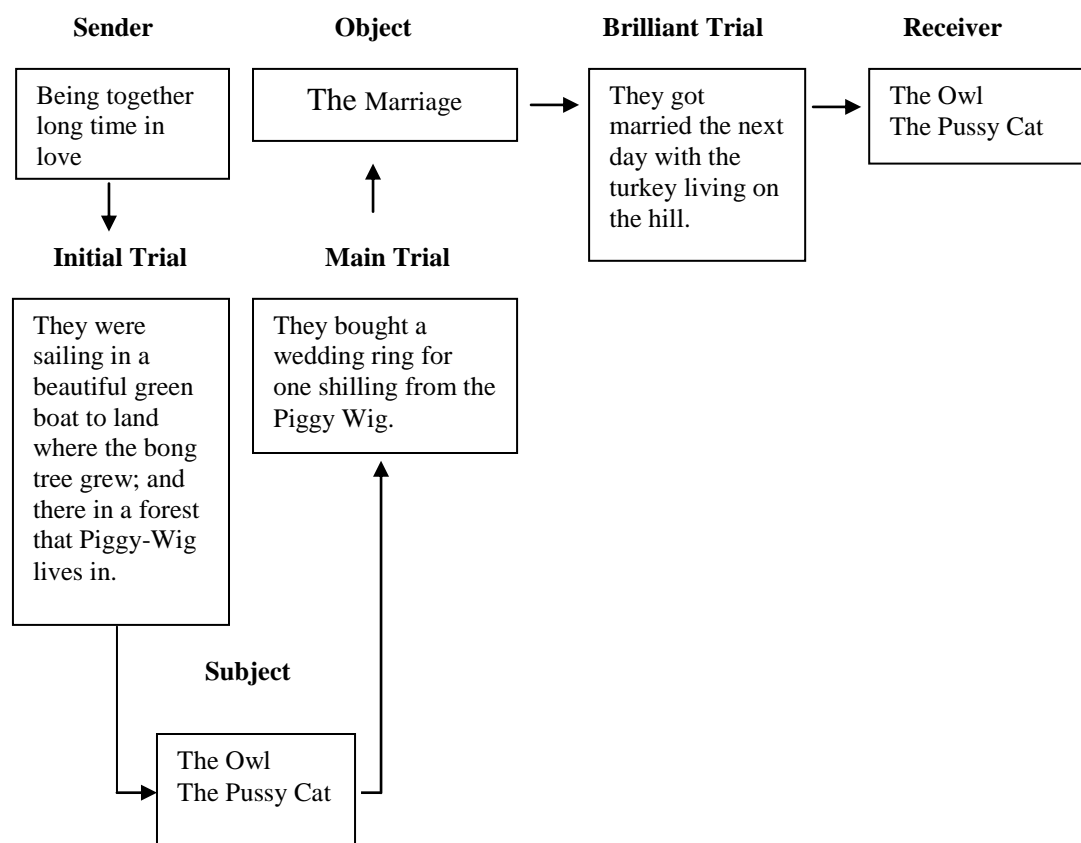


Diagram 3 the Action Model

By paraphrasing and drawing the Actantial model of the poem out, it can be seen the narrative sequences of *The Owl and The Pussy Cat* so that the exploration of narrative such as the existence of characters, relationships and involvement in conflict, and the background of various causality events in the poem revealed in the following paragraph.

The poem tells about an owl and pussy cat were sailing in a beautiful green boat, they brought honey, and a lot of money was

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wrapped in a five-pound envelope. The owl was looking at the stars above, and singing with a small guitar accompaniment, "O beautiful cat, O cat, my love, how beautiful you are, yes you are, and you are beautiful! How beautiful you are! "

The pussy cat said to the owl, "You are a handsome bird, how handsome you are when you sing! Oh! Let's get married; we've been together for a long time, but what will we do for a ring? "

They sailed away, for a long time, to land where the bong tree grew; and there in a forest that Piggy-Wig lives in, with a ring on the tip of his nose, on his nose, on his nose, with a ring on the tip of his nose.

"Hello Pig, will you sell for one shilling of your ring?" Said the pig, "Yes." And then they took it away, and married the next day with the turkey living on the hill. They eat fine minced meat and slices of fruit, which they eat with a crucible spoon; holding hands, and walking on the sand, they danced in the moonlight, the moon, the moon, they danced in the moonlight.

From the above paragraph can be separated stages of the narrative easily, namely the advanced storyline or can be called progressive is a narrative whose climax is at the end of the story. The series of events in the forward path starts from the beginning to the end of the story regularly and sequentially; from Exposition to Conflict to Climax to Anticlimax and to Resolution. The findings could be the same action as the narration model, but the different model.

Exposition or Orientation stage is the initial stage of the story that is used to introduce the character, setting, situation, and time. That is when the Owl and the Pussy Cat had been together for a long time in love.

Rising action stage is the stage of the emergence of conflict is the stage where problems arise. This stage is characterized by tension or conflict between figures. That is when they were sailing in a beautiful green boat to land where the bong tree grew; and there in a forest that Piggy-Wig lives in.

Turning point or Climax stage is the stage of conflict culminates or is usually called a climax is the stage where the problem or tension is at its peak. That is when they bought a wedding ring for one shilling from the Piggy Wig.

Anticlimax stage is the stage of conflict decreases or is commonly called anticlimax is the stage where problems begin to be overcome and the tension

gradually disappears. That is when they got married the next day with the turkey living on the hill.

Resolution stage is the stage where the conflict has been resolved. There has been no problem or tension between the characters, because they have found a solution. That is when they were happy because they could get what they want, that was as husband and wife.

## CONCLUSION

By analyzing the poem's narrative scheme of *The Owl and The Pussy Cat* by Edward Lear using Greimas' Actant theoretical base, it can be concluded that:

In the function model, it can be found the actants such as the sender is a condition of mutual love for a long time, the subject is the Owl and the Pussy Cat, the object is the marriage, the receiver is the Owl and the Pussy Cat, the helper is the boat, the Piggy Wig and the Turkey, and the opponent is the wedding ring.

In the action model, it can be found the situations such as the initial situation is when The Owl and the Pussy Cat had been together for a long time in love, the initial trial is where they were sailing in a beautiful green boat to land where the bong tree grew; and there in a forest that Piggy-Wig lives in, the main trial is when they bought a wedding ring for one shilling from the Piggy Wig, the brilliant trial is when they got married the next day with the turkey living on the hill, and the final situation for the Owl and the Pussy Cat is that they were happy because they could get what they want, that is as husband and wife.

In the narration model, it can be found the series of events in the forward path starts from the beginning to the end of the story regularly and sequentially namely Exposition stage is when the Owl and the Pussy Cat had been together for a long time in love, Rising action stage is when they were sailing in a beautiful green boat to land where the bong tree grew; and there in a forest that Piggy-Wig lives in, Climax stage is when they bought a wedding ring for one shilling from the Piggy Wig, Anticlimax stage is when they got married the next day with the turkey living on the hill, and Resolution stage is when they were happy because they could get what they want, that was as husband and wife.

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