



## Narratology In the Novel *Pinkie Promise* By Sapphire Hale

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### Abstract:

This research analyses the narrative structure in the novel *Pinkie Promise* by Sapphire Hale using the theory of narratology by Gérard Genette. This research aims to find out the narrative structure used by Sapphire Hale. The researcher uses a qualitative method by focusing on the text of the novel and interpreting the novel according to the focus of the theory used. The researcher will read the novel carefully and collect data following the theory of narratology by Gérard Genette. The researcher focuses on finding data that uses Fallon Ford's point of view in the novel *Pinkie Promise*. The collected data will be categorized based on Mood and Voice from Gérard Genette's narratology theory. The data is then analysed from whose point of view (POV) or perspective and from what position the narrator in the story tells the story. *Pinkie Promise* uses internal focalization because it uses the main character's perspective, Fallon Ford. *Pinkie Promise* uses an autodiegetic narrator because the narrator in the story, Fallon, is the main character.

**Keywords:** narratology; focalization; internal focalization; homodiegetic; autodiegetic

### Abstrak:

Penelitian ini dilakukan untuk menganalisis struktur narrative di dalam novel *Pinkie Promise* by Sapphire Hale dengan menggunakan teori naratologi oleh Gérard Genette. Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui struktur narasi yang digunakan Sapphire Hale. Peneliti menggunakan metode kualitatif dengan berfokus pada teks novel dan menginterpretasikan novel sesuai dengan fokus teori yang digunakan. Peneliti akan membaca novel dengan cermat dan mengumpulkan data yang sesuai dengan teori naratologi oleh Gérard Genette. Peneliti berfokus untuk mencari data yang menggunakan sudut pandang dari Fallon Ford di dalam novel *Pinkie Promise*. Data-data yang sudah terkumpul akan dikelompokkan berdasarkan Mood dan Voice dari teori naratologi Gérard Genette. Data-data tersebut kemudian dianalisis dari sudut pandang (POV) atau perspektif siapa dan dari posisi apa narator di dalam cerita menceritakan cerita tersebut. Novel *Pinkie Promise* menggunakan internal focalization karena menggunakan perspektif dari karakter utama, Fallon Ford. *Pinkie Promise* menggunakan autodiegetic narrator karena narator di dalam cerita, Fallon, merupakan karakter utama.

**Kata kunci:** naratologi; fokalikasi; fokalikasi internal; homodiegetik; autodiegetik

## INTRODUCTION

Literature expresses emotions, imagination, and culture in written or spoken works. Literature is usually in the form of poetry, fiction, nonfiction, drama and more. Artistic



and symbolic language is commonly used in literature to convey meaning that can describe culture, norms, politics, or morals more deeply. Literature prioritizes imaginative and aesthetic language that is different from everyday language. This language can create an emotional connection between the characters in the literary work and the reader. Literature often reflects the state of society by using the culture and norms that existed in society when the work was created. In other words, readers can see and understand changes in society and the historical or cultural context without being directly involved in the real world.

In addition, literature can be used to pass on culture and traditions. Literature can even shape or influence changes in a culture. Literature is a bridge used to preserve culture and tradition from generation to generation. This is because literature conveys values, norms, culture, and traditions from one era to the next. Literary works can inspire social change by raising social justice issues, challenging the status quo, and questioning societal norms. Literary texts can endure over time because the interpretation of literary works is dynamic. The context that the reader understands and the reader's attachment to the work can influence the interpretation of the literary text.

A novel is a form of literary work in the form of a long narrative. Novels have a clear plot structure and characters that describe humans' emotions, conflicts, and experiences. Humans in novels and other literary works are referred to as characters. Characters in literary works do not have to be described as human but can also be described as animals or fantasy creatures. The novel is written in long prose, unlike poetry and rhymes. Unlike short stories, characters in novels have room for more complex character development, don't have to focus on just one character, have complex plots, and can explore broader themes. This allows readers to create emotional attachments and build deeper chemistry with the characters in the novel. Issues and themes used in novels usually address social issues, politics, and the state of society at the time the novel was written.

The novel is a long narrative that allows the author to explore the feelings, motivations, and thoughts of the characters in the novel. The popular genres often enjoyed in novels are romance, fantasy, adventure, and others. With a long narrative, novels can create complex worlds with more detail and feel like real life. It can also create intricate and complex conflicts that can develop the story's characters, themes, and plot. Readers can also follow the development of the characters in their way of thinking, motivations, feelings, and the main character's relationships with the other characters while facing very



complex conflicts. By creating emotional attraction and fostering empathy between the reader and the characters, the author can easily bring the reader into the world the author has created. This allows the reader to understand the message that the author wants to convey.

The novel used by the researcher is the novel *Pinkie Promise* by Sapphire Hale, published on January 5, 2024. *Pinkie Promise* is a romance novel that tells the story of Fallon and Hunter. This novel is the first book in the *Carter Ridge Series* by Sapphire Hale. The novel tells the story of Fallon Ford, a cheerleader in Carter Ridge, who is benched from the competition team due to her frequent falls from the top of the pyramid during practice. Fallon was put on reserve because one of the new members repeatedly made her fall during practice, which resulted in a head injury. The problem for Fallon is that she plans to use the sports grant for her post-graduate expenses. Fallon had to find another way to get the money. Having very strict parents, Fallon preferred to achieve her goals through her efforts. While Fallon was trying to get the money, she met Hunter Wilde. Hunter Wilde is the top scorer and captain of the ice hockey team, Carter Ridge Rangers. The team led by Hunter is a candidate for the national championship. Hunter was quite famous for his brutal game until his team coach told Hunter to change his way of playing. Hunter's hockey game was brutal enough that his coach told him to improve his playing. His coach said if Hunter didn't change his brutal way of playing, their team would be in jeopardy during the national championship, and Hunter's dream career would be on the line. Hunter, who has always been focused on the hockey rink, has been interested in Fallon since their first meeting. Fallon, a funny and passionate cheerleader, slowly changes Hunter's world.

This study aims to analyze the novel *Pinkie Promise* by Sapphire Hale using Gérard Genette's narratology. According to Gérard Genette, in his book *Narrative Discourse: An Essay in Method*, there are five narrative elements, namely Order, Duration, Frequency, Mood, and Voice (Genette, 1980). However, the researcher will only focus on Mood and Voice in this study. The problem to be analyzed is the narrative techniques used by the author, Sapphire Hale. The researcher wanted to know from whose perspective the *Pinkie Promise* story was told. In addition, researchers also want to know the position of the narrator in the *Pinkie Promise* story.



Narrative structure is the framework that supports the presentation of a story by guiding how the events are presented to the reader. Narrative structure organizes the story elements, such as theme, setting, plot, and characters, to create a compelling and cohesive narrative. In other words, narrative structure is how the events in the story interrelate with each other and build meaning and emotional attachment. The traditional narrative structure linearly moves from exposition, rising action, and climax until resolution. At the same time, a complex narrative structure (nonlinear) plays with the flow of time and can have many ups and downs to resolve conflict. This narrative structure will make the reader's emotions fluctuate because it plays with the reader's expectations. However, this narrative structure can create and explore deeper meaning in the story.

The narrative structure plays an important role in the reader's understanding of the story's messages. Using good narrative structures can guide the reader's intellectual and emotional journey to draw their attention to the development of characters and events at any given moment. Building anticipation and increasing suspense can be done using well-crafted foreshadowing and pacing. The narrative structure is the storytelling process and how a story's meaning is formed, not just a vessel to convey the story's content. The nonlinear narrative structure is used to illustrate the complexity of human experience. This is because nonlinear narrative structures can create new ways of telling stories.

In literary analysis, narrative structure influences the reader to understand and interpret a literary text. Good use of structure can create a place for events to develop more meaningfully. The linear narrative, which has a chronological order, can create a logical flow that allows the reader to follow the cause-and-effect relationship between the events. On the other hand, the nonlinear narratives can disrupt the flow of time and require the reader to construct the story's meaning more actively. Organizing and presenting events can highlight a particular theme, shift the reader's focus, and create an emotional response.

Narrative structure in literature analysis can create interpretations of the thematic and emotional layers of the text. It allows the author to manipulate times and perspectives to create complexity in the story. We can uncover the author's intentions, themes, and the way narrative techniques create the reader's experiences. The narratives that use multiple perspectives can allow the reader to understand the hidden truths or contradictions through the different points of view (POV) on characters and events. Meanwhile, narratives manipulating time can create an emotional intensity for a particular moment or



event. It can be said that narrative structure is central to constructing meaning and engaging the reader with the literary text. Narrative structure can also create a richer range of interpretations of the complexity of a literary text.

One of the influential theories in narrative structure comes from Gérard Genette's book *Narrative Discourse: An Essay in Method*, published in 1980. Gérard Genette is a French theorist who became an important figure in narrative structure in narratology. Genette's narratology focuses on the organization and the function of narrative as a framework for understanding the mechanics of a story. Genette's narratology examines in greater depth the relationship of storytelling to how the reader perceives the story. Genette's narratology approach is used to analyze the techniques used by the author to manipulate time, perspective, and voice in creating meaning and engaging the reader with the story text. Genette divides the narrative structure into five main elements: order, duration, frequency, mood, and voice.

Order in Gérard Genette's narratology is the arrangement of events in the narrative that harmonizes (or does not harmonize) with the chronological order of events in the story. According to Nurfauziah (2022), "In the text, the time sequence is dual, between the story sequence ... The sequence formed by each part of the utterance will form a unified meaning." Genette (1980, p. 35) said, "To study the temporal order of a narrative is to compare the order in which events or temporal sections are arranged in the narrative discourse with the order of succession these same events or temporal segments have in the story,". The use of order can create narrative meaning that is built on the development of the story. According to Genette, there are two forms of time manipulation (anachronic) in the story, they are:

1. Analepsis (flashback): Provides background information about events before the current story.
2. Prolepsis (foreshadowing): Gives a glimpse of future events by revealing something.

Duration in Gérard Genette's narratology is the relationship between the time elapsed and the time taken to tell the story. Nurfauziah (2022) stated that "Narrative duration describes the difference between the actual time of an event (abbreviated story time ...) and the time it takes the narrator to narrate the event (abbreviated narrative time...)." This relates to the speed of the narrative and the focus the author chooses and allocates to certain moments or events. According to Genette (1980, p. 87 - 88), "the speed of a narrative will be defined by the relationship between a duration (that of the story,

measured in seconds, minutes, hours, days, months, and years) and a length (that of the text, measured in lines and pages)." By manipulating duration, writers can speed up less important events, emphasize certain moments or events, and linger to explain details in the story. Genette identifies four techniques for manipulating time, they are:

1. Ellipsis: The omission of events.
2. Summary: Summarizing the event.
3. Scene: Matching narrative time with storytime.
4. Pause: The forward motion of the story is stopped.

Frequency in Gérard Genette's narratology is about how often an event is recounted again. Genette stated, "An event is not only capable of happening; it can also happen again or be repeated...". According to Nurfauziah (2022), "Frequency in narratology examines the recurrence relationship between story and storytelling. ... However, what is repeated is not the same event, but the identical event." By manipulating frequency, the writers can provide narrative emphasis and shape the perception of an event in the reader. By using frequency techniques, the writers can highlight important parts of the narrative. Genette categorizes frequency into three types, they are:

1. Singulative narrative: The event happens only once and is told only once.
2. Repetitive narrative: Events happen once but are told many times.
3. Iterative narrative: Events that happen many times but are told only once.

The mood in Gérard Genette's narratology focuses on narrative perspective, specifically focalization or point of view (POV) in the story. "Focalization decides how data within the story is passed on to the reader or audience, and who knows what inside the account." Zannah (2024). With mood (focalization), readers can have a lot of access to the inner thoughts of the characters in the story. According to Fauziyyah (2024), "The concept of focalization is used to see the position of the narrator in the story." Through focalization, readers can have a deeper knowledge of the character's mind, which can create empathy and a subjective narrative experience. Sari (2024) said, "Focalization is also an effort to stimulate readers' identification with the characters in the story." Focalization can also create mystery and suspense towards the characters, which requires the reader to interpret the character's behaviour to know the mind. Genette divides focalization into three they are:



1. Zero focalization: The narration or narrator knows more than the character and provides a god-like perspective. Genette (1980, p. 193) said zero focalization is "the omniscience of the classical novelist."
2. Internal focalization: The narrative perspective is based on one or a few characters, and the narrator only tells what the character knows.
3. External focalization: The narrative perspective knows less than the characters and only narrates from external observations.

Voice in Gérard Genette's narratology refers to who is telling the story and from what position in the event it is narrated. According to Fauziyyah (2024), "Voice is related to who is telling the story, and where they are telling it from. Narrative voice focuses on the time of narrating, the person, and the narrative level." Voice involves the temporal position of the narrator by relating it to the story. A narrator may tell the story after the events have occurred or tell it at the same time as the events occur. The position of voice can affect the reader's relationship with characters and events, as it can provide insight and understanding into events. By manipulating the voice, the narrator aligns themselves or creates a layer of distance according to the author's intention of how the story is perceived and understood. "... two types of narrative: one with the narrator absent from the story he tells ..., the other with the narrator present as a character in the story he tells.... the first type is, for obvious reasons, heterodiegetic, and the second type homodiegetic." (Genette, 1980, p. 244 - 245). Genette divides the narrative person into two, they are:

1. Homodiegetic: The narrator is a character in the story he tells. Fauziyyah (2024) said that "If the homodiegetic narrator is the main character or protagonist in the story, he is called an autodiegetic narrator."
2. Heterodiegetic: The narrator is not a character in the story and is outside the story.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

The novel *Pinkie Promise* by Sapphire Hale is a new novel published in January 2024. There has been no research using this novel. The researcher uses the novel *Pinkie Promise* by Sapphire Hale to analyze this because it is interesting and has a mild conflict. Using narratology by Gérard Genette to analyze this novel can provide the narrative structure used. The novel *Pinkie Promise*, uses two points of view (POV) of the two main characters in each chapter, which is interesting to analyze. However, the researcher will only analyze the narrative structure used by Fallon Ford. When the researcher searched for secondary



data related to narratology, the researcher found few journal articles that examined novels using narratology theory, especially Gérard Genette's theory of narratology. It isn't easy to find journal articles that use Gérard Genette's theory of narratology to analyze literary works. So, the researcher wants to contribute to the world of literature by conducting research using the narratology theory in novels.

## RESEARCH METHODS

In this study, the researcher used a qualitative descriptive method that focuses on text. According to Dawson (2019, p. 14-15), "qualitative research explores attitudes, behaviour and experiences through such methods as interviews or focus groups. It attempts to get an in-depth opinion from participants.". This method is used because the researcher will explain and describe the data found from the text to be examined in more depth. Singh (2006, p. 214) said that "the qualitative data provide the extent and nature of the trait distribution or variable measured. ... In the experimental research, data are collected in the controlled situation to study the functional relationship of variables." Qualitative methods do not use numbers or scales because this method analyzes issues and phenomena. The researcher uses text from the novel *Pinkie Promise* by Sapphire Hale as the main data that will be analyzed following the theory of narratology by Gérard Genette. In addition to using the main data from the novel, the researcher also used secondary sources to support data analysis. These data are obtained from books, journal articles, and theses that provide definitions, understandings, and views relevant to the topic.

In this study, the instrument used for research is the researcher herself. As a research instrument, the researcher obtains data by reading the novel, then collecting, classifying, analysing, and making conclusions from the data. The first thing the researcher did was to read the novel *Pinkie Promise* by Sapphire Hale and then collect quotations from the novel's text as the main data to be analyzed. The data found will then be classified according to the theory of narratology by Gérard Genette. The classified data will be analyzed according to mood (focalization), order (narrative time), and voice from Gérard Genette's Narratology theory. The researcher also looks for secondary data from books, journal articles, and theses as references to support the analysis. After the analysis, the researcher will draw conclusions based on the results.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

*Pinkie Promise* by Sapphire Hale is a novel that uses two different points of view (POV). This novel uses the points of view of the two main characters, Fallon Ford and Hunter Wilde. Each chapter of the story uses different points of view alternately. However, the researcher will only analyze the narrative structure of Mood and Voice used by Fallon Ford.

### **Mood**

In *Pinkie Promise*, Sapphire Hale tells the story of the novel using the perspective of the main characters. Hale uses two perspectives of the main characters, one of which is Fallon Ford. The following is an analysis if *Pinkie Promise* uses the perspective or point of view (POV) of Fallon Ford. The following data proves that the novel *Pinkie Promise* by Sapphire Hale uses perspective or point of view (POV) from Fallon.

"I know that no-one other than Aisling and Connell are aware of my money troubles. Or my grant troubles. Or my at-home troubles. And that's exactly the way that I need for it to be. Some people say that a problem shared is a problem halved but I know the reality of the situation: people either use your weaknesses against you, or you become a burden that they need to rid themselves of." (Hale, 2024, p. 32)

This quotation shows that Fallon uses internal focalization. This is shown by the narrator telling what only the character knows. In this case, Fallon, the narrator, certainly knows what the character 'Fallon' knows. This narrative is told by one character from a fixed position, namely Fallon Ford, the main character in the story. Here Fallon tells us that she has financial problems, and no one else except her closest confidants know this.

"Which brings me back to my original point: not being on the cheer team means not getting another sport scholarship, and not getting another sport scholarship means not getting to stay on at Carter U for the Master's degree that I've always wanted to do. And if I can't stay on at Carter U to do my Master's, then I'll be sacrificing my studies – my only form of genuine validation in this world – not to mention my secret manuscript, for the kind of job that will pay my bills but will never leave me enough time to accomplish my real dreams." (Hale, 2024, p. 15)

This narration is another proof that Fallon uses internal focalization. Here, Fallon as the narrator can know and tell what the character 'Fallon' thinks about the problems she is experiencing. Fallon as the narrator can also find out if the character 'Fallon' actually

dreams of becoming a writer and creating a secret manuscript. By mentioning 'secret manuscript', Fallon as the narrator mentions something only the character 'Fallon' knows.

### Voice

*Pinkie Promise* undoubtedly uses a homodiegetic narrator by using the perspective or point of view (POV) of the characters in the story. *Pinkie Promise* that uses the main character, Fallon Ford, as a homodiegetic narrator is referred to as an autodiegetic narrator. The following is an analysis if *Pinkie Promise* uses Fallon Ford, the main character, as the narrator.

"They've arrived!" my roommate Aisling says excitedly, pink hearts shimmering in her eyes as she hip-bumps the front door to the condo closed, setting the inconspicuous brown box down on top of the coffee table in front of me.

I slide my eyes over from the screen of my laptop, allowing myself to soak in the sight of the little package, as if I didn't specifically orchestrate this uncharacteristically early morning study session for this very precise purpose.

"They were arriving today? I didn't know," I say weakly, my tone as casual as I can manage." (Hale, 2024, p. 14)

The narration uses the first-person point of view. The person shifts their gaze and focus from the laptop to Aisling. The use of the word "I" in the narration shows that she is the main character in the story and tells the story about herself. Based on the previous data, the main character in the story is Fallon Ford. The *Pinkie Promise* story uses the main character or protagonist as the narrator, which is called an autodiegetic narrator based on Genette's narratology theory. An autodiegetic narrator is a homodiegetic narrator who uses a character in the story as a narrator.

### CONCLUSION

In conclusion, *Pinkie Promise* uses the mood and voice narrative structure proposed by Gérard Genette. Sapphire Hale tells the story of *Pinkie Promise* using the perspective of the main character, Fallon Ford. In this case, as the narrator, Fallon only tells what the character 'Fallon' knows. In addition, Fallon, the narrator and the character in the story, makes her a homodiegetic narrator. More precisely, Fallon is an autodiegetic narrator because not only is she in the story, Fallon is also the main character who tells her own story. This study still needs more in-depth research, especially on the other aspects of Gérard Genette's narratology theory.



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