

Romance Formula in *Hana Khan Carries On* by Uzma Jalaluddin

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Abstract:

This research paper analyzes the romance formula in the novel *Hana Khan Carries On* by Uzma Jalaluddin, focusing on the relationship between Hana and Aydin. The researcher employs Wyatt and Saricks' romance formula to describe how the romantic relationship between Hana and Aydin is depicted in the novel. This research uses a descriptive qualitative method. The data are taken from the narrative and dialogue of Hana and Aydin in the novel. The researcher interpreted the data from the novel and then analyzed it with the approach of the romance formula. The result of this research shows that their relationship started with a misunderstanding and ended up with a happy ending, conforming to Wyatt and Saricks' romance formula. This research concludes that Hana and Aydin initially experienced misunderstandings or difficulties in their relationship. Throughout the story, their relationship gets better after they get to know each other, Hana and Aydin finally can solve the misunderstanding between them and make their relationship even closer and become more romantic.

Keywords: Romance formula; relationship; romantic; love

Abstrak:

Penelitian ini menganalisis tentang formula romantis dalam novel *Hana Khan Carries On* karya Uzma Jalaluddin dengan fokus pada hubungan Hana dan Aydin. Peneliti menggunakan formula romantis oleh Wyatt dan Saricks untuk mendeskripsikan bagaimana hubungan romantis antara Hana dan Aydin dalam novel tersebut. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif. Data tersebut diambil dari narasi serta dialog Hana dan Aydin di dalam novel. Peneliti menginterpretasikan data dari novel kemudian menganalisisnya dengan teori formula romantis. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa hubungan mereka bermula dari kesalahpahaman dan berakhir dengan bahagia, sesuai dengan formula dari Wyatt dan Saricks. Penelitian ini menyimpulkan bahwa hubungan Hana dan Aydin awalnya mengalami kesalahpahaman atau kesulitan. Sepanjang cerita, hubungan mereka semakin membaik setelah saling mengenal, Hana dan Aydin akhirnya bisa menyelesaikan kesalahpahaman di antara mereka dan membuat hubungan mereka semakin erat dan romantis.

Kata kunci: formula romantis; hubungan; romansa; cinta

INTRODUCTION

In literary works, romance is one of the genres that is often found in literary works. Fuchs (2004) stated that romance is generally defined by the constant love between the hero and the heroine. Romance plots are usually experienced by characters in literary



works and developing relationships between two characters. In the romance theory by Wyatt and Saricks, focuses on the emotional journey experienced by the characters. “Romance novels focus on the emotional and physical union of two central characters.” (Wyatt & Saricks, 2019).

The research paper especially with romance theory discusses the novel *Hana Khan Carries on* by Uzma Jalaluddin (2021) still tends to be limited. In previous studies that mostly discussed Islamophobia, such as Journal by Amrullah and Sa’adah (2024) that focuses on how islamophobia is described in the novel and thesis by Hamidah (2023) that focus on the portrayal of alienation of South Asian Muslim women in the novel, this paper will focus on the romantic relationship between Hana and Aydin. The relationship between Hana and Aydin starts when Aydin opens a new halal restaurant. Hana hates her new competitor and tries to sabotage the business. Throughout the story, they start to get to know each other and start to get a romantic feeling. From the story, the researcher will analyze the novel with a focus on the theme of romance that happened between the characters.

Analyzing literary works with romance theory is important because books with romantic themes can make readers feel that their emotions are represented. The reader also expects such a relationship with their partner from what they have read. From the explanation, the researcher realizes that literary works with romantic themes offer emotional experiences that readers can enjoy. “Romance books can provide readers with the feeling of being cared for and receiving the same level of attention they give to others.” (Garciano et al., 2023). Literary works with romance themes can also influence the way readers understand a relationship. These literary works often show an ideal relationship between characters that can influence the reader's perspective on romantic relationships.

This research uses Wyatt and Saricks' romance theory to analyze the romantic relationship between Hana and Aydin in the novel *Hana Khan Carries On*. This research focuses on the relationship between Hana and Aydin throughout the novel. By analyzing the romance formula in the novel, the researcher will reveal how the romantic storyline between the main characters. This research aims to make readers understand more about how the romantic relationship between Hana and Aydin is described in the novel.



LITERATURE REVIEW

Romance is one of the genres that has many readers. “Romance-themed books sell the most of all genres”(Garciano et al., 2023). Sales of romance books have always been the highest among other genres. Romance books are still relevant nowadays because the genre relates to the reader’s life. People are drawn to romantic stories because they feel that the stories represent the ideal relationship for many people. “Romantic love is a phenomenon of immense interest to the general public” (Bode & Kushnick, 2021).

Kirtley and Kirtley (2022) said that most romances are written with a great story and come up with a strong character. In romance novels, a good storyline can keep the readers invested. The large number of authors who have written various forms of romance also makes readers continue to choose the romance genre among others. One of the authors, Uzma Jalaluddin, presents a romantic story with a main character from a Muslim background. “The bond between Muslims and God is based on love.” (Ash-sheha, 2017). As for the Muslims, the romantic element is associated with love for God. Just as the relationship between Muslims and God is strengthened by love, the relationship between Hana and Aydin also becomes stronger with love for each other.

The common plot in the romance genre begins with a misunderstanding between two characters and finds a satisfying ending, “The story features either a misunderstanding between the protagonists or outside circumstances that force them apart, followed by the satisfactory resolution of their romantic relationship.” (Wyatt & Saricks, 2019). The main character will encounter internal or external problems that can also help him develop throughout the story. This problem can be directly related to other characters who will later become partners. After facing a complicated conflict, the character will find a way to solve the problem and often ends with a happy ending. The romantic genre focuses on the emotional and romantic relationship between two characters and emphasizes the development of relationships between characters. Wyatt and Saricks (2019) stated that the focus of romance novels is on the developing relationship between the two characters. In the romantic genre, the author will also describe how the two characters experience emotional growth. The essence of this genre is to explore how two people form a deep bond and lead the story to a happy ending.



RESEARCH METHODS

The researcher used a descriptive qualitative method. This research uses the primary data source from the novel *Hana Khan Carries On* by Uzma Jalaluddin. The researcher gathered the data by closely reading the narrations, monologues and dialogues from the two main characters. Afterwards, the researcher categorized the relevant data based on the romance theory by Wyatt and Saricks. Following the data collection, the researcher interprets the narrations or dialogues of Hana and Aydin with the romance storyline by Wyatt and Saricks. Then the researcher classified the data into the findings and discussion.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The analysis reveals the finding that focuses on the depiction of the romance storyline in the *Hana Khan Carries On* by Uzma Jalaluddin. The researcher organizes the findings based on the romance storyline by Wyatt and Saricks.

Misunderstanding

Romance storylines usually begin with a misunderstanding. At the beginning of the story, Hana finds out that Aydin and his father are opening a new restaurant in the neighbourhood. She misunderstood Aydin's intention about the new restaurant, "You mean live with it until you and your father put my family out of business?" (Jalaluddin, 2021, p. 89). Hana believes that Aydin and his father opened a new restaurant to sabotage her family business. This misunderstanding leads their relationship into conflict and makes Hana create a plan to sabotage his business. According to Wyatt and Saricks, the romantic story features a misunderstanding between the protagonists, followed by a satisfactory resolution.

Aydin also tries to explain that his new restaurant is not to sabotage Hana's family business, "I mean it. All I've done is open a restaurant on the same street as Three Sisters." (Jalaluddin, 2021, p. 140). From Aydin's point of view, it is just a standard business practice, he just doesn't know that it means very personally to Hana. Hana is emotionally invested in her family business, so that's why Hana found that Aydin's new restaurant would put her out of business.

When Aydin confesses that he already fell for her, Hana denies it, "Don't fool yourself into thinking you actually feel something for me, Aydin. That's not love ... Love doesn't deceive, or play games, or always take." (Jalaluddin, 2021, p. 214). From the



dialogue, the researcher found that Hana misunderstood the intention of Aydin's confession. Hana still feels disappointed about her business rival and believes that Aydin's feelings cannot be considered as love. She thinks that the confession is just how Aydin playing games with her.

Conflict

This conflict happened because Hana tried to sabotage Aydin's business. Hana feels that her family business will be threatened if Aydin succeeds in developing his business, to overcome this, Hana sabotages Aydin's restaurant. As for Aydin, he sees those actions as a threat and leading to feelings of betrayal. "You spread rumors online about Wholistic Grill. You called Workers Safety and tried to shut down my renovations ..." (Jalaluddin, 2021, p. 213).

In the dialogue when Aydin shouts to confess his feelings, "I wasn't supposed to fall for you!" (Jalaluddin, 2021, p. 214), he is showing an expression of frustration and struggle over the feeling that he developed for Hana. This tension leads to an emotional conflict between the two main characters. By confessing to Hana, Aydin admits to the romantic feeling that he cannot deny. Wyatt and Saricks stated that romance storylines often build tension through emotional conflict and misunderstandings, then come with a happy conclusion.

Reconciliation

According to Wyatt and Saricks, characters in the romance genre are forced to change. This change also happened to Aydin, "I am sorry for the hurt I caused you. I respect you and your family very much, and from now on I would like for us to be cordial business allies." (Jalaluddin, 2021, p. 230). Aydin's apology is the first step to clear up the emotional conflict that occurred between him and Hana. By apologizing, Aydin admitted that his actions were wrong and made Hana feel hurt. This moment shows the turning point of the relationship between them, Aydin's apology and offer to start over shows that he already has an emotional feeling towards Hana.

After Hana misunderstands the intention of Aydin's confession, Hana starts to accept her feelings, "... It's been a rough few months but I'm ready to face whatever comes next, together." (Jalaluddin, 2021, p. 290). This dialogue shows that Hana is ready to move forward with Aydin. Hana finally overcomes the misunderstanding and conflict that happened over the past few months. They both have worked through their emotional



conflict and are ready to face anything together. Wyatt and Saricks note that romance narratives often conclude with a sense of hope and optimism for the future. According to Wyatt and Saricks, the resolution of conflict between romantic protagonists is a crucial moment in romance narratives.

In Hana's other narrative she says, "I finally let go of my fear and distrust and let myself fall too." (Jalaluddin, 2021, p. 232) shows that Hana finally acknowledges her feelings toward Aydin, and she chooses to fall in love with him. In this moment, Hana lets go of her fear and distrust due to her conflict with Aydin to start a romantic relationship.

Happy ending

In the ending when Hana says, "The other halal restaurant on our street is Wholistic Burgers and Grill. It's owned and run by my husband, Aydin Shah." (Jalaluddin, 2021, p. 290), shows the key point of Wyatt and Saricks' romance storyline. The fact that Hana and Aydin continue to run their restaurant and get married really depicts a satisfying conclusion. Hana's narrative depicts the happy ending of the relationship between them. Hana and Aydin can overcome the business and emotional conflict that happened and end up becoming a lover.

Wyatt and Saricks stated that the romance storyline aims for a happy ending that really suits for Hana and Aydin's relationship. "We plan to live mostly happily ever after, which is the best anyone can hope for in this life," (Jalaluddin, 2021, p. 291). This narrative reflects the happy ending of their relationship. From the narrative, readers will recognize that Hana and Aydin's romantic storyline has reached a happy conclusion. Hana's hope for the relationship also shows the emotional growth between them.

CONCLUSION(S)

In conclusion, the storyline between Hana and Aydin aligns with the romance storyline by Wyatt and Saricks. The relationship starts with a misunderstanding between them. The conflict happens when Hana sabotages Aydin's new restaurant, and he sees those actions as a threat. Aydin also confesses his feelings towards Hana, but she misunderstands the confession and believes that it cannot be considered as love. At the end of the story, they finally can solve the problem between them. Hana accepts Aydin's apology and acknowledges her feelings towards Aydin. The storyline conforms to Wyatt

and Saricks' theory that a romance storyline might find difficulty at first then turn into a happy ending.

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