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**AGENT AND EXPERIENCER IN PUDARNYA PESONA CLEOPATRA  
NOVEL BY HABIBURRAHMAN EL SHIRAZY: A STUDY OF  
SEMANTIC ROLE**

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**ABSTRACT**

This research purposes at describing the roles of semantic study precisely the roles of agent and experiencer in *Pudarnya Pesona Cleopatra* novel written by Habiburrahman El Shirazy. The research conducted by the writer is qualitative research. The data of this study are agent and experiencer roles that the data source is taken from *Pudarnya Pesona Cleopatra* novel written by Habiburrahman El Shirazy published in 2003. The method that is used by the writer to collect the data is documentation with the steps: (1) figure out the sentences that contain agent and experiencer in that novel, (2) classify the types of sentences by investigating the novel. In analyzing data, the writer used Saeed's theory of participant roles for the major theory. The result of this study shows that there are seventeen patterns that are classified into two roles. They are ten sentences of the agent and seven sentences of the experiencer.

**Keywords:** *Semantic, Participant Roles, Agent, Experiencer*

**INTRODUCTION**

When people read something, mostly they just can read without knowing the meaning of the sentence or the roles of the sentence. One of media that can be used for learning a language that has the aesthetics, honesty, and truth is literature. Literature is the sequence of events represented in literature work to convey the idea of writer or writer's thought (Wellek and Warren cited in Sari, 2014:10). Literature has an important role in human life, in which literature can equip people to be able to navigate their life. Literature can also reveal the values of life and the events that show aspects of life such as religious values, moral values, social values, and cultural values. These values can enlighten the human conscience to face the problems of life with wise and prudent. One of the literary works that absorb the reality of life and elevate the values contained in the society is novel. Novel is one of the literary works that absorb the reality of life and elevate the values contained in the society. Novel is a literary work that explores human life, both individual and collective existence in the face of problems that occur, for example, with fellow human beings, the environment, and yourself. A novel usually talks about life and the story of some characters from the beginning to the end of the story. Then, novel is built by some elements, such as the events of the story (plot), characters, theme, setting, point of view, style, figurative language etc. (cited from Rosmawaty,2013: 1).

According to the explanation above, the writer found that novel is not only the media or entertaining but also can be the object of a study in which the data source for this study is. It is supported by Shreeve's notion (Goodyer, 2008:13) that the novel is a narrative text that has a sequence of occurrences that consisting of the

beginning, the middle, and the end. Novel has a wide depiction of the characters' lives portray, which is inspired by the reality in society. Then, the writer of the novel tries to imagine that reality into his/her work. Hence, the author has to show the sensitivity and skills through imaginary and the imagination such as remaking phenomena more attractive than the real one to attract the reader. For the example, the author is making the story more dramatic and beautiful at the same time.

So, the writer found an interesting subject to be discussed for this study. One of the interesting subjects to be discussed for research by writers in linguistics is semantic, specifically about thematic roles. Therefore, the writers were interested in examining thematic roles especially agent and experiencer occurring in Pudarnya Pesona Cleopatra's novel written by Habiburrahman El Shirazy.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

Based on the background of the research above, the writer formulated some theories regarding semantic study about thematic roles specifically about agent and experience.

Semantics is the study of language about meaning, the relationship of meaning with the effect on humans or society. Semantics includes the meaning of words, their development, and changes. Meanwhile, according to Saeed (1997) semantics is the study of meaning that is communicated through language. So semantic is defined as a branch of linguistics that studied about meaning, and the combinations of meaning in which making a new broader form of the meaning that is phrase and a sentence meaning. Semantics also related to the philosophy of language. It explains the meaning, or in other words, it is the study of meaning so that it does not only find out the sentences but also its meaning in a novel. It is related to the literal meaning and the way combined the words to be taken together form the core of the meaning of words (Kearn cited in Rahmah, 2018:2).

In the semantic study, there are thematic roles or theta roles or participant roles that are used to explain the entity in an event as the part played (O'Grady et al as cited in Marlina, 2012:2). There are some roles of semantic as follows:

1. Actor, the participant who control the situation, symbolized with predicate
2. Agent, the participant that initiates the action, "*volition*", capable of acting with volition
3. Experiencer, the entity which is aware of the action or state described by the predicate, but which is not in control
4. Patient, the entity undergoing the effect of some action, often change of state
5. Beneficiary, the entity for whose benefit the action was performed
6. Instrument, the means by which an action is performed or something comes about
7. Theme, the entity which is moved by an action, or whose location is described
8. Goal, the entity towards which something moves
9. Source, the entity from which something moves
10. Location, an expression that refers to the place where the action is explained.

According to Frawley cited in Rahman, (2018:7) that Participant roles can be identified by not only necessarily nouns and verbs but also entail the arguments and predicates to be picked up the meaning of words. But, the writers limit the object of the study to be researched due to agent and experiencer that can be investigated by the function of noun phrase that is closely related to the action verb. By observing

the verb, we can decide whether a subject in the sentence has a role either an agent or an experiencer.

## METHOD

This study focuses on figuring out and investigating semantic roles, precisely agent and experiencer only in *Pudarnya Pesona Cleopatra* novel written by Habiburrahman El Shirazy. Consequently, this research utilized a qualitative case study that is an empirical inquiry into the meaning as systematic form (Shank cited in Goethals, 2004: 3). The data used in this research were some sentences in the novel of *Pudarnya Pesona Cleopatra* that contain agent and experiencer as semantic roles study. The fulfillment of this method was done by getting at the same time collecting data sourced from *Pudarnya Pesona Cleopatra* novel written by Habiburrahman El Shirazy as well as some references from journals related to the object of this study. The technique in collecting data used in this study is a qualitative approach. The writer took the sentences from the novel and analyze based on agent and experiencer as semantic roles study. There are some steps in analyzing data like the following: (1) Tracing the main objects to be analyzed through the novel. (2) Collecting the sentences based on the classifications. (3). The results of some evidence of sentences from novel ***Pudarnya Pesona Cleopatra*** written by Habiburrahman El Shirazy became the basic objects of the study to complete the analysis of this study.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

The finding of this research is the use of verbs that can be investigated whether they use agent or experiencer as well as analyzing the types of the sentence. The detail results of this study are as follows:

### Agent

According to Saeed (2003:149), maintained agent is the initiator of some action with free will or conscious will. It means the action verb indicating the role of the agent. Different from Saeed, Wei-Yun Ma et.al (2015: 4):

“Agent is a conscious actor which performs an action with control (on purpose) and has a physical, visible effect on object. It is a Noun or Noun Phrase syntactically, the inherent semantic features for the proto-agent are causative, volitive, and perceptive.”

Agent usually can be found in transitive sentence (the sentence that needs the objects), both mono transitive sentences (the sentences that has only an object), ditransitive sentences (the sentences that has two objects, namely, direct object and indirect object marked by the preposition), and complex sentences (the sentence that has object complement) cited from Nurhapidudin (2019: 62-75). The followings are the results of the sentences of agent in *Pudarnya Pesona Cleopatra* novel written by Habiburrahman El Shirazy:

- 1) *Beliau memaksaku untuk menikah dengan gadis itu.*

The subject in the sentences above serves as the agent because the subject is the one that initiated or started the action. The subject—*beliau* is agent because responsible of forcing someone to married to the girl/ *memaksaku*, here the subject is having desire to make the object do what he wants . If *beliau* is omitted, the

sentence will be weird or ambiguous. The action involved in the sentence is "force"/ *memaksa* which indicates the existence of an act done by someone. So that, *beliau* as the subject is considered as the agent. This sentence also considered as a complex transitive sentence because this sentence contains of a subject (*beliau*) + verb (*memaksa*) + object (*ku*) + object complement (*untuk menikah dengan gadis itu*), as we can see that this sentence has the object complement which is the characteristic of a complex sentence. So this sentence is called agent because of this sentence is complex transitive sentence as well as the explanation above.

2) *Aku telah berusaha menemukan cahaya cinta itu.*

The subject in the sentences above serves as the agent because the subject is the one that initiated or started the action. The subject—*aku* is agent because responsible of having tried to find the light of love/*telah berusaha menemukan*. If *aku* is omitted, the sentence will be weird or ambiguous. The action involved in the sentence is "have tried to find"/ *telah berusaha menemukan* which indicates the existence of an act done by someone. So that, *aku* as the subject is considered as the agent. This sentence also considered as a mono transitive sentence as this sentence contains of a subject (*aku*) + verb (*berusaha menemukan*) + object (*cahaya cinta itu*), as we can see that this sentence has only an object that is called direct object. So this sentence is agent because of this sentence is mono-transitive sentence as well as the explanation above for the features of agent.

3) *Ia mencari-cari kejelasan apa yang sebenarnya terjadi pada diriku.*

The subject in the sentences above serves as the agent because the subject is the one that initiated or started the action. The subject—*Ia* is agent because responsible for looking for clarity/*mencari kejelasan*. If *Ia* is omitted, the sentence will be weird or ambiguous. The action involved in the sentence is "looking for"/*mencari* which indicates the existence of an act done by someone. Therefore, '*Ia*' as the subject is considered as the agent. Another reason why this sentence is considered as agent is because this sentence is a complex sentence as this sentence contains of a subject (*Ia*) + verb (*mencari-cari*) + object (*kejelasan*) + object complement (*apa yang sebenarnya terjadi pada diriku*), as we can see that this sentence has object complement which is the characteristic of a complex sentence so that this sentence is agent because this sentence is complex transitive sentence and is based on the explanation above.

4) *Aku melepaskan semua pakaian yang basah dan memakai sarung.*

The subject in the sentences above serves as the agent because the subject is the one that initiated or started the action. The subject—*aku* is agent because responsible for taking off the clothes/*melepaskan pakaian*. If *aku* is omitted, the sentence will be weird or ambiguous. The action involved in the sentence is "taking off"/ *melepaskan* which indicates the existence of an act done by someone. Therefore, *aku* as the subject is considered as the agent. Another reason why is this sentence considered as agent is because this sentence is a ditransitive sentence, as this sentence contains of a subject (*aku*) + verb (*melepaskan*) + indirect object

(*semua pakaian yang basah*) + direct object (*dan memakai sarung*), as we can see that this sentence has two objects that is called indirect object (located to the closest to the predicate) and direct object and. This sentence is called agent based on the explanation above.

5) *Raihana telah berdiri didepan pintu kamar mandi dan memberikan handuk.*

The subject in the sentences above serves as the agent because the subject is the one that initiated or started the action. The subject—*Raihana* is agent because responsible for standing in front of the bathroom door /*berdiri di depan pintu kamar mandi*. If *Raihana* is omitted, the sentence will be weird or ambiguous. The action involved in the sentence is "standing"/ *berdiri* which indicates the existence of an act done by someone. Therefore, *Raihana* as the subject is considered as the agent. This sentence also considered as a complex transitive sentence because this sentence contains a subject (*Raihana*) + verb (*telah berdiri*) + object (*didepan pintu kamar mandi*) + object complement (*dan memberikan handuk*), as we can see that this sentence has the object complement which is the characteristic of a complex sentence. This sentence is called agent, based on the explanation above.

6) *Aku menyantap bubur kacang hijau itu dengan lahap.*

The subject in the sentences above serves as the agent because the subject is the one that initiated or started the action. The subject—*aku* is agent because responsible for eating *bubur kacang/menyantap bubur kacang*. If *aku* is omitted, the sentence will be weird or ambiguous. The action involved in the sentence is "eating"/ *menyantap* which indicates the existence of an act done by someone. Therefore, *aku* as the subject is considered as the agent. Another reason why this sentence is considered as agent is because this sentence is a mono-transitive sentence as this sentence contains a subject (*Aku*) + verb (*menyantap*) + object (*bubur kacang hijau itu dengan lahap*), as we can see that this sentence has only one object which is the characteristic of a simple sentence. This sentence is called agent, based on the explanation above.

7) *Aku memperhatikan wajah Raihana.*

The subject in the sentences above serves as the agent because the subject is the one that initiated or started the action. The subject—*aku* is agent because responsible for paying attention/*memperhatikan*. If *aku* is omitted, the sentence will be weird or ambiguous. The action involved in the sentence is "paying attention"/ *memperhatikan* which indicates the existence of an act done by someone. Therefore, *aku* as the subject is considered as the agent. Another reason why this sentence is considered as agent is because this sentence is a mono-transitive sentence as this sentence contains a subject (*Aku*) + verb (*memperhatikan*) + object (*wajah Raihana*), as we can see that this sentence has only one object which is the characteristic of a simple sentence. This sentence is called agent, based on the explanation above.

8) *Aku membeli stelan jas terbaik.*

The subject in the sentences above serves as the agent because the subject is the one that initiated or started the action. The subject—*aku* is agent because responsible for buying a suit/*membeli setelan jas*. If *aku* is omitted, the sentence will be weird or ambiguous. The action involved in the sentence is "buying"/ *membeli* which indicates the existence of an act done by someone. Therefore, *aku* as the subject is considered as the agent. Another reason why this sentence is considered as agent is because this sentence is a mono-transitive sentence as this sentence contains of a subject (*Aku*) + verb (*membeli*) + object (*stelan jas terbaik*), as we can see that this sentence has only one object which is the characteristic of a simple sentence. This sentence is called agent, based on the explanation above.

9) *Aku bangkit mangambil air wudhu dan shalat.*

The subject in the sentences above serves as the agent because the subject is the one that initiated or started the action. The subject—*aku* is agent because responsible for having tried to find the light of rising/*bangkit*. If *aku* is omitted, the sentence will be weird or ambiguous. The action involved in the sentence is "rising"/ *bangkit* which indicates the existence of an act done by someone. Therefore, *aku* as the subject is considered as the agent. Another reason why this sentence is considered as agent is because this sentence is a ditransitive sentence as this sentence contains of a subject (*Aku*) + verb (*bangkit mengambil*) + indirect object (*air wudhu*) + direct object (*dan shalat*), as we can see that this sentence has two object that is called indirect object (located to the closest to the predicate) and direct object.

10) *Aku membeli mie instant satu kardus.*

The subject in the sentences above serves as the agent because the subject is the one that initiated or started the action. The subject—*aku* is agent because responsible for buying/*membeli*. If *aku* is omitted, the sentence will be weird or ambiguous. The action involved in the sentence is "buying"/ *membeli* which indicates the existence of an act done by someone. So, *aku* as the subject is considered as the agent. Another reason why this sentence is considered as agent is because this sentence is a mono-transitive sentence as this sentence contains a subject (*Aku*) + verb (*membeli*) + object (*mie instant satu kardus*).

### **Experiencer**

Experiencer is the entity which is aware of the action but cannot control the action (Saeed, 2003:149). It implies that an intensive verb indicated has the role of experiencer. Different from Saeed, Wei-Yun Ma et.al (2015: 6-7) state that experiencer is an animate being who perceives a stimulus or registers a particular mental or emotional process or state. It can be a Noun or Noun Phrase syntactically; it is usually a subject of a mental predicate. The inherent semantic features of the proto-experiencer are perceptive and affected. Experiencer usually can be found in intensive sentence in which the verb is a mental verb that can only be felt and thought

by the patient. The followings are results of the sentences of experiencer in *Pudarnya Pesona Cleopatra* novel written by Habiburrahman El Shirazy:

- 1) *Aku sangat mencintaimu mas.*

The sentence above presents the role of experiencer. Because the word *aku* is experiencing love which is the verb that expresses the emotion of *aku* onto him (*mas*). And this sentence is considered as intensive sentence in which it contains a mental verb ‘mencintai/love’ that can be felt by the patient herself, if she does not confess her feeling toward him, he will never know what she feels.

- 2) *Aku lupa tidak membawa jas hujan.*

The role of experiencer is present in *aku* because it is identified as an uncontrolled situation that the character of *aku* forgot to bring a suit. This sentence is considered as an intensive sentence in which it contains a mental verb ‘lupa/forgot’ that is can be found in his own mind.

- 3) *Aku merasa rasa mulas dan mual dalam perutku tidak bisa kutahan.*

The role of the experience is present in the words *aku*. He is identified as the entity which is aware of the state, and the person who feels the heartburn and nausea in his stomach.

- 4) *Sejak itu aku semakin sedih.*

The word *aku* in the sentence above is considered as the experiencer because he is the person who feels sad. This sentence is considered as an intensive sentence in which contains a mental verb ‘sedih/feels sad’ that can be felt by the patient himself, if he does not tell others that he feels sad, then the others probably will not know that.

- 5) *Aku menggigil kedingingan.*

The word *aku* in the sentence above is considered as the experiencer because he felt shivers because of cold. And the others may not experience the same thing.

- 6) *Sejak itu saya mengalami depresi.*

The word *saya* in the sentence above is considered as the experiencer because he is the person who feels the depression. This sentence is considered as an intensive sentence in which it contains a mental verb ‘depresi/depressed’ which can only be experienced by the patient.

- 7) *Rinduku padanya menggelegak-gelegak.*

The sentence above shows the role of experiencer because the word ‘*ku*’ experiences miss/long which is the verb that expresses the emotion of *aku* for her (-

nya). This sentence is considered as an intensive sentence which contains a mental verb ‘rindu/missing’ which can only be felt by the patient. ‘Rindu/missing’ lies on everyone’s heart so that the person whom we miss will not notice if we do not tell them that we long for them.

## CONCLUSIONS

Based on the findings above, the semantic role by using verbs in the sentence can be found. Also, all of the subjects in the sentences are animates agent, capable of making decision to undertake or to start an action, namely, capable of acting with volition. Agent usually can be found in transitive sentence, namely, mono- transitive sentences (the sentences that has only an object), ditransitive sentences (the sentences that has two objects, namely direct object and indirect object marked by the preposition), and complex sentences (the sentence that has object complement). Meanwhile, experiencer is also an animate subject but uncontrolled one, without conscious will of the subject. Later, experiencer usually can be found in intensive sentence in which there is a mental verb that can only be felt and thought by the patient. The writer found ten sentences of agent and seven sentences of experiencer as semantic roles. The noun phrases as subjects of the sentences are the roles of agent and experiencer.

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