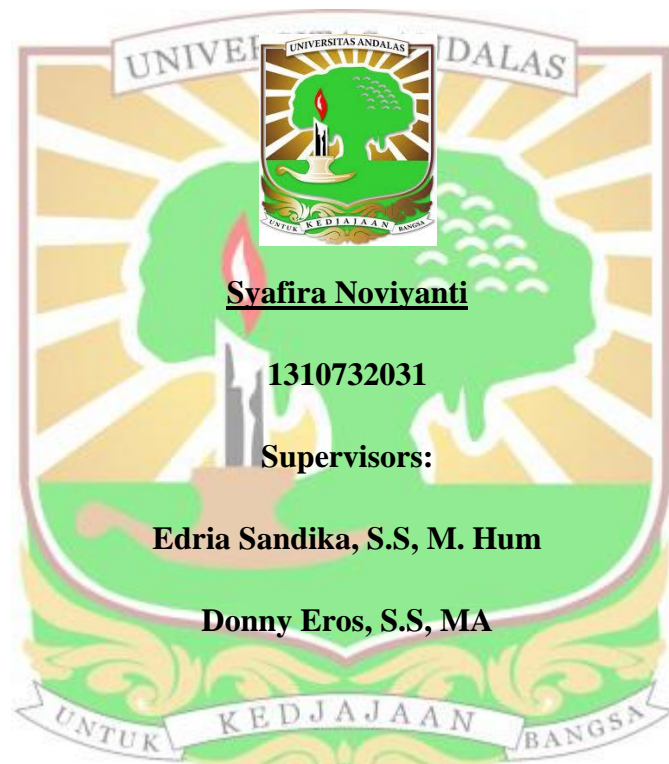


**LONELINESS AS THE PATH TO HAPPINESS IN ALICE MUNRO'S FOUR
SELECTED SHORT STORIES IN *HATESHIP, FRIENDSHIP, COURTHSHIP,
LOVESHIP, MARRIAGE: A STUCTURAL ANALYSIS***

A Thesis

***Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the Degree of Sarjana
Humaniora***



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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this thesis has not been submitted yet either in the same or different form. To my knowledge, there has not been any form or idea written or published by others except who are referred to this thesis and mentioned in the references.

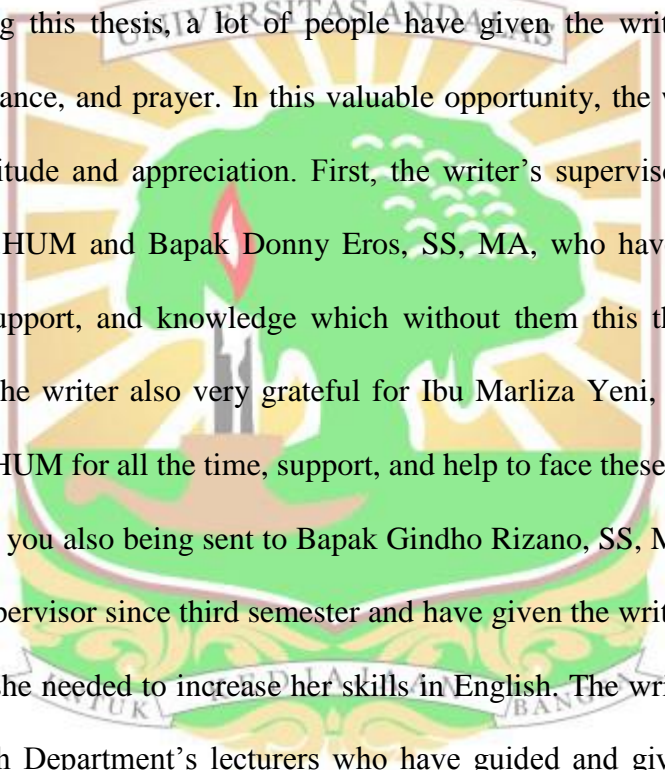


Padang, May 2017

Syafira Noviyanti

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The Writer

Abstrak

Penelitian ini membahas tentang perasaan kesepian yang dialami oleh empat tokoh utama wanita yang tergambar dalam kumpulan cerpen karya Alice Munro yang berjudul *Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage*. Empat dari Sembilan cerpen terpilih adalah *Queenie, Floating Bridge, Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage*, dan *Comfort*. Keempat cerita pendek tersebut ditemukan adanya perasaan kesepian yang dialami oleh tokoh utama wanita. Penulis menemukan bahwa adanya kemiripan dalam struktur narasi didalam empat cerita pendek tersebut. Keempat struktur narasi menjelaskan adanya perasaan kesepian yang dialami oleh tokoh utama wanita yang nantinya akan berujung pada pesaraan bahagia. Penelitian skripsi ini menggunakan pendekatan strukturalisme yang berfokus pada teori Narratology yang diciptakan dan dikembangkan oleh Tzvetan Todorov yang berfokus pada proposisi and sekuens. Hasil dari keempat cerita pendek tersebut menjelaskan bahwa adanya kemiripan struktur narasi yang menunjukkan bahwa kesepian yang dialami oleh tokoh utama wanita nantinya akan berujung pada kebahagiaan yang diimpikan.

Kata kunci: strukturalisme, struktur narasi, kesepian, kebahagiaan, wanita

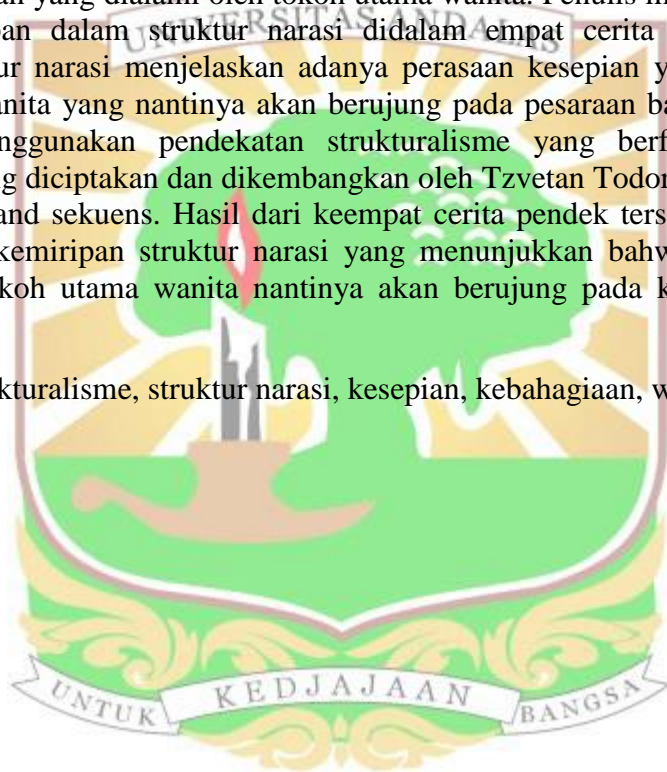


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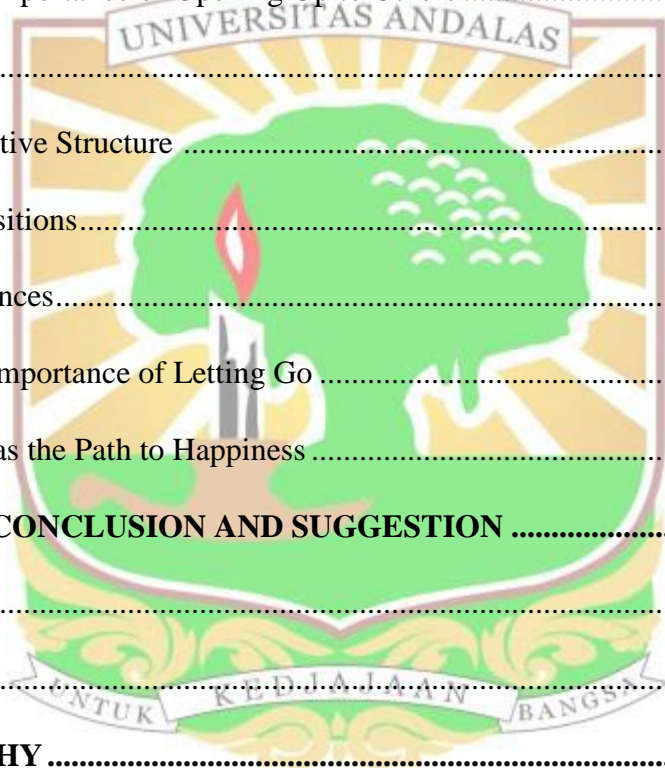
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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of Research

According to Emily Lyle, narrative may be the way to read clearer messages that is implied in a story (2006: 68). The narrative pattern proposed by Tzvetan Todorov is a way to understand the underlying meaning behind a story. In this case, the inside look of the structure of the stories is crucial to understand the meaning. For example, if we want to know the common thread that a couple of short stories have, we have to look at the narrative pattern. Carlos Amador Espinosa Torres in his article states that the theme of loneliness and isolation has been one of the biggest focuses in literature (2013: 4). Therefore, loneliness is the main focus of this research.

Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage is one of the short stories anthologies. The compilation is written by Alice Munro, a Canadian English writer who was born in Wingham, Ontario, Canada on July 10th 1931. Her novels mostly consist of short stories collection. Munro attended University of Western Ontario, studying about journalistic and English from 1949 to 1952, but she moved to Vancouver without finishing it. Her stories commonly set in her native Canada, a small town where she grew up in, and explore human relationships through ordinary everyday events.

Munro's first short story was published in a student literary magazine in 1950, and since then many short stories have been published in respectable newspapers and

magazines, such as *The New Yorker*, *The Paris Review*, and *Atlantic Monthly*. She has received Canadian Booksellers Association Award for her novel consists of interlinked stories, *Lives of Girls and Women* in 1973. Munro was the winner of the Man Booker International Prize in 2009. After that, in 2013, she was the first short story writer to win a Nobel Prize in Literature. Her stories have been adapted into movies, such as *Away from Her* and *Hateship, Loveship*.

Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage consists of nine short stories, they are 1) “Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage”, 2) “Floating Bridge”, 3) “Family Furnishings”, 4) “Comfort”, 5) “Nettles”, 6) “Post and Beam”, 7) “What is Remembered”, 8) “Queenie”, and 9) “The Bear Come Over the Mountain”, which all of the main characters are women. The four of the stories are the focus of the writer’s research. Those are *Queenie* (1998), *Floating Bridge* (2000), *Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage* (2001), and *Comfort* (2001). Those four stories were chosen for having similarities in their narrative pattern. It is why Tzvetan Todorov’s Narratology, that consist of propositions and sequences used to explain the similarities. The writer suspects that Munro uses loneliness as the major point. Therefore, the title of this research is, “**Loneliness in Alice Munro’s Selected Short Stories from *Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage***”.

1.2. Identification of the Problems

The four short stories that the writer intends to analyze are; (1) “Queenie”, (2) “Floating Bridge”, (3) “Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage”, and (4) “Comfort”. They are assumed to have similar narrative structure. Observing narrative pattern of those selected stories, it can be seen that loneliness is the main issue. Since loneliness is one of the greatest focuses in literature; it is assumed that the author has put the sense of loneliness in her stories. The loneliness itself is believed to be felt by the main woman characters, and it has the writer supposed as the main idea used by the author in most of her stories. The four main female characters, Johanna, Jinny, Nina, and Queenie, seem to feel lonely at the beginning of the stories, then throughout the stories they experience similar pattern that will be discussed later on this research.

1.3. Scope of the Research

This research is essentially an intrinsic analysis, since it will deal with the issue of loneliness that leads to eventual happiness and the journey to make it happen as seen in the short stories compilation by Alice Munro entitled *Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage*. (1) “Queenie”, (2) “Floating Bridge”, (3) “Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage”, and (4) “Comfort” are the chosen stories to be analyzed. The narrative pattern, which generally consists of plots and characters, is being studied to find the similarities by the writer.

1.4. Research Questions

In this research, the writer focuses on Alice Munro's four short stories from her collection *Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage*, they are (1) Queenie, (2) Floating Bridge, (3) Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage, and (4) Comfort by applying structuralism approach, specifically narratology. Each narrative structure has resembling propositions, then sequences that will lead to similar semantic aspect, which is the theme. This research will focus on answering these following questions:

1. How does Munro narrate the loneliness in her stories?
2. What are the similarities in the narrative pattern?

1.5. Objective of the Research

The objective of the research is to recognize the similar narrative pattern that the author uses. The author uses similar focus in the four short stories, in which loneliness that is experienced by the main female characters. The four short stories provide some proof to show the readers what the writer is talking about. By describing the proposition, the sequences, and the semantic aspect, it will reveal the main focus of the stories. The stories going to reveal that loneliness that the main women characters feel are going to end up in happiness. Therefore, focusing on loneliness that is leading to happiness is essential for this research. The author herself, by linking loneliness and happiness, has proven that even though we are at our lowest point of life, we will find the light at the end of the tunnel.

1.6. Review of Related Studies

Alice Munro, as one of the greatest short stories writers, has won many accolades for her works. One of her best collections is *Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage*. It is no wonder that many people have studied it. The writers will reviews some of the studies to support the research.

The first review is from an undergraduate student, Vyola Lovely Permata entitled *Female Voice about Love and Affair in Alice Munro's Three Stories in Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage*, in which she assumes that Alice Munro is a feminist writer. Munro prides herself of being a feminist because she thinks that the experience of women is important. Munro devotes her writings to women's social and political standing as well as women's freedom. The same thought as Permata, knowing that according to Tyson (2006: 85) that traditional gender role cast men as strong and superior while women as weak and inferior. Loneliness is something that most people think as a weakness. Coincidentally, the main characters that the writer intends to analyze are all women.

The second review is from the book called *Possibility-Space and Its Imaginative Variations in Alice Munro's Short Stories* by Ulrica Skagert that was published in 2005, in which she states that Alice Munro's fictions display a deceptively simple surface reality, that usually seen in everyday life, yet reveals unexpected complexity about fundamentals of human experience: love, choice,

mortality, faith, and the force of language. This book studies about the exploration of Munro's stories in terms of the complexity of emotions in the face of ordinary events of life and their emerging possibilities (2005: 6). Based on the statements above, the writer believes that Munro is one of the writers that take emotions as a core subject in her stories. Moreover, the writer considers loneliness as one of human emotions that is very complex due to how it happens and how to stop it, yet it is also very simple, since loneliness can happen even when there are other people around.

The third review is from a journal article entitled "Individual and Social Isolation as a Consequence of Human Interaction in Faulkner's *Light in August* and Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*" written by Carlos Amador Espinosa Torres. He claims that, the theme of isolation in literature has been a subject matter that are also concern about social problem that portray the feelings solitude, loneliness or alienation often portrayed in the characters' personality. Hence, isolation, therefore loneliness, has been one of the greatest focuses on literature.

The last review is from Andalas University's undergraduate, Leony Trisna, in the thesis entitled, *The Narrative Pattern of Three Kate Chopin's Selected Short Stories* ("*The Storm*", "*A Respectable Woman*" and "*A Pair of Silk Stockings*"). Trisna states that fiction is made in a proper way to entertain and to be read. To read or to understand it, fiction has structure, where all the elements work together to build a story. From the statement above, the writer understands that in understanding a

fiction, one must know the structures that build up the story so that they know the meaning behind it.

1.7. Theoretical Framework

As it has been explained, the narratology is applied to examine the similarities of the narrative structures of the four short stories. According to Charles E. Bressler in the book, *Literary Criticism: an Introduction to Theory and Practice*, when we apply structuralism to a literary work, the principle of finding meaning becomes revolutionary. (1994: 94). The writer is certain that by applying structuralism, the writer does not need to look at other aspects, such as psychology, sociology, etc.

The Narrative Theory

Tzvetan Todorov invented the French term *narratologie* (“narratology”) in the 1969’s book *Grammaire du “Décaméron,”*. Todorov models narratology from linguists, such as Roland Barthes and Saussure’s *parole* and *langue*. Todorov states that narratologists see narrative to their basic structure units such as characters, events, etc (2005: 19).

Hawkes, in the book of *Structuralism and Semiotics*, states that, “Every work, every novel, tells through its fabric of events the story of its own creation, its own history . . . the meaning of a work lies in its telling itself, its speaking of its own existence” (2003: 91). The term Narratology, Todorov defines into two, propositions and sequence.

1.7.1. Propositions

According to Todorov's *Grammaire du Décaméron*, as quoted by Hawkes (2003: 77), "Propositions are the basic elements of syntax. They consist of 'irreducible' actions which act as the fundamental units of the narrative: e.g. 'X makes love to Y'. In practice such a unit may appear as a series of related propositions, e.g. 'X decides to leave home'; 'X arrives at Y's house' and so on". For example using one of the character's in the short stories that the writer has chosen, Johanna as X, X is a single woman, X receives string of letter from Y, X meets Y, X marries Y, it means that it has four propositions.

1.7.2. Sequence

A sequence is a related collection or string (*'une certaine suite'*) of propositions capable of constituting a complete and independent story. Here, the writer has put the summary of sequence so that the readers would understand easier:

Equilibrium	The state where the story is as it should be.
Force I	The disturbance of that order by an event.
Disequilibrium	An acknowledgement that the chaos has occurred.
Force II	The attempt to repair the damage caused by the disturbance.

Equilibrium II	The restoration of a new equilibrium.
----------------	---------------------------------------

A story may contain many sequences: it must contain at least one (2003: 77). Dorothy J. Hale in the book, *An Anthology of Criticism and Theory*, that “an ‘ideal’ narrative plot begins with a stable condition then disturbed by some power of force. The result is the state of disequilibrium; by the action of the force directed in the opposite direction, the equilibrium is re-established; though the second and first equilibrium are never identical” (2012: 11).

1.7.3. Semantic Aspects

According to Tzvetan Todorov in his book *Qu'est-ce que le Structuralisme 2. Poetique*, as quoted by Sofia Rangkuti et al, that semantic aspects is used to analyze the meaning of the story (2013:87-88). By knowing the meaning, the readers automatically understand the theme or the main idea in a story. Semantic aspects itself, will be focused solely on the result from propositions and sequences. Therefore, the writer will show loneliness that the writer believes is the major theme, and the journey to fulfill the five stages of sequences.

1.8. Method of the Research

This research is basically a qualitative research, which all the findings will be written in the form of words and paragraphs instead of numbers. In conducting this

research, three steps are used. First, collecting the data. Second, analyzing the data. Third, presenting the result.

1.8.1. Collecting the Data

There are two kinds of data used in this research, primary data and secondary data. The primary sources are the four short stories, “Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage”, “Floating Bridge”, “Comfort”, and “Queenie” from Alice Munro’s short stories anthologies, *Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage*. The primary source is supported by the secondary source that is taken from various literary books, article journal, and internet websites that are related to narrative pattern, loneliness, and Alice Munro’s works analysis. The primary and secondary sources are obtained by using the library research.

1.8.2. Analyzing the Data

The second step is analyzing the data. In analyzing the data there are some steps are used. First, the writer read all nine short stories in the compilation to get a better understanding, then chose four out of nine due to the likeness in the issue. Then, the writer underlined the proof to support the topic of the research. Lastly, the writer read the supporting ideas from literary books, article journals, and internet websites to verify the writer suspicion.

1.8.3. Presenting the Data

The last step is presenting the result of the research. Seeing as this research a qualitative one, the method that is used in presenting the result of the research is descriptive method. Therefore, the result will be presented through descriptive form.



CHAPTER 2

PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS

In conducting this research, a preliminary analysis is essential to do. This chapter is to introduce the stories in a glance. In preliminary analysis, relevant intrinsic elements will be analyzed to get a better understanding. Some of the intrinsic elements have been preferred to show what are needed in this research. This preliminary analysis will be focusing on getting preliminary knowledge on characters, plots, theme, and setting used in the stories.

2.1. Character

According to Abrams “characters are the persons represented in a dramatic or narrative work, who are interpreted by the reader” (1999:32). Characters are the representations of human used by the author that are involved in the story. It is safe to say that characters are fundamental in a narrative. Jerome Stern believes that “characters present special problems for writers of fictions” (1991:96). With characters, the readers can feel more relatable to the story due to the author makes characters as a human representation.

Stern generally divides characters into two, which called major character and minor character. Major character is the ones that ultimately involved with the definition of the story. It makes major characters as an

important factor that will bring the theme of the story to life. Minor characters, however, is described to appear briefly yet memorable and recognizable (99). In other words, minor characters are helping major characters to tell the essence of the story.

E.M Forster in *Aspects of the Novel* (1927), as quoted in Abrams, coins new terms that will differentiate kinds of characters; flat characters and round characters. A flat character is a character that is built around ‘a single idea or quality’. A flat character is defined as a representation that does not have much individualizing detail. Meanwhile, a round character is a complex, more difficult character in a sense that they have certain personalities just like a person does. Forster states that round character “is as difficult to describe with any adequacy as a person in real life, and like real persons, is capable of surprising us” (1999:33).

For this research, it is essential to introduce the characters that are fundamental for the stories. For this research purpose, relevant characters are going to be mentioned. Though many supporting characters are presented, only the significant ones are going to be explained.

2.1.1. “Queenie”

- Queenie / Lena

Lena, known as Queenie, is the major female character in the story. Although Queenie's life is told by her step sister's point of view, the readers will be able to know that the story is basically about Queenie's life. Queenie is a black-haired woman, married to, or rather eloped, with Stan Vorguilla. Her family finds a note, in a winter morning, in her handwritten, saying that she is going to marry Mr. Vorguilla (248). It is assumed that Queenie does not want anyone to object her wedding with an older man so she snuck out in the middle of the night. It is described that "Queenie looked like some of the girls passing on the street...she looked—in my father's words—as if she didn't have to take a back seat to anybody" (251-252). The passage means that Queenie has learned about life one thing or two since she married, knowing that she used to be a sweet little girl who is growing up.

Queenie also undergoes a mild abuse from her husband which in the writer's opinion is one of the reasons she is not in a happy marriage. "Instead he closed his hands around her throat and just for a second cut off her breath" (259). She is forbid to make friend with Andrew, Mr.Vorguilla's student, though she has been sending letters with him behind his husband's back.

From several characteristics above, Queenie is a round character with some personalities that make her a person. Although she is obedient to her husband, Queenie does not want to be fully controlled by her husband especially in choosing friends. The author basically shows the readers what kind of a person Queenie is by her actions and her words mostly.

- Chrissy / The Narrator

Chrissy is Queenie's step sister who comes to Toronto to find a job and stays temporarily in her house. She is a single woman and also feels slight lonely. "My father and Bet. Mr. and Mrs.Vorguilla. Queenie and Mr.Vorguilla...I wished to be, cut off, for there was nothing I could see in their lives to instruct or encourage me" (269). She is a bit pessimistic when she compares herself to Queenie who already has her own family. For that fact, Chrissy is considered a round character since she seems to be focusing on her sister's life rather than her own life, but in the end, when she has her own family she lets go the thoughts of comparing herself to others and lives her own life.

- Mr. Stan Vorguilla

Stan Vorguilla, known as Mr. Vorguilla in the story, is Queenie's older husband that used to be her family's neighbor. Mr.

Vorguilla is a short tempered and a suspicious person. "...He got up and came at her with his hand raised, saying not to tell him that he'd been drunk, never to tell him that" (259). He is somewhat abusive to Queenie, once he chokes her though it is not that hard to show her that he is superior to her. For this reason, the writer considers Mr. Vorguilla as a flat character due to his nature, which only causes Queenie pain.

- Andrew

Andrew is one of Mr. Vorguilla's piano students who wants to learn Moonlight Sonata (257). Queenie and Andrew seem close since she is happily dancing with him in a party she throws. From the way that Andrew comes to the party with a record that Queenie loves (256), it seems that she and Andrew are friends. Queenie's husband looks as if he was jealous of Andrew and even threatens Queenie about it (258-259). It appears that Mr. Vorguilla is intimidated by Andrew and Queenie's closeness.

2.1.2. "Floating Bridge"

- Jinny Lockyer

Jinny Lockyer is the main female character in "Floating Bridge". This story is told from her point of view. Jinny is described as a forty two year old woman who suffers from cancer. Her illness

makes her hopeless and pessimistic toward life. She seems to be closed off from people and chooses to be alone and resulted in her unhappiness. She repeatedly refused to talk to and bond over with other people (69-69). Her newfound comfort starts when she meets Ricky, a young man with opposite attitude with her husband, Neal. (75-83). Ricky, with his carefree attitude brings Jinny a new feeling that she thought has long gone due to her illness.

From the description above, Jinny is considered a round character. Her simple way of thoughts and action and lead to certain characteristics, which is pessimistic and helpless. Her pessimistic trait however, changes when she meets Ricky.

- Neal Lockyer

Neal Lockyer is Jinny's much older husband by sixteen years. Neal is the type of husband who is prefer being with friends instead of being with his wife since he becomes more animated and enthusiastic around other people (55). From the way he chooses to talk about their housemaid, Helen, instead of talking about Jinny's doctor's appointment, makes him ignorant toward his wife's health (58-66).

The author describes him in a certain way making the writer identifies him as a flat character since his ignorance behavior is known

indirectly to the readers. Though his ignorance towards his wife is clear as a day.

- Ricky

Ricky is a teenager works as a waiter in town, a nephew of Helen's. Knowing that she is alone, he chooses to talk to Jinny outside.. In Jinny's perspective, Ricky is around seventeen or eighteen, slim, graceful, and cocky (76). He appears in the near end of the story. In Jinny's eyes, he is like the light brought to her darkened life. He makes her feel appreciated and comforted for she starts to realize that there is more to life than her illness (81-83).

2.1.3. "Hateship, Friendship, Loveship, Courtship, Marriage"

- Johanna Parry

Johanna Parry is an independent and smart woman though she has lived her life practically alone after Mrs. Willets, her only friend, passed. She is no beauty queen with her high, freckled forehead and a curled reddish hair (1-2). She works as a housemaid in Mr. McCauley's house. She is a middle-aged woman and never has been married before. She resigns from her job by telling Mr. McCauley that she will move to Saskatchewan to meet Ken Boudreau, her pen pal, but she still cares for Mr. McCauley indicating that she is compassionate (16-17). Johanna is considered a round character since

Munro describes her plainly simple so that the readers can be easily understood. Her loneliness at the beginning then happiness that she feels in the end shows that she is a developed character.

- Ken Boudreau

Ken Boudreau is Mr. McCauley's former son-in-law and Mr. McCauley's granddaughter's, Sabitha, father. There is not much to tell about Ken except that he is alone, living in Saskatchewan, has bronchitis, he is a loyal man, he likes to tell women about the gamble that he does in a poker game (38-47). Due to his living arrangement, he does too seems to be lonely and in need of a friend. He appears to be closed himself off from everyone, including his own daughter because of his late wife's death. The writer assumes that it is because his then long hours of work.

- Sabitha

Sabitha is Ken Boudreau's daughter from his marriage with Mr. McCauley's daughter. Sabitha has a close friend, Edith, with whom she sends letters back and forth to Johanna in the name of her father (26-38). She is a typical teenager who only cares about the present time, thinks pranking people is okay and funny (30). In a way, sending fakes letters is one of the highlights in the girls' lives, categorized Sabitha into a flat character's pile.

2.1.4. “Comfort”

- Nina Spiers

Nina Spiers is a tall middle-aged woman, who is married to Lewis Spiers. The whole story is told by her point of view. She is described as a well-behaved woman, she once makes a promise to Lewis to take their lives together, yet he breaks it (119-120). Nina is categorized as a round character since her personalities are divided into two categories. At one side, she loves being a wife, an obedient and loyal wife (145). However, Nina often feels out of place about where to put herself in a certain situation sometimes because of her husband's seems to be insensitive about her feelings (133-134).

- Lewis Spiers

Lewis Spiers is Nina Spiers' husband. He committed suicide without leaving his wife even a single note. He is sixty-two year old man and suffers from Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS). His illness mainly the reason he takes his own life, breaking his promise to his wife. He is described as a Creationist, his perspective towards religion and life basically are quite extreme (128-133). According to Nina, he is also passionate and aggressive (121). His and Nina's fights usually about his perspective, especially he is defined as a hater of church, Bible and all things Christian. He is considered as a flat

character as he is predictable when it comes to his beliefs. He cares about his own beliefs rather than his wife's feelings.

- Ed Shore

Ed Shore is the owner of the funeral home Lewis is cremated in. He is described as a caring married man, though once he kisses Nina's neck, does not categorized as an affair however, because it was just a neck kiss (145). He cares about Nina's wellbeing especially when he finds out how hysterical Nina is when she cannot find a note from her dead husband. His presence, the writer believes, is one of the reasons that Nina finally can let go of her past with Lewis as she spreads his ashes.

2.2. Plot

According to M.H Abrams in *A Glossary of Literary Terms*, plot is a string of events and occurrences ordered to create particular effect on the story (1999:224) . In general, plot is a string of events that happen in a story. Stern describes plot as "story line" (1991:174). Basically, plot is explaining what happens in the story from beginning to the end. By understanding the plot, the readers could identify what is actually happen in a story. Hence, by reading and analyzing the plot, the issue can be revealed. Since three out of four short stories that have been chosen are contemporary literary work, the writer has arranged the plot chronologically due to their plots are reverse chronology where the story is told in reverse order.

2.2.1. “Queenie”

The story “Queenie” begins when Queenie decides to elope with her older neighbor Mr. Vorguilla. Her parents are furious and chooses to not talk to her anymore. Only her step sister, Chrissy, is still in contact with her. Queenie’s marriage is not something that comes out of fairy tale. Her marriage is an unhappy one, with abusive and jealous husband. She befriends with one of her husband’s students, Andrew, and the two begin to send each other letters. Chrissy is the only one who knows about their secret letter sending. One day, Queenie leaves home, ergo she leaves her marriage behind to pursue her true happiness. Years later, Chrissy meets a woman who happens to look like Queenie and she never been look happier.

2.2.2. “Floating Bridge”

The story “Floating Bridge” opens with the introduction of the main female character, Jinny. Jinny is suffering from a severe illness that makes her feel helpless and hopeless, and then somehow leads to her feeling alone. Due to her condition, it is essential for her to be taken care of and feel loved. However, her husband’s, Neal, ignorance pushes her deeper into her loneliness, since he seems does not really care about his wife’s condition. Neal prefers to spend time with their housemaid and her family instead of to be around his wife. Jinny’s meeting with Ricky, a young man, has slowly changed her perspective of life. Ricky, who is a caring and a carefree man,

shows Jinny the floating bridge and somehow, she feels comfort and lighthearted toward life that she has lost due to her focus on her illness.

2.2.3. “Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage”

“Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage” starts when Sabitha and Edith, a pair of best friends, decide to pull a prank on Sabitha’s housemaid, Johanna. They start by sending her false letter in the name of Sabitha’s father, Ken. An oblivious Johanna, an independent yet closed off woman, starts to open up in her letters by telling ‘Ken’ about her heart wrenching past. One day, she decides to send some of Ken’s furniture to him and resigns from her job then moves to take care of Ken. Ken looks at Johanna strange when she gets to his place, not knowing why she is wants to take him under her care. Overtime, they become real friends. For that, Johanna is no longer a lonely woman for she has found her family.

2.2.4. “Comfort”

The story “Comfort” begins when Nina, a wife to Lewis, comes home to find her husband has committed suicide in their home. She immediately looks for a note, a suicide note, to at least help her to get a closure. The stories dwindling down to the past, telling the readers that Lewis is used to be a teacher at a high school, disliked by many students and their parents due to his extreme perspective towards life. Nina and Lewis’ marriage is not a happy

one since he is much older than her and she is always been the one that is inferior to him. They often have a tiff because of their different beliefs yet Nina do not dare to defy her husband. Then, she meets Ed Shore, the owner of the funeral home. Ed shows concerned toward Nina, telling her that he has found a note inside of Lewis' pocket, but it turns out not a note she was hoping for. When she spreads Lewis' remains, she suddenly finds the comfort and calmness she was looking for and she finally lets go.

2.3. Point of View

According to M.H Abrams in *Glossary of Literary Terms*, point of view “signifies the way a story gets told—the mode (or modes) established by an author by means of which the reader is presented with the characters, dialogue, actions, setting, and events which constitute the narrative in a work of fiction” (1999: 231). By this statement, the writer assumes that point of view is the way the story gets told by the author so that the readers can understand the story better. Abrams states there are three point of views that authors usually use. The first one is third person point of view that sometimes used by authors to arrange their stories. By third person means that “the narrator is someone outside the story who refers to all the characters in the story by name, or as “he,” “she,” “they.”” (231). Third person point of view is divided to, first, omniscient point of view, where the narrator is free to move to character's actions, thoughts, feelings and motives as the narrator knows

everything needs to be known (232). The second is limited point of view where the narrator stays in one character's head and feelings within the story (233). Three out of four short stories that have been chosen are using third person point of view.

The second one is first person point of view. Abrams claims that "this mode, insofar as it is consistently carried out, limits the matter of the narrative to what the first-person narrator knows, experiences, infers, or can find out by talking to other characters (233). First person point of view sometimes identified by the use of the word "I" as the narrator.

The last one is second person point of view. Abrams says that "In this mode the story gets told solely, or at least primarily, as an address by the narrator to someone he calls by the second-person pronoun "you"" (234). Traditional fiction mostly use second person point of view, but since the four selected short stories are a contemporary literary works, they do not use second person point of view.

2.3.1. "Queenie"

For "Queenie", Munro uses first person point of view since the story is told by Chrissy, Queenie's step sister. The use of the word "I" indicates that the story is told by Chrisyy's point of view. Queenie's life is told by her step sister's point of view is somewhat hard to read because the readers cannot know what Queenie is actually feeling. Thankfully, from

Chrissy's point of view, the readers can understand the unhappiness and loneliness in Queenie's life by her actions and dialogues.

2.3.2. "Floating Bridge"

"Floating Bridge" is told by third person omniscient point of view. The narrator indirectly tells about Jinny's feelings and thoughts of loneliness in the story, because the issue is hidden in the way Munro's writes fiction, it has to be read multiple times to understand what Jinny is feeling toward her life and her sickness.

2.3.3. "Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage"

The third story is told by third person omniscient point of view. By using third person point of view it is easier to understand what Johanna has been through in life that makes her closed off and living life without needing anyone's help. If the readers only read what is on the surface, they will only find the fact that Johanna is an independent woman without digging deeper about what has caused her to be like that and what is the impact of her loner behavior.

2.3.4. "Comfort"

"Comfort" is told by third person omniscient point of view. By using the particular point of view, the readers find out what Nina has been feeling toward her marriage and life. Her marriage is something like a prison for her that she is trapped feeling lonely. With the certain point of

view, the readers also can have some hints about why Nina is unhappy in her marriage.

2.4. Theme

According to Jerome Stern in his book, *Making Shapely Fiction*, theme is generally a main idea or the point of the work (1991:240). Theme is an underlying meaning or main idea that can be stated directly or indirectly. Theme is what makes the story more understandable for the readers. Theme, “like characters, can advance the plot, contribute to the tension, be attacked, and suffer ironic fates” (241). This statement states that themes can thicken the plot, make the reader more aware of what they are reading. In four short stories that the writer has chosen, “Queenie”, “Floating Bridge”, “Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage”, and “Comfort”, they all share a similar theme. The stories tell about the loneliness that the main female characters feel.

2.4.1. “Queenie”: The Journey to Find True Happiness

Considering the plot of “Queenie”, the writer can assume that the general idea that the author tries to tell the readers is that the search of happiness. Since Queenie herself has been married before yet finds no happiness, she leaves her marriage behind to find another way of being happy from another source, whether it is a person or a place.

2.4.2. “Floating Bridge”: The Importance of Looking at the Silver

Lining

The main idea itself in the story is presented by the way a sick woman who is a pessimist towards life is getting her spirits back up by a young man she has just met. It tells the readers that finding happiness in a wreck. When Jinny feels sorry for herself resulting in her being closed off, she finds the bright side in her situation when she meets Ricky. These four stories are similar, as the writer has stated before, marking “Floating Bridge” as one of the stories who also talks about solitude and loneliness that will eventually leads to something better.

2.3.4. “Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage”: The Importance of Opening Up to Others

The similarity in the four stories also seen in “Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage” due to the closed off and loneliness the main female character’s feel. The main idea of the story is quiet simple for this one; loneliness leads to happiness. From her past, the writer believes that Johanna is a woman who hides her loneliness in a perfect façade where she appears to be strong yet inside she needs a friend. Emptiness and happiness are known to be two contrary things, yet just like love and hate, emptiness and happiness are in between thin line, if only one is brave enough to let other people in.

2.3.4. “Comfort”: The Importance of Letting Go

Unlike the other stories, it is the only story that has death in it. Death can mean a closed book or a new beginning. The writer thinks that, for Nina, the main character, the death of her husband feels like something where she can find comfort in and start over. The main issue in this story is, apparently, death means new beginning.

2.5. Setting

Setting refers to the time and place used in a literary work. According to Abrams (1999), setting is a “the general locale, historical time, and social circumstances in which its action occurs” (284). With setting, the readers know that when the stories actually take part in. Generally, in these four stories, the setting is similar, in a small town in Canada during 1940-1950 from when the author started writing. In these four stories, however, the author does not tell the exact time of when the stories take place. The author seems to be more focused on the places.

2.4.1. “Queenie”

For “Queenie” itself, the setting takes place in Toronto, Ontario. ““Maybe you better stop calling me that,” Queenie said, when she met me at Union Station” (241). Due to her eloping without her parents’ consents, with no money and no support, she has to follow her husband to live in a small apartment that they share with their Greek landlady and her family. Sharing an apartment with another family sure create some awkward moments that will happen here and there that somehow make Queenie does

not have a close relationship with them. Hence, her loneliness builds up due to her friendless status.

2.4.2. “Floating Bridge”

Alice Munro uses the same state for “Floating Bridge” as in “Queenie” which is Ontario. At summer time in August, to be exact. The use of summer time in this story may be one of the reasons because a lot of people enjoy being in the heat of the summer especially in the night, where in this story at night, in the floating bridge create a magical night sense that makes Jinny feel comfortable and relaxed.

2.4.3. “Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage”

“Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage” is probably one story out of four that is being analyzed that is take place in several location, such as 106 Exhibition Road in Toronto and Saskatchewan. 106 Exhibition Road is where Johanna works as a housekeeper and Saskatchewan is where Ken Boudreau lives and later where Johanna lives to take care of him. In Toronto there is also a dress shop where Johanna comes in to buy a new dress and there is a railway station where she wants to ship some furniture to Ken’s place.

2.4.4. “Comfort”

Just like the rest of the stories that are being analyzed, “Comfort” takes place in a small town of Canada, Ontario, to be exact. There are some specific locations that are told in the stories, such as a high school, where Nina plays tennis and a high

school where Lewis teaches, Lakeshore Funeral Home where Lewis' body is being cremated, and an abandoned road where Nina spreads Lewis' remains.



CHAPTER 3

THE NARRATIVE PATTERN OF ALICE MUNRO'S FOUR SHORT STORIES: "QUEENIE", "FLOATING BRIDGE", "HATESHIP, FRIENDSHIP, COURTSHIP, LOVESHIP, MARRIAGE", "COMFORT"

In the previous chapter, it has been introduced the brief overviews from the selected stories of Alice Munro's: "Queenie", "Floating Bridge", "Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage", and "Comfort". Moreover, in this chapter, a specific and broader analysis on their narrative structure will be developed according to each story. Those analyses include discussion on proposition, sequence, and their semantic aspects. The analysis will show the main issue from each story. The preliminary study in the earlier chapter has covered the assumption that the author makes loneliness as focus point in most of her stories.

3.1. "Queenie"

3.1.1. Narrative Pattern

a. Proposition

The structure of narrative is to present the plot in the form of summary and each of them has a related propositions. As it has been said before, proposition is the smallest unit of narrative. Proposition includes characters and verbs involved in the

stories based on language structure. Therefore, the writer uses a word to represent the characters and verbs. The proposition for “Queenie” will be explained below:

1. Queenie is X
2. X is a wife
3. Stan Vorguilla is Y
4. Y is X’s husband
5. V is X’s parents
6. V is angry

Queenie and Stan, her older neighbor that later eloping with her, run off to get married away from her family.

“I am going to marry Mr. Vorguilla, it said. Yours truly, Queenie.”

“It’s underneath the sugar bowl,” said my father.

Bet dropped her spoon.

“I want him prosecuted,” she shouted. “I want her in Reform School. I want the police” (248).

Her parents do not approve of their marriage due to obvious reasons, one of them is because they elope without telling anyone. The consequence that Queenie will face is one of the factors the feeling of loneliness is growing inside of her.

7. Chrissy/The Narrator is Z
8. Z is X’s step sister
9. X picks up Z

Although Queenie has her own life now, she is cut off from her family because she elopes with her older neighbor. The only person that does not outcast Queenie is her step sister, Chrissy. Due to Queenie never speaks to her parents anymore, her relationship to her parents becomes estranged (249). The writer believes that by the falling-out Queenie has with her parents is one of the indications she feels lonely.

10. Z meets Y

From their brief meeting, the writer believes that Queenie's step sister, Chrissy, is not close to her husband, Mr. Vorguilla. They have a cold relationship from the way Mr. Vorguilla doubting Chrissy's ability to get a job in Toronto.

"She's going to look for a job," said Queenie.

"And do you have some qualifications?" Mr. Vorguilla asked. "Do you have qualifications for finding a job in Toronto?"

Queenie said, "She's got her Senior Matric."

"Well, let's hope that's good enough," said Mr. Vorguilla (250).

Their coldness towards each other can make Queenie uncomfortable because Chrissy is the only family member left that does not shun her and she wants them to get along so that Chrissy will not leave Queenie.

11. Andrew is W

12. X dances with W

One day, Queenie and Mr. Vorguilla throw a party. Queenie is visibly friendly to one of her husband's piano students, Andrew, at the party. Andrew is a young dentistry student who wants to play *Moonlight Sonata* (257). Queenie and Andrew seem to be attracted to each other as seen from this quote: "Queenie danced with a Chinese boy named Andrew, who had brought the record she loved" (256).

13. Y angry at X

Several days after the party, Queenie's husband asks for the last piece of cake that he is sure she has kept. Finding it missing, he throws a few accusations at his wife, choking his wife, not letting her breath briefly, then he alleges her by telling her that she has given it to Andrew (258-260). From the way the husband treats his wife, it is safe to say that by no warmth and love in the marriage can cause sadness which will turn to desolation and unhappiness.

14. X receives W's letter

Queenie and Andrew have been sending each other letters that no one knows about. She finally told her step sister about the letters (266-267). The forming of this friendship clearly has made Queenie's days better, because she has found a man that treats her well.

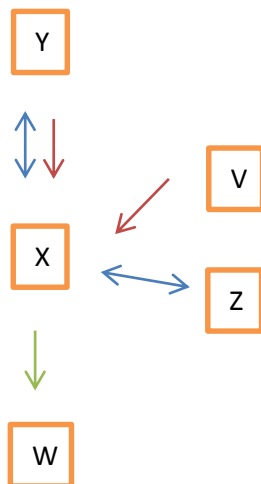
15. X leaves home

Queenie leaves her home that she shares with her husband unnoticed by her parents though later her husband informs them in case she comes back home. Her family continues looking for her, not knowing where she is even years after that

(270). By running away from her marriage, ergo running away from her loneliness and unhappiness is the first step of Queenie's path to something better.

16. Z meets X

Years later, Chrissy comes across an odd yet familiar old woman. "Unlike those other women, this one seemed to know that she was Queenie. She smiled at me with such merry recognition and such yearning to be recognized in return" (271). The writer believes, in all those years that she was missing, Queenie has escaped from her unhappy marriage to pursue her happiness and meeting her step sister for the last time seems to lower her loneliness. From this string of propositions, it is safe to assume that Queenie, a woman who is stuck in an unhappy marriage, feeling lonely and desperate for happiness, finally finds what she has been looking for. To make the explanation clearer, the writer has included a diagram below:



Blue line: relation that ties two people

$X \rightarrow Y$: Husband and wife

Red line: the causes of loneliness felt by X

$X \rightarrow V$: parents and daughter

$X \rightarrow Z$: sisters

Green line: a way to gain happiness

$X \rightarrow W$: lovers

b. Sequence

The relation between each proposition is connected by the sequence. Sequence is what makes the story whole so that the readers understand.

3. Equilibrium

As it has been informed before, equilibrium is a condition where the story as it should be. It is where the story is usually takes place where the characters live their lives as it is. In this story, the part where Queenie's family finds a letter says "I'm going to marry Mr. Vorguilla. Yours truly, Queenie" (248) shows that Queenie's life is about to change from single woman to married woman. It is related to proposition 1-4.

- Force I

Force I starts when Queenie is facing the consequence of her action, which is being alienated from her parents. It is due to her parents who is not approve her marriage with an older man, she does not even ask for their permission like any other women who would like to get married. Bet, Queenie's mother even has the nerve to shout at the moving men who move Mr. Vorguilla furniture after they has eloped. "You go back to Toronto and tell him (Mr. Vorguilla) if he ever shows his face around her again he'll wish he hadn't" (253). By being alienated by her family, the writer believes is one of the reasons

Queenie does not have anyone to share her everyday experience with. This leads to her feeling lonely. Although Chrissy is still talking to Queenie, Mr. Vorgilla's coldness toward Queenie's step sister is also a factor of why she is feeling lonely. It is related to propositions 5-10.

- Disequilibrium

Disequilibrium happens when the disorder of the structure of the story occurs. In "Queenie", it happens when she is getting too close to Andrew, the student of Mr. Vorgilla's, by dancing with him and looking happier in his presence. Mr. Vorgilla's temper is a problem when he begins accusing her of something that leads into him abusing her (257-260). The writer believes that by her husband accusing and abusing her, one way or another Queenie will find a way to get out of the unhealthy relationship, hence the disorder in her life. It is related to propositions 11-13.

- Force II

In order to repair the damage, it is necessary that an effort be made. It is shown in "Queenie" that she has been exchanging letters with Andrew that resulted her in leaving her home, ergo leaving her marriage. By escaping, it is believed to be an effort that Queenie does to mend the damage. It is related by propositions 14-15.

- Equilibrium II

Equilibrium II means a new beginning, especially for the characters. It is shown in “Queenie” that “She [Queenie] smiled at me with such a merry recognition and such yearning to be recognize in return...moment granted to her when she was let out of the shadows for one day in a thousand” (271). The passage displays that Queenie, no longer under a hold of Mr. Vorguilla, has found her happiness. Though with Munro, it is not shown that she finds happiness with Andrew or not, but it is clear as day that Queenie is not the estranged and lonely woman anymore.

A list below is to make the analysis and explanation clearer:

Equilibrium	Where Queenie and Mr. Vorguilla elope resulting in her being estranged to her parents.
Force I	Queenie eloping leads to her estrangement with her parents, leaving her feeling alone.
Disequilibrium	When Queenie getting closer to Andrew and Mr. Vorguilla starts to abuse her. This leads to her feel the unhappy marriage starting to pressure her and the loneliness getting harder.

Force II	When Queenie leaves her husband behind to pursue her freedom and happiness. It is believed to be a start of her happiness.
Equilibrium II	When Chrissy meets Queenie, all smiles and happy. Something that Queenie has always wanted.

3.1.2. Semantic Aspects: The Journey to Find True Happiness

As it has been stated earlier, semantic aspects is the sense of the story. The writer concludes that the main focus of “Queenie” is finding of happiness. It is based on the findings that X, a wife of Y, is still trying to gain her happiness in her life by leaving Y and elope with W. Their marriage is not a happy one due to many reasons, one of them is because X have been outcasted by her family for of her act of eloping with Y. Then, X meets W, a very different kind of man as Y, who treats her well, resulted in X runs away but in the end X finds happiness as it is witnessed by X’s step sister, Z. The author uses the main woman character, Queenie, to show that she is one of the types of women that will do anything to find her true happiness, even though at first she has faced some obstacles.

3.2. “Floating Bridge”

3.2.1. Narrative Pattern

a. Proposition

1. Jinny is X
2. X is a wife
3. Neal is Y
4. Y is X's husband
5. X is sick

Jinny is suffering from cancer, a severe illness that has taken both her happiness and her spirit to live her life. After an appointment, she goes alone to the bus stop, contemplating about her life in general (53). Her being alone indicates to the writer to believe that due to her illness, she starts to pull away from her life; she would rather be alone. Even though she is the one who chooses to be alone, she feels quiet and lonely inside.

6. Helen is Z
7. X meets Z

Neal, Jinny's husband, introduces her to their new caretaker, Helen. It turns out, Neal seems to care more about Helen than his own wife. "We have to go to the hospital," Neal said. "Don't panic. Helen's sister works there and she's got something Helen wants to pick up. Isn't that right, Helen?" (58-60). It is clear that Neal starts to choose the newcomer rather than his wife's well-being. By the way the husband chooses another woman to care for, makes Jinny feel smaller and lonelier. The

writer believes that this small act of abandonment is what drives her to choose to be alone.

8. X meets Z's family

Neal takes his wife that has just done her check-up in the hospital to Helen's sister's house (63-66). Although Helen does not want to be a burden to Neal and Jinny, he keeps telling her that it is okay to go to her sister's house. It is a proof to the writer that Neal does not do a good job as a husband. Rather than go straight home so that his wife can rest, he chooses the caretaker's side.

9. Ricky is W

10. X meets W

In Helen's sister's house, Neal and Helen leave her alone waiting outside the house. Jinny chooses to explore her surroundings, then she meets a young man, Ricky, a seventeen or eighteen year old man, slim and graceful with ingenuous enthusiasm (75-76). From physical appearance, it is evident that Ricky is the opposite of Neal, and when he starts to speak, the difference becoming clearer. "He seemed to understand things, though. He seemed to understand that she was exhausted and in some kind of muddle" (76). The writer believes that by meeting Ricky is a step for her to come out of her shell and starting to open herself up.

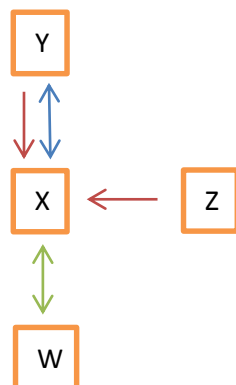
11. X goes with W

Since Ricky understands how tired Jinny is, he offers to take her home. They go using an alternate road which leads them to a floating bridge where the stars shine

bright, and then he kisses her (78-82). It is believed that Ricky genuinely cares about her. Unlike Neal, her own husband, Ricky seems to be putting her well-being and able to make her happy. Ricky shows genuine caring towards her by showing her beautiful things such as bright stars that reflected in the water. In Ricky's presence and the things he has shown her, Jinny finds hope that she has lost before due to her illness.

12. X is happy

For the first time after she is diagnosed, she feels “lighthearted sort of compassion, almost like a laughter. A swish of tender hilarity, getting the better of all her sores and hollows, for the time given” (83). The writer believes that Jinny finding her personal temporary happiness is because of Ricky. After her feeling down, lonely, and sad because of her illness and her husband's treatment, she finally feels lighter. From the thread explained above, Jinny, a woman who suffers from an illness, feels abandoned and therefore lonely, and then she finds something to make her life seems brighter.



Blue line: relation that ties two people

$X \rightarrow Y$: Husband and wife

Red line: the causes of loneliness felt by X

$X \rightarrow V$: parents and daughter

$X \rightarrow Z$: employer and employee

Green line: a way to gain happiness

$X \rightarrow W$: friends/lovers

b. Sequence

- Equilibrium

The first equilibrium for “Floating Bridge” is shown in the beginning of the story. “She went on to imagine herself sitting here or in some similar place, waiting for a bus, alone, as she would surely be if she went ahead with the plan she was set on now” (53). It is clear to the writer that she feels hopeless and lonely due to her illness. It seems like she is so close to giving up. It is related to proposition 1-5.

- Force I

It is not enough for her to feel lonely and hopeless, now she has to feel the abandonment her husband gives. When Neal chooses to go to Helen’s sister’s house after picks her wife up from a hospital, he ignores Jinny’s feelings and tiredness is proof that Neal is starting to fling out of her grasp. The writer is certain that Jinny has started to feel more and more helpless and lonely because her husband seems to prefer their new housemaid more than his own wife. It is related to propositions 6-8.

- Disequilibrium

The peak of the story starts where she is left alone by herself, though it is her choice to be alone, due to her tiredness.

Neal straightened up.

“Jinny thinks she better just stay and rest here where it’s in the shade.”

“I’ll be fine,” said Jinny.

He put one hand on Helen’s shoulder and one on June’s shoulder, walking them companionably towards the trailer” (69).

At this point, Jinny is definitely feel deserted and lonely because Neal chooses to spend time with their housemaid and her family instead of his wife. It is related to proposition 8.

- Force II

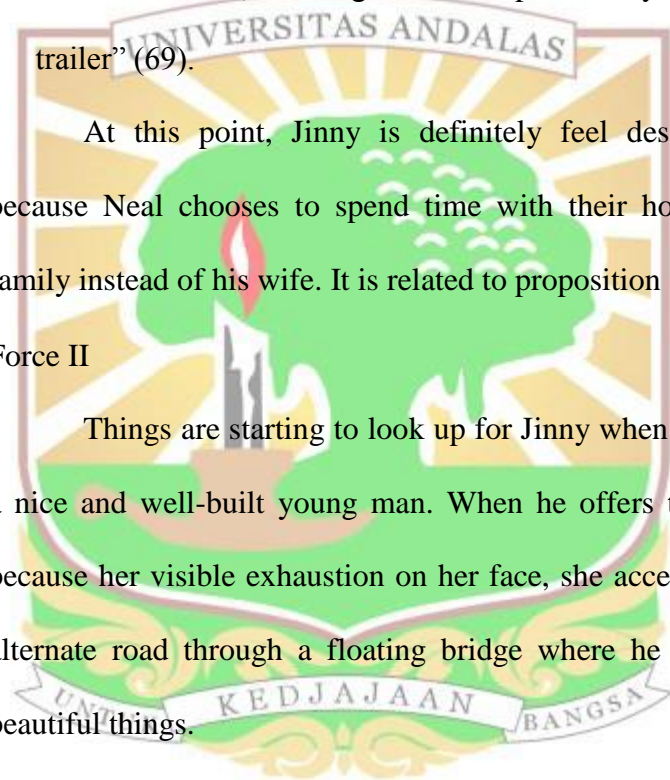
Things are starting to look up for Jinny when she meets Ricky, a nice and well-built young man. When he offers to take her home because her visible exhaustion on her face, she accepts. They take an alternate road through a floating bridge where he shows her many beautiful things.

“See the stars?” he said. “I told you. Stars” (80).

“Now do you know where you are?” he said.

“On a dock?” she said.

“On a bridge. This is a floating bridge.”



Now she could make it out—the plank roadway just a few inches above the still water. He drew her over to the side and they looked down. There were stars riding on the water (81).

Due to the wonderfulness of the bridge and her companion, the writer thinks it is what makes Jinny starts to feel better on the inside. She feels her illness seems like a small bump in the road because of the beautiful things Rocky is showing her when they get to the bridge. It is related to propositions 9-11.

- Equilibrium II

Toward the end, Jinny feels comfortable and lighter inside, like she does not have to feel hopeless and lonely anymore. Just like the end of “Queenie”, “Floating Bridge” ends with the woman character feels happier than before.

Equilibrium	Where Jinny sits alone pitying herself and feeling helpless and lonely because of her sickness.
Force I	When Neal prefers to attend Helen’s need more than his wife’s making Jinny feel smaller, more insecure and lonelier.

Disequilibrium	When Neal chooses Helen's and her family's company more than his wife's and leaves her alone. It definitely emphasize for readers to get Jinny's lonely feeling.
Force II	When Jinny meets Ricky and he offers to get her home because he notices her weariness. Although, she feels tired and lonely, one offer from Ricky has lifted her spirit up.
Equilibrium II	When Jinny feels lighter inside because Ricky shows her the beautiful floating bridge and she forgets about her illness.

3. 2. 2 Semantic Aspects: The Importance of Looking at the Silver Lining

The main point of the story tells the readers that happiness and comfort can be found even when you are feeling down. The hopelessness and the loneliness that Jinny has been feeling due to her illness is somehow becoming a way for her to reach happiness, once she lets go. The sense of the story can be found and felt at the beginning when the main woman character feels hopeless and lonely, then at the end she feels happier and weightless. The readers can tell by X is feeling abandoned by her husband, then she meets W and accepts his offer to show her something more to life than make a pity out of her life.

3.3. “Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage”

3.3.1. Narrative Pattern

a. Proposition

1. Johanna is X
2. X is a housemaid

“So when I saw the ad Mr. McCauley put in the Globe and Mail I came to see about it” (28). Johanna has been a housemaid in McCauley’s household for a quiet long time. She is described as an independent woman (11). Due to her independency and her closed off personality, she has no friends.

3. Sabitha is Y
4. Y sends false letters to X

Sabitha is the granddaughter of Johanna’s employer. Her mother has passed away while her father is alienating himself from society alone. One day, she and her friend, Edith, plan to pull a prank on Johanna by sending her false letter on behalf of her father.

“Poor Johanna,” said Edith. “Her heart will be bwooken”

Sabitha said, “Who cares?”

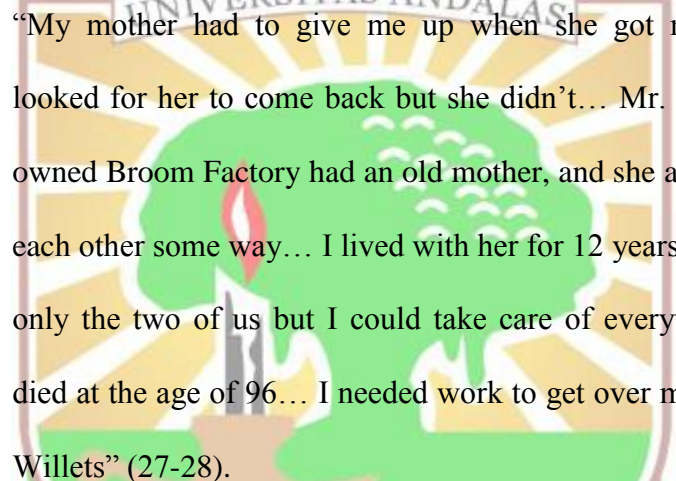
“Unless we do it,” Edith said.

“What?”

“*Answer* her.” (29-30)

5. Ken is W
6. W is Y's father
7. X keeps sending letters

Johanna does not know that Sabitha and her friend, Edith, have been sending her letter in the name of Sabitha's father. In the letters she tells "Ken" about her miserable and lonely past.



"My mother had to give me up when she got married... I looked for her to come back but she didn't... Mr. Willets that owned Broom Factory had an old mother, and she and I took to each other some way... I lived with her for 12 years. There was only the two of us but I could take care of everything... she died at the age of 96... I needed work to get over missing Mrs. Willets" (27-28).

From the way that she telling him about her past, how she lost her only friend makes the writer certain that Johanna starting to open up about her personal life. Opening herself up is important because from the passage above, the writer is certain that Johanna has led an awful life with no friends at all after Mrs. Willets passed. It is one of the factors why she feels alone and never opens herself up for other people.

8. X sends furniture

After exchanging letters, Johanna believes that she has to move to where Ken is to take care of him because he is alone and barely can take care of himself due to

his depression of losing his wife. Johanna decides to send some of Ken's furniture to where he is staying now in Saskatchewan. The writer believes that by taking a big step to move is a way of her loneliness starts to leave its place inside her. Due to her has found a friend in "Ken", the writer is certain that Johanna is finally has found someone to rely on.

9. X resigns from her job

Due to her wanting to move to Saskatchewan, she resigns from her job. (10-17). She cut her losses in Mr. McCauley's household, knowing that she will move away to take care of her friend shows her seriousness in her friendship with Ken.

10. X meets W

In Saskatchewan, she goes to his apartment. Ken is oblivious as to why a stranger comes to his house. Ken does not know a thing about Johanna and is unaware of her sudden presence in his house (42-45). Ken cannot comprehend why a woman is standing in his house trying to take care of him while she is still a complete stranger to him though she knows about him through the false letters she's been sending.

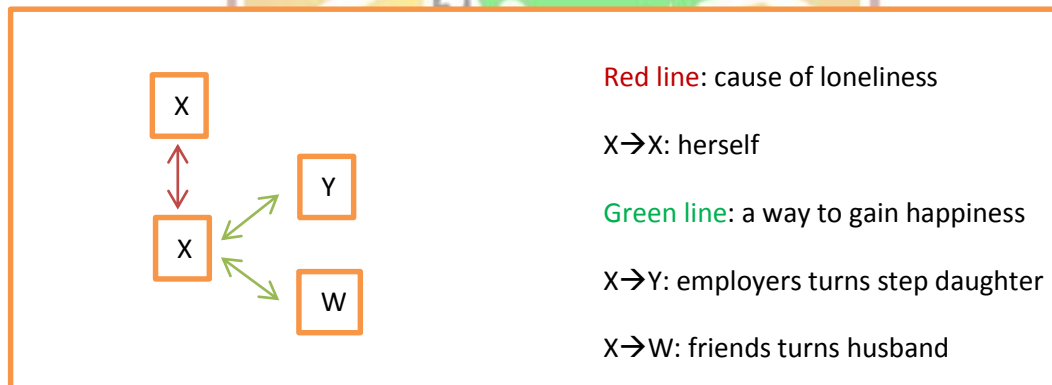
11. Y befriends X

Ken's obliviousness toward Johanna at first becomes a problem since she is still a stranger to him. Along the way, he opens up just like she did, and befriends her, letting her taking care of him (47-51). The writer is certain that by Ken opening up to

Johanna makes her feel start to hope that there is a way for her to be happy for she has found a friend in life.

12. X marries Y

The story flash forward into two years in the future where Johanna has a child from Ken and named him Omar (51). Johanna's happiness finally is in reach for her to have found a friend for life and that said friend has given her a family she has never had. The writer concludes that this particular story, as it has been believed before, carry a story of how loneliness affects a woman to be strong yet loner, then she finds a friend who turns her lonely upside down.



b. Sequence

- Equilibrium

Equilibrium opens with Johanna says, "I'm used to being on my own" (11). Johanna herself declares that she is used to being on

her own, being alone. Being alone somehow proves that Johanna is lonely, though she does not show it because of her independent nature. It is related to proposition 1-2.

- Force I

Force I happens when Sabitha and Edith pull a prank on Johanna by sending her false letter under the name of Sabitha's father. Unknowingly to Ken, Johanna has poured her life story to the letter. It indicates that she has started to open herself up and let someone in by telling him her personal life. It is related to propositions 3-4.

- Disequilibrium

The story turns when she decides to move to take care of Ken. She even sends him his personal furniture and resigns from her job showing her seriousness in their friendship. Although she still does not know that she is being pranked by the two teenagers. Her decision to move shows that she is willing to do anything for her new friend, "Ken", and that she is pursuing her newfound friendship that will lead to her having happiness that she has not felt in a long time. it is related to propositions 5-9.

- Force II

The change in Johanna's life, this time, is actually shows from Ken's point of view. "...Two women, actually, a young one and an

older one who knew about each other and were ready to tear other's hair out.... Perhaps a solution had arrived for that, as well" (49). Ken has already started to open up to Johanna is actually what makes her starting to feel happier and less lonely because she has found a true friend, and somehow lover, in Ken. It is related to propositions 10-11.

- Equilibrium II

"Sabitha Boudreau and his son-in-law Ken Boudreau, and Mr. Boudreau's wife Johanna, and their infant son Omar, of Salmon Arm, B.C" (51). The fact that Johanna has married to Ken now, and has a child with him shows that she is no longer alone. She has family that loves her and she loves them. Her happiness is now visible.

Equilibrium	Where Johanna is described to be an independent woman who has no one to depend on, which means she has no friend. Her independency caused her feeling a bit lonely.
Force I	When Sabitha and Edith prank her by sending her letters make Johanna opens herself up to 'Ken' and finds a friend in him.

Disequilibrium	When Johanna decides to move to take care of her new friend. Her big step to move makes her believe that she has found a true friend and she feels good inside.
Force II	When Ken starts to be friendlier to Johanna and she feels accepted and less lonely.
Equilibrium II	When Johanna finally has a family that she no longer feels alone.

3. 3. 2 Semantic Aspects: The Importance of Opening Up to Others

This story has a main idea of loneliness that leads to happiness. When at first X, all alone and has no friend to run to, takes a chance then turns her loneliness into happiness by moving out of her old life to pursue something new. As it is shown before that X is a loner yet a strong woman and due to false letter mishap she finds a friend in Y. Simply put, the author uses Johanna as an example that though being independent, in this case because she has no friends, will somehow leads to loneliness. However, when one opens up to her surroundings and find their match, it will eventually direct one to happiness.

3.4. “Comfort”

3.4.1. Narrative Pattern

a. Proposition

1. Nina is X
2. X is a wife
3. Lewis is Y
4. Y is X's husband
5. Y cares about his beliefs

Lewis and Nina has been married for years, though he is ten years older than her, he cares enough about her. Due to their age difference, it is indirectly written that Nina feels inferior to him, though sometimes he makes her laugh. However, when it comes to his beliefs, he will defend it as hard as it is needed.

“What is the difference between Satan and Antichrist, or is there one?” said Nina. “The Quackers were very remiss about that.”

Lewis said that he could do without her treating all this as a joke.

“Sorry,” she said soberly. “Who do you think is really writing them? Some minister?” (132).

It seems like they do not share the same belief. The writer believes that it is one of the reasons why Lewis prefers to not being around her when she starts to doubt his belief. Lewis not being around is one of the indications that sometimes she is lonely and she lives an unhappy marriage.

6. Y commits suicide

“But while she was out, Lewis had been dying. In fact, he had been killing himself” (119). When Nina finds Lewis has passed away, she begins to search for a suicide note instead of crying for her husband, which shows that she does not really sad about it, she may feel relieved a bit since she always feels like an obedient wife but he never reciprocates or respects her enough.

7. Ed is W

8. X meets W

When Ed, the undertaker, said, “Hello, Nina. I saw your car. I thought I’d just come in and say I’m sorry” (139), Nina feels less alone because Ed is one of her acquaintances. Ed is described to have different personalities with Lewis. While Lewis is strong-headed, superior and patriarchal, Ed is nice, caring, and honest. The differences could be one factor that makes Nina feels comfortable around him.

9. W finds the note

10. W gives the note to X

Ed gives Nina the note he has found in Lewis’ pocket. It is not a note that she was hoping for, it is a note filled with verses of scathing doggerel (140-141). In writer’s opinion, her finding the note at least making her less burdened because she has found something that she has been looking for though it is not like she has hoped.

11. W gives the ash to X

Since Lewis has asked to be cremated, Nina does what he wanted. Ed comes to her house then gives it to her. Ed brings her flowers, which surprises Nina as it is not something that she often receive (149-150). The writer assumes that Nina and Ed once have been more than friends, though he has a wife already. Although Nina feels strange about it, her heart feels lighter.

12. X spreads the ash

“She got the box open and put her hand into the cooling ashes and tossed or dropped them...among the roadside plants” (152). By scattering her husband’s last remains, it is believed that Nina has found the conclusion on her old life. She is no longer feels inferior to someone. She is no longer feeling like she is alone, though she is, but she feels happy. This particular story tells about a woman who has doubts about her late husband and been trapped in a traditional marriage where she is inferior to her partner. Although in the end she finds resolution that leads in freedom and happiness.

Y



X



W

Blue line: relation that ties two people

$X \rightarrow Y$: husband and wife

Red line: cause of loneliness

$X \rightarrow Y$: husband and wife

Green line: a way to gain happiness

$X \rightarrow W$: friends

b. Sequence

- Equilibrium

The state where Nina feels underappreciated especially when it comes to when Lewis prefers to defend his belief more than his wife. It is easily assumed that Nina, the main character, is used to being alone even when she had her husband around. Nina and Lewis seem like a dysfunctional couple due to many reasons, one being their vast age difference. Lewis is someone that has patriarchal point of view so that he is superior. It is related to propositions 1-5.

- Force I

Force I happens when Nina “...began rifling through the bedclothes. She stripped off the duvet, then the top sheet... Shift from pillows to mattress, the head made a certain sound, a sound that was heavier than she would have expected” (120-121). Nina forces herself to find a suicide note in case he left something before the suicide so that she could find closure and start her life anew and find happiness with herself. It is related to proposition 6.

- Disequilibrium

The peak of the story happens when Nina shows an emotion of rage, scared, and tired all at once. “And it began to happen again. All over again the chattering of her teeth, the shaking, the words splitting

apart. The horrid piteousness of it. It was not even an expression of what she was really feeling” (140). It shows that Nina is finally comes to a result where she feels physical chaos due to her imprisonment in her own marriage.

- Force II

The wave of climax starts to dwindle down when “What Lewis had written and left for her to find was a poem. Several verses of scathing doggerel” (141). Ed finds the note and hands it to Nina. From reading it, she understands that her husband’s last thought was not about her. It is related to propositions 7-10.

- Equilibrium II

“A sickening shock at first, then amazement that you were still moving, lifted up on a stream of steely devotion—calm above the surface of your life, surviving, though the pain of the cold continued to wash into your body” (152-153). The passage represents Nina’s feelings about her husband. After spreading her husband’s ash along the roadside plants, Nina finally gets her conclusion on her old life, ready to take on anything and find her place in the world.

Equilibrium	Where Nina feels underappreciated that resulted in her loneliness when her husband does not want to be around her.
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Force I	When Nina looks for her husband's suicide note so that she can find her peace. In this moment, besides she feels anxious to find the note, she also feels like she has been freed from something that had imprisoned her.
Disequilibrium	When Nina feels physical pain from her unhappy marriage and feels like she needs to breakout.
Force II	When Ed gives her the note he has found that she has been looking for. She feels relief at first but when she finds out it is not the kind of note she was looking for, she feels a bit dejected.
Equilibrium II	When Nina spreads her husband's ash and she finally feel at peace, something she has not felt in a long time.

3.4.2. Semantic Aspects: The Importance of Letting Go

“Comfort” has a sense of comfort that comes by letting go. When her husband was still alive, she had been feeling the pressure that resulted in her feeling sad and alone. After he died, she can be comfortable about her life again, which is a feeling she was not familiar with. Basically, Nina finds comfort and happiness, after battling

with her loneliness after the death of her husband. The writer assumes that the death here does not mean the end instead it makes a new beginning for Nina.

3.5. Loneliness as the Path to Happiness

After analyzing the four stories in detail, one by one, the writer comes to a conclusion that the author uses loneliness not in a negative way. She uses loneliness is a way for a person to never give up because in the end one can find happiness. The author does not see loneliness as a means to an end, instead she points out that by feeling lonely and empty at first will ultimately resulted in happiness if one keeps trying, never gives up, and not afraid to open up to others. Based on the four stories, where the four main woman characters are feeling loneliness at first has proven that the writer's assumption about loneliness as the path to happiness is true.

First, Queenie feels like she has been trapped in her marriage. Then she meets someone new that will eventually shows the reader that she has chosen to escape from her unhappy marriage to find her true happiness. Second, Jinny shows the reader that by having an illness means no hope and no friend, but she has overcome all and finally reaches a point where she feels nothing but her burdens being lightened. Third, Johanna, the independent and individual person, who has no friend at all, feeling happy because she finally lets someone in to her life. Finally, Nina who displays unhappiness and ultimately loneliness in her marriage finally find her new purpose or new beginning after her husband's death by letting go of her unhappy past.

CHAPTER 4

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

4.1. Conclusion

The analysis on four short stories by Alice Munro entitled “Queenie”, “Floating Bridge”, “Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage”, and “Comfort” from Alice Munro’s short stories anthology using the theory of Tzvetan Todorov known as Narratology by focusing on the narrative pattern of the stories, the writer finds that according to the pattern, the stories mainly focused on loneliness. Loneliness here seen as a way to achieve what the characters want, which is happiness as long as they do not give up and courageous enough to let others in. This research concentrates on the proposition and the sequence to understand the narrative structure of the story, the writer also adds elaboration on the semantic aspects. Proposition, as we know, is the smallest unit of narrative. In this case, for example, X is a woman. X is married to Y. In three out of four stories, X is married to Y. X is living in an unhappy marriage, resulted in them feeling lonely and desolate.

Following the propositions, there are sequences. Sequence is a string of proposition that creates the story. Sequence itself consists of equilibrium, force I, disequilibrium, force II, and equilibrium II. In the four stories, it begins to tell that X is lonely and living an unhappy life. Then, X do something that will leads to their

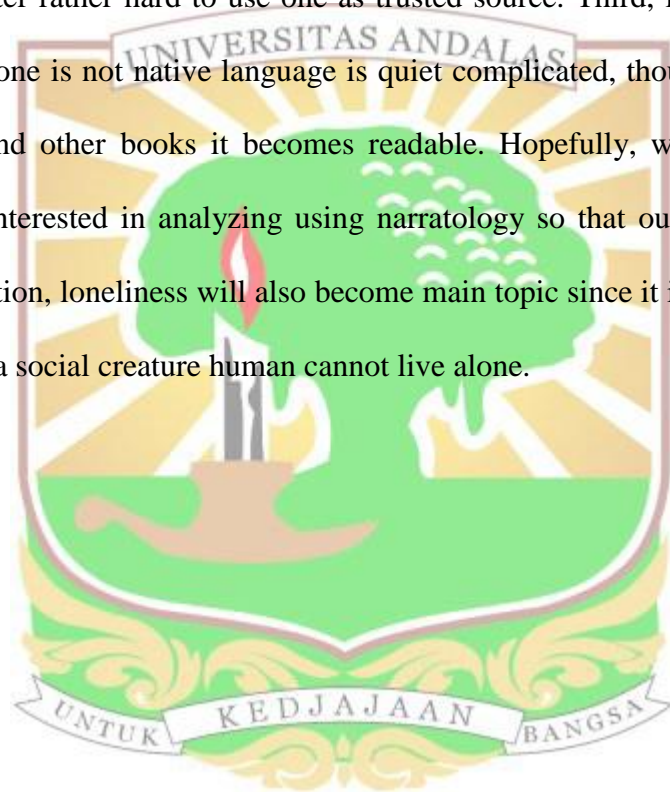
lives being changed. After that, X will feel the changes in their lives. It all will resulted in X having a happy life.

In semantic aspects elaboration, the writer has concluded that the four stories have similar main idea. The four main woman characters are experiencing the loneliness in different ways and for different reason. The loneliness that the women feel then turn into something so contrast by their bravery to take action. It is to be believed that the main idea or the sense of the story is loneliness leads to happiness.

By finding the answers that the writer has questioned, it is safe to say that the author has made her stories to show that loneliness is something that is normal to feel and it happens because of many different reasons. Loneliness here believed to be a feeling that will drive the characters to change their lives to be better. Although loneliness here displays in various ways, the readers can feel it radiating through the way the characters is described. The way that she describes it indirectly in the words that she pours inside the stories, reveal that loneliness can be one of the ways for people to find happiness only if they do not give up and they do not afraid to take actions to turn their lives around. For three out of four main characters, though having people around them, they still feel lonely inside. For one out of four, being alone leads to loneliness. In the end, however, they all reach happiness in their lives.

4.2 Suggestions

On doing the research, having difficulties is normal. Hence, why the writer also has some worries. First, there is lack of books regarding Todorov's theory particularly narratology. Due to that fact, the writer has to use some books and journal articles where the authors have Todorov's quotes. Second, there are only a few of people that actually have done the similar research using narrative pattern, making the writer rather hard to use one as trusted source. Third, in making perfect sentence when one is not native language is quite complicated, though with the help of dictionary and other books it becomes readable. Hopefully, with this research, many will be interested in analyzing using narratology so that our knowledge will expand. In addition, loneliness will also become main topic since it is one of human's feelings and as a social creature human cannot live alone.



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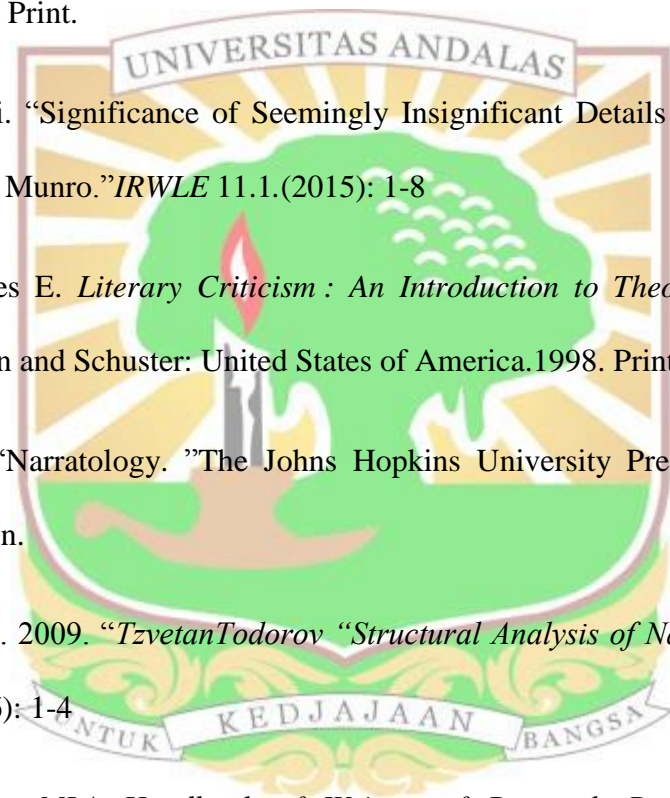
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