

Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm Short Story “Cinderella”: The Intrinsic and Extrinsic Elements Perspective

Martina Girsang¹, Ester Mandalahi², Grace Siregar³, Romaito Marbun⁴, Novita Siagian⁵

^{1,2,3,4,5} Universitas Methodist

e-mail: martinagirsang253@gmail.com¹, romaitomarbun75@gmail.com²,
esterbrmandalahi2004@gmail.com³, gracesilo774@gmail.com⁴,
novitasarisiagian7@gmail.com⁵

Abstrak

Penelitian ini menganalisis cerpen “Cinderella” karya Jacob dan Wilhelm Grimm dengan mengkaji unsur intrinsik dan ekstrinsiknya. “Cinderella” termasuk dalam prosa fiksi, bagian dari karya sastra. Unsur intrinsik dalam prosa terdiri dari tema, alur, latar, tokoh dan penokohan, sudut pandang, konflik, gaya, dan nada. Unsur ekstrinsik meliputi pengaruh sejarah, budaya, dan sosial, nilai-nilai, serta moral yang terkandung dalam cerita. Kedua aspek tersebut akan menjadi fokus penelitian ini, sehingga melalui cerita “Cinderella”, pembaca dapat menyelami lebih dalam makna yang ingin disampaikan pengarang. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif dengan metode deskriptif-analitis, pengumpulan data dari jurnal ilmiah, literatur, dan artikel serta analisis intrinsik dan ekstrinsik. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa dengan mengetahui unsur intrinsik dan ekstrinsik, pembaca dapat lebih memahami dan memaknai makna sebuah cerita secara lebih mendalam, serta ekspresi karya sastra itu sendiri.

Kata kunci: *Cinderella, Ekstrinsik, Intrinsik, Karya Sastra*

Abstract

This research analyzes the short story “Cinderella” by Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm, examining the intrinsic and extrinsic elements perspective. “Cinderella” belongs to fictional prose, a part of literary works. Intrinsic elements in prose consist of theme, plot, setting, character and characterization, point of view, conflict, style and tone. Extrinsic elements include historical, cultural and social influences, values and morals contained in the story. These two aspects will be the focus of this research, so that through the story of “Cinderella”, readers can delve deeper into the meaning the author wants to convey. This research uses a qualitative approach with descriptive-analytic methods, data collection from scientific journals, literature, and articles as well as intrinsic and extrinsic analysis. The results show that by knowing the intrinsic and extrinsic elements, readers can better understand and interpret the meaning of a story more deeply, as well as the expression of the literary work itself.

Keywords : *Cinderella, Extrinsic, Intrinsic, Literary Works*

INTRODUCTION

Literary works, crafted by authors, serve as vessels for conveying thoughts, ideas, and emotions to readers through various forms such as prose, poetry, and drama, encompassing both fiction and non-fiction. These works inherently possess layers of meaning and functions tied to their structural elements. The timeless short story “Cinderella” exemplifies this complexity, as readers often overlook the profound insights intended by the Brothers Grimm until they delve into the story’s literary components. Analytical engagement allows readers to explore the story from diverse perspectives—reflecting personal experiences or drawing lessons from the lives of others. Consequently, this research seeks to examine both the intrinsic and extrinsic elements within “Cinderella,” aiming to unveil the deeper messages conveyed by the author and to celebrate the exquisite artistry of literature itself.

Literary elements can be categorized into two distinct realms: the intrinsic and the extrinsic. Intrinsic elements serve as the foundational components and encompass theme, character development, point of view, setting (including time, place, and atmosphere), plot, and the underlying message (Marlina et al., 2021; Ramdan et al., 2020; E. Saragih et al., 2022). Conversely, extrinsic elements refer to the contextual factors reflecting the author's attitude and worldview that influence the creation of a work (Apriyana et al., 2022; Marlina et al., 2021; E. Saragih et al., 2022). These elements are intricately connected, as they both illuminate the internal architecture of a story and the external forces that shape its creation.

Before delving deeper into the intrinsic and extrinsic approaches present in the tale of "Cinderella," it is essential to first define what Literature signifies and how it has been characterized. The term "literature" finds its roots in the Latin word "litteratura," which signifies "writing composed of letters" (Shakhnoza & Kizi, 2023). This, in turn, is derived from "littera," the Latin word for "letter," as in the individual characters of the alphabet (Sinha, 2025). Although "litteratura" originally encompassed the entire written works and knowledge, the contemporary understanding of literature has evolved to emphasize artistic expression, particularly within the realms of poetry, drama, and prose. Thus, in its essence, literature encompasses both grammar and poetry, with literary figures being those adept in the arts of language and verse.

According to the Collins English Dictionary (in Noviana, 2023), literature encompasses a wide array of written works—including poetry, novels, essays, and more—distinguished by their imaginative nature and marked by a high standard of style and expression, as well as themes that resonate universally or endure through time. Thus, literature serves as an expansive term that embraces both fiction and non-fiction, spanning various forms such as novels, short stories, biographies, and textbooks, as well as articles found in scientific journals, news outlets, and opinion pieces, alongside diverse other writings like essays, poems, dramas, and scripts.

Juden (in Isariyawat et al., 2020) posits that literature encompasses any written piece that has garnered acclaim. The true beauty of literature lies in its language, the thoughtful choice of words, and its compelling content, all of which work in harmony to engage the reader. Literature transcends the mere physical elements present in a writer's work—such as diction, language function, and word choice (Baan, 2021). It encompasses deeper, intangible aspects that enrich the reading experience, including the profound messages the author seeks to communicate and the layered meanings embedded within each word. Literary creations are a manifestation of a writer's profound thoughts, crafted to articulate their ideas through the rich tapestry of oral and written language (Amalia & Juanda, 2021). These works may take the enchanting form of poetry or unfold in the compelling story style of prose.

Based on the insights provided by the aforementioned experts, it is evident that the study of literature is intrinsically linked to the analysis of literary works. Through such analysis, readers can delve deeper into the meanings conveyed and experience the emotions that the author imparts. Consequently, the researchers are motivated to undertake this research to facilitate a greater understanding of the Cinderella story, particularly for individuals who are both students and enthusiasts of this timeless tale. The researchers aspire that this journal will inspire students to engage with fresh perspectives and analyses of Cinderella story as told by the Brothers Grimm.

METHOD

This research adopts a qualitative methodology, employing a descriptive-analytical framework to explore the story "Cinderella" by Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm. Qualitative research represents a deeply philosophical approach that facilitates the exploration of scientific phenomena through or addressing research inquiries that elude resolution through mere numerical and statistical analysis (Susanto et al., 2024). Descriptive qualitative research, in particular, articulates research findings using rich, expressive language, providing a nuanced understanding of the data (D. Saragih et al., 2023; Susanto et al., 2024).

This research examines both intrinsic and extrinsic elements of the story. Data are sourced from primary texts, specifically the "Cinderella" tale, alongside a variety of secondary resources, including scholarly journals, articles, and pertinent literature. The intrinsic analysis investigates essential components such as plot, character development, setting, themes, and stylistic choices

that shape the story. In contrast, the extrinsic analysis considers the historical backdrop, cultural influences, and biographical aspects that informed the authors' writing. This descriptive-analytical approach facilitates a profound exploration of the story's meaning, illuminating the moral and social messages that the authors intended to convey through both the internal and external contexts interwoven within the story.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The tale of "Cinderella," as rendered by the Brothers Grimm under the title "Aschenputtel," presents a succinct story framework centered around a singular, compelling plot, which lends it the qualities of a short story. While numerous adaptations exist, differing in length and detail, the essence of this story remains rich and straightforward—a hallmark of the short story genre. This research aims to delve into the intrinsic and extrinsic elements that are pivotal to the discussion in this journal. Hence, the intrinsic elements in "Cinderella" story are as follows:

1. Theme

a. Kindness and Patience

"She had to build the fire, carry water, cook, wash, and get up before dawn. She had to spend the entire day sifting peas and lentils into the ashes after her Stepsisters made fun of her, exacerbating her suffering."

➤ This quote illustrates Cinderella's unwavering resolve to persevere through arduous tasks, even in the face of the unjust treatment she endures from her stepmother and stepsisters.

b. Hope and Divine Assistance

"When you want something, simply shake the small tree that has been planted on my grave, and you will receive it. I'll be there for you when you need me. Just continue to be kind and religious."

➤ This statement conveys a profound message of hope, assuring us that goodness will be supported in its rightful moment.

c. Justice and Revelation of Truth

"The prince handed her the golden slipper, and said, 'Try it on. If it fits you, you shall be my wife.' She pulled the heavy shoe from her left foot, then put her foot into the slipper, pushing ever so slightly. It fit as if it had been poured over her foot."

➤ This section unveils the truth of Cinderella's character and integrity, culminating in a well-deserved justice for her.

d. Retribution for Arrogance and Deception

"Rook, rook, rook! The shoe contains blood. This bride is not appropriate; the shoe is too tight."

➤ This statement illustrates that the deceitful actions of the stepmother and stepsisters ultimately lead to their downfall, reinforcing the profound moral that malevolence cannot triumph.

e. True Love and Happy Ending

"Cinderella was taken away by the prince. The pigeons yelled, 'Rook di goo, rook di goo!' as they passed past the gate after he assisted her into his carriage. There is no blood in the shoe. This bride is correct the shoe isn't too tight!"

➤ The conclusion of the story illustrates how the profound love between Cinderella and the prince ultimately triumphs, leading to a life filled with joy and fulfillment.

2. Setting

The story unfolds in an enchanting kingdom, steeped in the essence of a timeless fairy tale. Within this realm, significant locations such as Cinderella's abode, the majestic royal palace, and the ethereal realm crafted by her fairy godmother play pivotal roles. Each setting serves as a poignant symbol, mirroring Cinderella's profound journey and transformation.

1) Place Setting

a. Cinderella's House :

- 'After the wedding was over, the three moved into the man's house, and things got very bad for the poor child.'

- 'At night when she was tired, there was no bed for her to sleep on, but she had to lie beside the fireplace in the ashes.'
- b. Cinderella's Mother's Grave :
 - "Her mother asked Cinderella to plant a small tree on her grave, so that if she needed anything, her mother would help her by shaking the tree."
 - "When she got home, Cinderella went back to the tree on her mother's grave and yelled, "Shake yourself, little tree!!!"Please return the clothes to me."
- c. The King's Palace :
 - "At the ball at the castle, Cinderella looked so beautiful with the lights shining on her that everyone was amazed."

2) Setting Time

- a. Undetermined Past Time :
 - "At night when she was tired, there was no bed for her to sleep on"
 - "Long ago, a wealthy man enjoyed a long and happy life with his beloved wife."
 - "Snow blanketed the mother's grave like a soft white shroud, and after the sun had set on it twice."
- b. Ball Night :
 - " The king declared a grand three-day ball, during which his son, the prince, would select a bride."
 - " As the clock neared midnight, she rose, bowed gracefully, and excused herself, saying she had to leave."

3. Plot

The plot unfolds with a timeless linear progression, beginning with an introduction that poignantly reveals Cinderella's struggles. The tension mounts with the announcement of the royal ball, leading to a breathtaking climax marked by her enchanting transformation and fateful encounter with the prince. Ultimately, the story reaches a satisfying resolution, where justice prevails and Cinderella discovers her long-awaited happiness.

4. Character and Characterization

The character of Cinderella emerges as captivating protagonist, epitomizing kindness, patience, and unwavering resilience. In stark contrast, her stepsisters and stepmother embody the darker traits of envy and cruelty. Enriching the story, supporting characters such as the fairy godmother introduce enchanting elements that pave the way for Cinderella's triumph. The prince, in turn, symbolizes a profound recognition of her intrinsic virtues.

5. Conflict

The primary conflict unfolds as a poignant struggle between individuals, illustrated by Cinderella's harsh treatment at the hands of her stepmother and stepsisters. In addition, a secondary conflict emerges within Cinderella herself, as she grapples with the tumultuous emotions of despair and the flickering light of hope.

6. Point of View (POV)

The story perspective employed in the story is that of the third-person omniscient point of view. Through this lens, the authors expertly craft a tale wherein the narrator possesses profound insight into the inner workings of each character's mind, encompassing their thoughts, emotions, and motivations. This narrator transcends mere observation, offering a rich tapestry of understanding regarding the feelings and intentions of key figures in the story, including Cinderella, her stepmother, and the prince. Below are select quotations that illuminate the depth of this POV :

- a. The narrator knows Cinderella's feelings :

"Cinderella sat down sadly by the hearth and began to spread out the seeds. Once again, the pigeons flew in and asked, "Cinderella, would you like us to help you sort the seeds?"
"Yes, please," she replied."

The narrator not only recounts Cinderella's actions but also delicately captures the essence of her sorrowful spirit.

- b. The narrator understands the stepmother and stepsisters' motives :
"The stepmother had two daughters from her first marriage. While they were outwardly beautiful, their hearts were filled with pride, arrogance, and cruelty."

In this passage, the narrator unveils the genuine character of the stepmother and stepsisters, revealing their true selves to the reader.

- c. The narrator knows the prince's thoughts :
"The prince thought to himself, 'I must choose a bride, and she is the only one I desire.'"

The narrator delves into the prince's innermost thoughts, revealing insights that remain hidden from the other characters.

"Cinderella" story employs an omniscient point of view, artfully weaving together the plot and the characters' emotions, thereby allowing readers to grasp the full depth and richness of the story with clarity and insight.

7. Style and Tone

The story employs a clear and uncomplicated language, reminiscent of the timeless art of oral storytelling. Its tone gracefully shifts between moments of sorrow and joy, beautifully mirroring Cinderella's poignant emotional journey.

Then, the extrinsic elements in "Cinderella" story are as follows:

1. Social and Cultural Context

The story unfolds within a patriarchal society that perceives marriage as a means for women to elevate their circumstances. In this historical context, gender roles are distinctly defined. Despite Cinderella's lack of wealth and social standing, her inherent goodness ultimately leads her to triumph.

2. Historical Influences

The story serves as a poignant reflection of 19th-century German society, shedding light on its perceptions of family dynamics, social hierarchy, and moral values. Although rooted in folklore, the tale of Cinderella intricately illustrates the prevailing lifestyle and the quest for upward mobility within the social fabric.

3. Moral Values

In essence, "Cinderella" imparts a profound moral lesson that underscores the significance of virtuous actions and the belief that kindness will ultimately be rewarded. The tale encourages readers to cultivate patience and maintain faith, even in the face of seemingly unjust circumstances.

Discussion

The intrinsic elements of Cinderella lie in its fundamental themes, characters, and narrative, all of which revolve around the victory of virtue and the protagonist's transformation. Cinderella, the kind-hearted and virtuous heroine, triumphs over the adversities inflicted by her cruel stepmother and stepsisters, with the enchanting support of her fairy godmother. This timeless tale underscores values such as kindness, patience, and the belief that those who endure hardship with dignity will be rewarded. The story follows a classic arc, depicting Cinderella's journey from rags to riches and culminating in her well-deserved happiness. Conversely, the extrinsic elements pertain to the external influences that shape the story's creation and reception, including cultural and historical contexts. Emerging from various folk traditions, Cinderella has been reimagined throughout the ages, with early adaptations reflecting the societal ideals of grace and gentility.

The insights gleaned from this research illuminate the harmonious interplay between the intrinsic and extrinsic elements of the "Cinderella" story, enriching its meaning and complexity. By delving into the intrinsic components, readers are afforded a deeper appreciation of the story's themes, characters, and story structure. For instance, Cinderella's arduous journey and ultimate triumph forge a profound emotional bond with the audience, ensuring the tale's enduring resonance and appeal across generations, despite its origins in a distant past. Through an exploration of the protagonist's trials, readers are invited to experience the profound strength of values such as kindness, patience, and integrity in the face of adversity.

Conversely, the extrinsic elements of the story offer a richer context, deepening the reader's appreciation of the tale. The historical and cultural backdrop of 19th-century Germany, for

instance, illuminates how the story mirrors the prevailing social norms and gender expectations of that era. During this time, women were often relegated to subordinate roles, with their societal aspirations primarily confined to the institution of marriage. Thus, the tale of “Cinderella,” which chronicles the journey from adversity to wealth and joy, emerges as a poignant symbol of hope—resonating not only with the characters within its pages but also speaking to readers across generations and cultures.

The interplay between intrinsic and extrinsic elements enriches the story, imbuing it with profound meaning. Intrinsic elements lay the groundwork for the story, while extrinsic elements weave a richer tapestry of interpretation. Take, for instance, the glass slipper: it functions as a means to discern the rightful recipient of the prince’s affection, yet it also serves as a powerful symbol of Cinderella’s individuality and her destined path. This enchanting thing transcends its role as a mere plot device; it embodies a journey of self-discovery and a belief in the power of fate.

The integration of intrinsic and extrinsic analysis, as demonstrated in this research, enriches the reader’s comprehension of literary works. This dual approach not only uncovers the universal themes woven into the story but also illuminates the cultural values that underpin the story. By engaging with both perspectives, readers can come to see “Cinderella” as more than a mere fairy tale; it emerges as a profound piece of literary art, imbued with moral, emotional, and social insights that resonate across generations, imparting timeless lessons for life.

In summary, the exploration of “Cinderella” underscores the vital interplay between intrinsic and extrinsic perspectives in truly grasping the depth of literary works. This holistic approach enables readers to forge a profound connection with the emotional, moral, and cultural layers woven into the story, thereby enhancing their reading experience and deepening their appreciation for the values embodied in literature.

CONCLUSION

This research elucidates how an exploration of both intrinsic and extrinsic elements within the “Cinderella” story fosters a profound comprehension of its inherent meanings and values. Intrinsic components—such as theme, character, and plot—forge an emotional connection between readers and the story, while extrinsic factors that take into account historical and cultural contexts enhance appreciation for the values shaped by societal norms of the time. The interplay between these elements enriches the reading experience, revealing layers of depth and symbolic significance; for instance, the glass slipper transcends its role as a mere plot device to embody individuality and destiny. By integrating both perspectives, this analysis deepens readers’ insights into the universal themes and cultural relevance that render “Cinderella” an enduring and significant literary masterpiece for diverse audiences. Through this comprehensive lens, readers not only grasp the story of “Cinderella” but also come to value the emotional, moral, and social principles that inform it, thereby elevating their reading experience and fostering a greater appreciation for this literary treasure.

REFERENCES

- Amalia, F. T., & Juanda, J. (2021). THE MEANING OF LANGUAGE IN LITERATURE WORKS AS A CULTURE AND EDUCATION TOOL. *MAHADAYA: Jurnal Bahasa, Sastra, Dan Budaya*, 1(1), 19–24. <https://doi.org/10.34010/mhd.v1i1.4839>
- Apriyana, F., Salamah, S., & Idawati, I. (2022). Analisis Unsur Intrinsik Dan Ekstrinsik Pada Film Festival Anti Korupsi Tahun 2015 Yang Berjudul “Tinuk.” *Lingua Rima: Jurnal Pendidikan Bahasa Dan Sastra Indonesia*, 11(1), 77–86. <https://doi.org/10.31000/lgrm.v11i1.5787>
- Baan, A. (2021). FOLKLORE IN LITERATURE LEARNING AS A MODEL FOR DEVELOPING CULTURAL CHARACTERS AND STUDENT’S PERSONALITY. *ISLLAC: Journal of Intensive Studies on Language, Literature, Art, and Culture*, 5(1), 83–93. <https://doi.org/10.17977/um006v5i12021p83-93>
- Isariyawat, C., Yenphech, C., & Intanoo, K. (2020). The role of literature and literary The role of literature and literary texts in an EFL context: Cultural awareness and language skills. *Journal of Language and Linguistic Studies*, 16(3), 1320–1333. <https://doi.org/10.17263/jlls.803748>

- Marlina, M., Ulinsa, U., Izzati, A. N., & Via, A. (2021). Intrinsic and extrinsic elements of vova sanggayu folklore in pasangayu region. *Proceeding International Conference On Literature*, 355–384.
- Noviana, N. (2023). *REFLECTION OF LIFE VALUES IN ERNEST HEMINGWAY'S THE OLD MAN AND THE SEA* [State Islamic Institute of Ponorogo]. https://etheses.iainponorogo.ac.id/27152/1/204190090_NOVIANA_TBIC-1.pdf
- Ramdan, M., Sudrajat, R. T., & Kamaluddin, T. (2020). Unsur Intrinsik dan Ekstrinsik dalam Film “Jokowi.” *Parole: Jurnal Pendidikan Bahasa Dan Sastra Indonesia*, 3(4), 549–558.
- Saragih, D., Simangunsong, T. I. S., Simanjuntak, D. N., Saragih, R. R. N., & Siagian, K. (2023). Analysis of Types of English Sentences in English Folklore “Jack and the Beanstalk” from American Literature Website. *International Journal Corner of Educational Research*, 2(2), 57–63. <https://doi.org/10.54012/ijcer.v2i2.205>
- Saragih, E., Sinaga, M. U., Simamora, P., & Mustika, S. (2022). Contextualizing extrinsic and intrinsic elements of short stories in Indonesian textbooks for primary school level. *Bahasa Dan Seni: Jurnal Bahasa, Sastra, Seni, Dan Pengajarannya*, 50(1), 74–86. <https://doi.org/10.17977/um015v50i12022p74>
- Shakhnoza, B., & Kizi, K. S. S. (2023). The Early History of Literature. *European Journal of Pedagogical Initiatives and Educational Practices*, 1(4), 9–20. <https://doi.org/10.4159/harvard.9780674337060.c7>
- Sinha, S. (2025). Literature and the Electronic Media of India : An Overview of the Significance of Radio and Television. *Atras Journal*, 6(1), 275–283.
- Susanto, P. C., Yuntina, L., Saribanon, E., Soehaditama, J. P., & Liana, E. (2024). Qualitative Method Concepts: Literature Review, Focus Group Discussion, Ethnography and Grounded Theory. *Siber Journal of Advanced Multidisciplinary (SJAM)*, 2(2), 262–275.