

Analysis of the Intrinsic Elements of the Novel *Ada Apa Dengan Aku, Kalian, dan Garis Tuhan*: Changes in Children's Behavior and a Mother's Affection

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Abstract

Literary works are expressions of human thought conveyed through aesthetic language. This study analyzes the intrinsic elements of the novel *Ada Apa Dengan Aku, Kalian, dan Garis Tuhan* by Sri Wahyuni using a descriptive qualitative approach. The findings indicate that the novel highlights the influence of the environment on the formation of a child's character, leading to self-awareness through a mother's affection. The narrative is structured with a progressive plot and reinforced by elements of characterization, setting, first-person point of view, and figurative language. These intrinsic elements collectively create a harmonious narrative, with a religious family background serving as a crucial factor in character development and conflict, while conveying moral values of responsibility, honesty, and courage in self-improvement.

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INTRODUCTION

Modern literature holds significant value as it is able to reflect changes of the times and the realities of contemporary society, including the dynamics of adolescent life and the challenges of the digital era (SOFIE, 2022). A work is created from the combination of human thought, experience, and imagination, expressed with particular aesthetic values and meanings (Saragih et al., 2021).

Literature is a creative work that uses language as its primary medium, which etymologically originates from Sanskrit and means a tool for teaching or giving guidance (Tjahyadi, 2020). Literature develops as part of culture that expresses human thoughts and feelings and reflects various life phenomena as a social institution (Danur et al., 2021). Literature serves as a medium for authors to convey thoughts and emotions aesthetically in order to creatively depict the realities of life (Riska, 2020).

Literary works are the result of thought expressed in writing through engaging language as a medium of communication (Permana et al., 2019). Literary works, as imaginative creations, serve to highlight various problems of life (Melati et al., 2019). Literature is viewed as a form of writing that expresses the author's ideas (Amna et al., 2022). Literature becomes a creative product that emerges from inspiration drawn from various evolving issues (Huda et al., 2022). Literary works are human creations that use language to express experiences, feelings, and imagination aesthetically.

In popular literature, novels are favored because they present the realities of life with a touch of imagination (Amna et al., 2022). Novels are able to present dramatic, romantic, and tragic narratives that vividly depict the life journeys of their characters (Melati et al., 2019). A novel is viewed as a fictional work that emerges from the author's interaction with and deep reflection on the environment and life. (Huda et al., 2022). A novel is understood as a long prose work with complex conflicts and plot that allow readers to comprehend the story as a whole.

The structure of a novel consists of intrinsic and extrinsic elements, with the intrinsic elements including events, plot, characters, theme, setting, point of view, and language style (Danur et al., 2021). Intrinsic elements are components within a text that include theme, characters, plot, setting, message, point of view, and language style as the foundation for building the narrative (Huda et al., 2022).

Analyzing intrinsic elements is important to fully understand the meanings and messages of a novel, both explicit and implicit, while also sharpening critical thinking and imagination (Assidiq et al., 2025). These elements include theme as the main idea, plot as a sequence of events, setting in terms of space and time, characters, point of view, language style, and the message or moral of the story.

In this study, several previous studies are used as important references. Research by Nuriyah (2025) focuses its analysis on theme, characters, plot, setting, point of view, message, and language style in novels. Research by Haeniah & Apriliani (2024) aims to analyze the internal components that shape the structure and meaning of a work. The study by Riska (2020) emphasizes the disclosure of intrinsic elements for educational purposes, and its similarity to other studies lies in the focus on novel analysis through intrinsic elements.

This research differs from those conducted by Nuriyah, Haeniah and Apriliani, and Riska for several reasons. First, the object of this study is a new novel entitled *Ada Apa Dengan Aku, Kalian, dan Garis Tuhan* by Wahyuni (2025), which has received minimal scholarly attention, particularly at Universitas KH. Mukhtar Syafa'at. Second, this novel not only explores friendship and love, but also highlights the educational struggle of the main character from a modest background in maintaining a scholarship and pursuing dreams, thereby offering motivation to readers. Third, the novel presents social pressure conflicts within a family facing economic limitations, adding depth to its themes. Fourth, unlike previous studies that focus on well-established works, this study enriches

contemporary Indonesian literary studies from a student perspective.

The uniqueness of this study lies in the story's deep dynamics, encompassing social interactions within a spiritual context, aligned with the author's organizational experiences. This research analyzes intrinsic elements such as theme, characters, plot, setting, point of view, message, and language style, aiming to broaden literary understanding and contribute positively to literature education in Indonesia.

The novel was chosen for its strong narrative structure and relevance to adolescent realities, particularly psychological and spiritual conflicts. The integration of intrinsic elements conveys moral messages about responsibility, honesty, and personal growth, while also enriching academic studies of contemporary works and serving as a reference for teaching novel analysis.

METHODOLOGY

This study employs a descriptive qualitative approach to explore the in-depth aspects of the novel *Ada Apa dengan Aku, Kalian, dan Garis Tuhan*, focusing on understanding the meaning of phenomena in their natural context (Niam et al., 2024). This method emphasizes the description and clarification of data according to its context (Rofiq & Munifah, 2023). This method is relevant for in-depth text analysis to identify the structure and relationships between narrative elements.

The primary data for this study is the novel *Ada Apa dengan Aku, Kalian, dan Garis Tuhan* by Sri Wahyuni, published in 2025, while the secondary data comes from theoretical books on the intrinsic elements of novels.

Data collection techniques are carried out through a reading and note-taking method consisting of two stages. The first stage involves careful and repeated reading to comprehend the context of the story, followed by the documentation of information relevant to the seven intrinsic elements, namely theme, characters, plot, setting, point of view, language style, and message (Harliyana & Shella, 2020).

Data analysis is the process of organizing, filtering, and interpreting data so that it can be understood and used to address the research problems. The data analysis in this study is conducted through three main stages: data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing. The first stage, data reduction, involves filtering and selecting data relevant to the research focus to ensure that the analyzed information is clearer and more focused. The second stage, data presentation, is carried out by thoroughly reading the entire novel to gain a comprehensive understanding of the story's content. The third stage is conclusion drawing and verification, which in this research is implemented through note-taking techniques, namely recording data obtained from the reading process to describe and identify the intrinsic elements found in the novel *Ada Apa dengan Aku, Kalian, dan Garis Tuhan* by Sri Wahyuni (Sugiyono, 2019).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The analysis of the novel *Ada Apa Dengan Aku, Kalian, dan Garis Tuhan* by Sri Wahyuni identifies intrinsic elements such as theme, plot, characters, setting, point of view, language style, and moral message. The theme highlights the influence of the environment on the transformation of a child's character, leading to self-awareness through a mother's affection. The linear plot is supported by diverse characters, settings in terms of place and time, and a first-person point of view, with figurative language including personification, metaphor, hyperbole, and simile. These elements create a cohesive narrative, with a religious family background serving as the foundation of character and a source of conflict, thereby reinforcing the conveyance of moral lessons.

A. Intrinsic Elements

The analysis of the novel *Ada Apa Dengan Aku, Kalian, dan Garis Tuhan* identifies intrinsic elements such as theme, plot, setting, characters, point of view, language style, and moral message that form a cohesive narrative. The analysis of these elements aims to reveal the meaning,

structure, and interrelationships among them so that readers can understand the author's message both explicitly and implicitly.

Theme

The theme of a novel is the main idea that forms the core of the discussion and the meaning the author intends to convey (Purba et al., 2024). The theme develops throughout the plot to bind the story. In the novel *Ada Apa Dengan Aku, Kalian, dan Garis Tuhan*, the theme highlights the change in a child's behavior due to environmental influences, culminating in self-awareness through the role and affection of the mother as the foundation of character.

This is evidenced by the following excerpts:

"Gradually, changes in my behavior began to appear. I could say that I had changed a little, no longer like who I used to be. From rarely staying at home, it slowly became part of my daily habit." (page. 13)

"Yes, Mom. I am truly sorry. I will not repeat it again." (page. 86)

"An apology alone is not enough, my child. You must be able to show that you can manage your time well. School is important! You cannot go out at night carelessly if it ends up like

this. Another chance? This is not the first time you have done this. I am starting to suspect you." (page. 86)

These three excerpts reinforce the dynamics between environmental influence, the child's remorse, and the crucial role of parents in guiding the protagonist's character back onto the right path (Wahyuni, 2025).

Plot

Plot is a sequence of events arranged in order to form a complete story (Auliya & Damariswara, 2022). The plot in a novel is important to capture the reader's interest and keep them engaged in the story (Umami et al., 2020). This element serves as a framework that organizes the rhythm, evokes emotions, and effectively conveys the author's message.

Technically, plots are divided into three types: progressive (forward), regressive (backward), and mixed, which combines both. The novel *Ada Apa Dengan Aku, Kalian, dan Garis Tuhan* uses a chronological progressive plot, beginning with the character's behavioral changes, followed by awareness of parental disappointment, and culminating in the character's self-improvement and academic success.

Table 1.1 Plot in the Novel

Situation	Emergence of Conflict	Rising Conflict	Climax	Resolution
The character introduces himself and his life, coming from a simple family background and striving to continue his education through scholarships up to higher education.	"I, who used to be called a little angel from heaven, have now begun to appear like a woman with a hellish image." My friends were the main cause that gave a significant impact on my life. After school, I used to arrive home on time, but now I have started to drift away, lulled by the beauty of a temporary world. After school, instead of going straight home, I now head to the	"You can be close to anyone—that's your choice. But when I found out that you were close to Adam, I was a little shocked," Begil continued to explain. "Adam is... hmm, I don't really know how to say this to you." The unclear answer	"I always stay silent, Shya. Don't think that silence means stupidity. Be careful if there's anything you're hiding." (page. 86)	"I was at a turning point of a habit. Deep in my heart, a strong calling was knocking, urging me to change back into the Aishya I used to be—to become a better version of myself for now and for the future." (page. 97)

basecamp with my only made my gang. “When I came curiosity burn home late, my mother even more. would always ask me “Adam is a gently. She had known drunkard. He’s a me since childhood as troublemaker, an honest girl, but now I always drinking. was beginning to show He nearly died my lies” (page. 13).

because of his bad habits. He can’t live without alcohol and he’s still living that way now. And not only that, he was once imprisoned for taking a woman who did not belong to him to a hotel.” (page. 66–67)

“Nduk, are you still waiting for Ram?” my mother asked softly as she placed a cup in front of me. I nodded. “Yes, Mom. Mas Ram said he is still working hard to prepare for our wedding. I just need to be patient a little longer” (page. 334).

“Ram! He is already married, Shya! And the path you chose from the beginning was the right one, my child!” Like being struck by lightning, I felt the world stop for a moment. All the memories and hopes that had once existed between us seemed to collapse in an instant. (page. 346)

“Don’t tell me your grades have dropped. Why are so many of your scores going down? (*Mother is angry and disappointed.*) How much effort have you actually put in? If you were truly trying, your grades wouldn’t be like this! Do you spend too much time hanging out and being lazy about studying? This isn’t the first time you’ve said that. You need to be more focused! You know how important good

“Life often does not go according to what we plan, and sometimes we have to face realities that are hard to accept. But believe me, that is not the end of everything. God has a better way, even if you cannot understand it yet.” (page. 349)

	grades are for your future, don't you?" (page. 94)
	"I'm only disappointed with the promise, not with the person! I couldn't have known him without being introduced—I understand that! The way I was first introduced to him was something completely unexpected." (page. 348)

Source: processed by researchers

First, the situational stage

At this stage, the researcher identifies a forward-moving plot as the character introduces themselves and their life from a humble family striving to continue their education through scholarships up to university.

Second, the emergence of conflict stage

The excerpt on page 13 shows the main conflict when Aishya lies to her mother to spend time with her friends, while page 334 presents the second conflict as Aishya waits for Ram, who is working far away without any news (Wahyuni, 2025).

Third, the rising conflict stage

The excerpt on pages 66–67 shows an escalating conflict when Begil reveals Adam's bad behavior, causing Aishya to go out at night more often, while page 346 marks another conflict when Aishya discovers that her fiancé, Mas Ram, has married someone else and broken his promise (Wahyuni, 2025).

Fourth, the climax stage

The excerpts on pages 86 and 94 show the climax of the conflict when Aishya's mother

becomes suspicious and angry at her behavioral changes, while page 348 marks another climax when Aishya is disappointed because the person introduced to her did not keep their promise (Wahyuni, 2025).

Fifth, the resolution stage

The excerpt on page 97 shows the resolution when Aishya realizes her mistakes, improves herself, and achieves success, including a scholarship, while page 349 marks the resolution of the second conflict through her mother's advice, encouraging Aishya to accept reality (Wahyuni, 2025)

Setting

Setting is the depiction of space, time, and atmosphere that underlies events, including social, cultural, and environmental conditions that enrich the narrative (Siagian et al., 2021). The setting is important as the context of events, helping readers envision the story world, strengthening the plot and characters, and reflecting the characters' psychological states.

Table 1.2 Setting in the Novel

Setting of Place	Setting of Time	Setting of Atmosphere
<i>"Please, sir are you going to the beach?" (page. 267)</i>	<i>"At 6:30 a.m., it was time to get ready to go to school. I pedaled my bicycle slowly past a rice field. The grass along the road brushed against my legs, dampening them as I struggled to ride the bicycle." (page. 7)</i>	<i>"Don't tell me your grades have dropped. Why are so many of your scores going down? (Mother is angry and disappointed.) How much effort have you really put in? If you truly tried, your grades wouldn't be like this! Do you spend too much time hanging out and being lazy about studying? This isn't the first time you've said that. You have to be more focused! You know how important good grades are for your future, right?" my mother said firmly, her voice almost breaking into tears. (page. 94)</i>
<i>"In the quiet teachers' room, I stood nervously in front of Miss Endah's desk." (page. 278)</i>	<i>"There is no day more beautiful and special than Sunday." (page. 278)</i>	
<i>"During the school break, my habit that I never missed was visiting the library." (page. 39)</i>	<i>"Going out at night felt the most enjoyable to me." (page. 69)</i>	

Source: processed by researchers

Setting of Place

The setting of place refers to the location where events in the story occur (Salamah, 2024). In this novel, the beach serves as a vacation spot, the teachers' room as a place to find instructors, and the library as a place to read during school breaks.

Setting of Time

The setting of time indicates when the events in the story take place (EFLIN ALKAUTSAR, 2022), which is marked by the time 06:30 a.m., Sunday, and nighttime.

Setting of Atmosphere

The setting of atmosphere describes the emotional condition within a scene of the story (Pebriyono, 2021). This is reflected when the mother speaks firmly while holding back tears,

conveying feelings of sadness and disappointment.

Characterization

Characterization is the method by which an author brings a character to life through dialogue, behavior, description, and social interaction so that the character's personality has emotional depth (Setyaningrum & Dewi, 2024). A character is an individual, either human or imaginary, who is involved in the narrative and drives the plot (Haeniah & Apriliani, 2024).

Strong characters are important for fostering readers' emotional engagement. In the novel *Ada Apa Dengan Aku*, Kalian, dan Garis Tuhan, this is highlighted through the depiction of an environmental activist group with diverse backgrounds, whose roles are crucial to the story's development.

Table 1.3 Characters and Characterization

Name	Role	Characterization
Aishya	Daughter	Enthusiastic, intelligent, resilient
Abi Aza	Aishya's Father	Hard working
Umi Aima	Aishya's Mother	Patient, loving, gentle
Zaura	Aishya's Friend	Manipulative, enjoys influencing others with convincing words
Adam	Aishya's Friend and Lover	Indifferent
Begil	Friend of Adam and Aishya	The one who conveys information about Adam to Aishya
Herlin	Aishya's Adoptive Father (Uncle)	Humorous, kind hearted, good at lightening the mood
Pak Saudak	Mechanic and Friend of Aishya's Uncle	Humorous, good at lightening the atmosphere, hard working
Ramaeil	Mr. Saudak's Son	Hard working, kind hearted, humorous, romantic, but breaks promises
Nafisysha	Aishya's Friend	Humorous, kind hearted, tends to simply follow Aishya
Siti Aisyah Rahmawati	Aishya's Aunt	Kind hearted, loving, soft spoken

Source: processed by researchers

Point of View

Point of view is the author's strategy for presenting events, characters, and settings, which influences the narrative style and the reader's emotional engagement (Huda et al., 2022). The narrator's position first person, third-person omniscient, or third-person limited serves to build a strong connection between the reader and the story.

In the novel *Ada Apa Dengan Aku, Kalian, dan Garis Tuhan*, the author uses a first-person point of view with the pronoun "I," allowing readers to follow the main character's journey from achievement, through changes influenced

by the environment, to the awareness needed to rise and improve themselves.

Style of Expression

Language style relates to the choice of words used to strengthen the meaning of a sentence (Falah et al., 2023). According to Lubis (2022) language style is the author's ability to use figurative expressions and analogies appropriately, reflecting their creativity. Language style is generally categorized into four types: comparison, satire, contrast, and emphasis, which are used in this novel as a means of expressing the story.

Table 1.4 Language Styles in the Novel

Personification	Metaphor	Hyperbole	Simile (Comparison)
"The beautiful white stars scattered across the sky began to disappear without a trace. The raging wind started to whisper. Drops of sacred water slowly soaked our motorcycle" (page. 73).	"A blanket of scattered stars" (page. 108).	"The world seemed to come to a halt" (page. 346).	"As he dismantled parts of the engine, his hands appeared extremely skillful, as if every bolt and nut were pieces of a puzzle he had solved thousands of times before" (page. 170).

Source: processed by researchers

First, personification is a figure of speech that attributes human qualities to inanimate objects or abstract concepts (Gifelem & Gaspersz, 2020).

Analysis: The expression “The beautiful white stars scattered across the sky began to disappear without a trace” personifies the stars as if they were capable of leaving or disappearing like humans, thereby strengthening the atmospheric impression within the story.

Second, metaphor conveys meaning indirectly through analogical comparison (Putri & Putri, 2021).

Analysis: The phrase “a blanket of stars” suggests that the night sky appears to be covered by a sea of stars, metaphorically portraying the stars as a protective layer over the sky, thus creating a warm and comforting nighttime atmosphere.

Third, hyperbole expresses something in an exaggerated manner to emphasize meaning, create drama, or evoke emotional effects (Triningsih & Marwan, 2024).

Analysis: The phrase “the world seemed to stop” is a hyperbolic expression used to describe how deep and shocking the character’s feelings were at that moment. It illustrates the intensity of the character’s emotions as being so overwhelming that time feels as though it has stopped, even though in reality the world continues to move.

Fourth, simile, also known as a comparative figure of speech, involves comparing two fundamentally different things that are deliberately considered similar (Halawa, 2021). This figure of speech functions to draw comparisons (Yono & Mulyani, 2017).

Analysis: The expression “as if” indicates that the person’s ability appears very natural and fluid, resembling that of an expert who is thoroughly familiar with every detail of a puzzle they have worked on. The phrase “as if” emphasizes the person’s high level of skill and mastery, allowing readers to clearly visualize the expertise being described.

Moral Message

The message in a literary work is the value or meaning the author intends to convey, either explicitly or implicitly, through events, dialogue, and the development of the story (Juniar et al., 2023). The moral in literature reflects the author’s perspective on life, social critique, or cultural values. The novel *Ada Apa Dengan Aku, Kalian, dan Garis Tuhan* conveys a message about responsibility, resilience in facing negative influences, and the power of family love, where a mother’s disappointment guides the child back to the right path, and bitter experiences in maintaining a scholarship and facing betrayal emphasize that family love is more enduring than human promises.

B. Relationship and Interconnection among Intrinsic Elements

As reflected in the statement, “My desire to make my parents happy as soon as possible is deeply rooted in my heart. However, I am not capable of doing anything yet; I am still too weak to accomplish that at this moment. Forgive me, Abi, Bu! I have not yet been able to become a child you can be proud of. But I promise that I will make Abi and Mother happy through knowledge” (page. 6).

Another example can be seen in the quotation,

“Two students used to receive the scholarship, but now only one from each class is selected. What should I do, Ma’am? I’m sorry, Ma’am” (page. 94).

Similarly, the following excerpt illustrates the conflict more clearly:

“Do you want to change or not? Carve your dreams by starting to become a diligent, obedient, and honest child. Because of your habit of lying and committing sins especially toward your mother this is the consequence” (page. 95).

The social background of Aishya’s family, which is religious, disciplined, and highly values education, shapes her character and motivates her to pursue higher education. However, these values also create pressure when Aishya must balance academic demands with emotional

conflicts. Thus, the family background not only serves as a foundation for character formation but also becomes a source of internal conflict in Aishya's character development.

This is reflected in the quotation, *"I stood stiffly as I listened to my mother's words. I held back my tears, confused about what I should do. Forgive me, Mother—what should I do?"* (page. 96).

Another quotation reinforces this inner struggle:

"Deep in my heart, there was a strong urge for me to change, to return to the former version of Aishya, to become a better version for now and for the future" (page. 97).

C. Intrinsic Elements Form a Unified and Coherent Narrative Supporting the Author's Message

Narrative unity is achieved because these elements do not stand independently. The religious social setting shapes Aishya's character; this character then interacts with the external environment, triggering conflicts within a progressive plot. Ultimately, the entire sequence of events culminates in the delivery of the theme and moral message concerning the importance of responsibility and the enduring power of family love.

CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis of the novel *Ada Apa Dengan Aku, Kalian, dan Garis Tuhan* by Sri Wahyuni, it can be concluded that the theme of changes in a child's behavior due to environmental influences and a mother's affection is the most dominant intrinsic element. This theme directs the plot, characters, setting, point of view, and language style, thereby forming a harmonious narrative unity. The religious and disciplined family background, along with the characters' interactions with their environment, triggers conflict and personal transformation, while the use of figurative language and a first-person point of view strengthens the reader's engagement with the protagonist's experiences. Overall, the intrinsic elements are interconnected in conveying moral

messages about responsibility, honesty, and the courage to improve oneself, making the theme the central meaning of the novel. The religious and disciplined social family background serves as the foundation for shaping the main character's personality while also becoming a source of inner conflict when Aishya faces the pressure between family expectations and environmental influences. The synergistic relationship among these elements ultimately supports the author's deeper delivery of ideas and messages, emphasizing the importance of honesty, responsibility in education, and the courage to engage in self-improvement in order to achieve personal maturity.

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