

## Intrinsic and Extrinsic Element of “Snow White” by Brothers Grimm

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### Abstrak

Dalam kajian ini penulis mengeksplorasi interaksi rumit antara elemen intrinsik dan ekstrinsik dalam dongeng abadi Putri Salju, menyoroti signifikansi budaya yang abadi dan interpretasi yang berkembang. Melalui analisis elemen intrinsik seperti karakterisasi, tema, dan struktur naratif, kajian ini menyelidiki komponen inti yang menjadikan Putri Salju sebagai cerita klasik. Tokoh protagonis, Putri Salju, digambarkan sebagai lambang kepolosan dan kebaikan, sementara Ratu Jahat melambangkan kecemburuan dan kesombongan, yang membentuk fondasi konflik moral cerita. Tema-tema sentral, termasuk sifat destruktif dari iri hati dan perjuangan abadi antara kebaikan dan kejahatan, digarisbawahi oleh struktur naratif linier langsung yang menyampaikan pelajaran moral. Melalui analisis elemen ekstrinsik seperti aspek budaya, historis, kemanusiaan, dan sosiologis. Kajian ini menekankan kapasitas kisah untuk penemuan kembali, yang mencerminkan pergeseran budaya yang lebih luas sambil mempertahankan identitas intinya sebagai cerita moral dan didaktik. Dengan meneliti unsur-unsur ini, penelitian ini menyoroti daya tarik abadi dari kisah dongeng tersebut dan kemampuannya untuk menarik perhatian penonton di berbagai era dan konteks.

**Kata Kunci:** *Putri Salju, Unsur, Intrinsik, Ekstrinsik*

### Abstract

In this study the writer explores the intricate interplay between intrinsic and extrinsic elements in the timeless fairy tale *Snow White*, highlighting its enduring cultural significance and evolving interpretations. Through an analysis of intrinsic elements such as characterization, themes, and narrative structure, the study delves into the core components that make *Snow White* a classic. The protagonist, *Snow White*, is portrayed as the epitome of innocence and kindness, while the Evil Queen symbolizes jealousy and vanity, forming the foundation of the story's moral conflict. Central themes, including the destructive nature of envy and the eternal struggle between good and evil, are underscored by a straightforward linear narrative structure that conveys moral lessons. Through an analysis of extrinsic elements such as cultural aspects, historical, humanity, and sociological. The study emphasizes the tale's capacity for reinvention, reflecting broader cultural shifts while maintaining its core identity as a moral and didactic story. By examining these elements, the research highlights the fairy tale's enduring appeal and its ability to resonate with audiences across different eras and contexts.

**Keywords :** *Snow White, Element, Intrinsic, Extrinsic*

### INTRODUCTION

Literature is written material such as poetry, novels, essays, etc, especially works of imagination characterized by excellence of style and expression and by themes of general or enduring interest. According to Roberts and Jacobs (2006:2) said that, Literature is a composition that tells a story, dramatizes a situation, expresses emotions, analyzes and advocates ideas. Where through a fairy tale literary work, we can analyze the elements related to the story *Snow White* fairy tale.

The fairy tale *Snow White* is one of the most iconic and enduring stories in world literature, renowned for its moral themes, captivating characters, and timeless appeal. Originally popularized by the Brothers Grimm in their 1812 collection of folktales, the story has undergone numerous adaptations, spanning literature, theater, and cinema, each reflecting the cultural and historical context of its time. Its universal themes, such as the struggle between good and evil and the consequences of jealousy, continue to resonate with audiences, making it a cornerstone of storytelling traditions.

This analysis aims to examine *Snow White* through two key perspectives: intrinsic and extrinsic elements. The intrinsic elements include the characterization, thematic development, and narrative structure that define the story's core. *Snow White* herself, the embodiment of innocence and virtue, contrasts sharply with the Evil Queen, whose jealousy and vanity drive the plot's central conflict. These dynamics, combined with a linear narrative that emphasizes moral lessons, create a compelling and instructive tale.

On the other hand, the extrinsic elements explore the cultural, historical, and societal influences that have shaped the story's evolution. *Snow White* reflects the values and norms of its origin, particularly those regarding gender roles, beauty, and morality. As the story has been adapted over time, these elements have been reinterpreted to align with changing social attitudes. Modern retellings, for example, challenge traditional portrayals by emphasizing female empowerment and agency.

By analyzing both intrinsic and extrinsic elements, this study seeks to provide a deeper understanding of *Snow White* as a narrative that bridges historical context and universal themes. It explores how the tale has maintained its relevance while adapting to societal changes, illustrating its ability to inspire and engage audiences across generations. Through this examination, the research highlights the profound impact of *Snow White* on literature and culture, emphasizing its significance as both a product of its time and a timeless story of moral and emotional depth.

## METHOD

The methodology for analyzing the intrinsic and extrinsic elements of *snow white* is using a library research. According to George (2008), the library research methods is a way of gathering information by looking at and comprehending information that is directly related to topics found in books, theories, and documents. By using this research, this study provides a detailed analysis of the intrinsic and extrinsic elements of *snow white* and also this study seeks to provide a deeper understanding of *snow white* as a narrative that bridges historical context and universal themes.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

When discussing and analyzing a literary work, including novels, short stories and poetry, it cannot be separated from analyzing two elements, namely internal elements and extrinsic elements. In this section, the research results we have obtained will be presented and discussed in detail. Here are some of the findings from the data analysis that was done. There are a number of explanations that will be discussed in more detail.

### Intrinsic Elements

According to Nurgiyantoro (2013:30), intrinsic elements are elements that build the literary work itself. The intrinsic elements of *Snow White* form the foundation of its narrative and contribute to its timeless appeal. These elements include plot, characters, setting, and themes.

- Plot

The plot includes exposition, conflict, climax, and resolution:

- Exposition: Snow White's introduction and her beauty being envied by the Queen.
- Supporting sentence: *"The Queen asked the mirror, 'Who is the fairest of them all?' and it replied, 'Snow White.'"*
- Conflict: The Queen's attempts to kill Snow White.
- Supporting sentence: *"Disguised as an old woman, the Queen offered Snow White a poisoned apple."*

- Climax: Snow White falls into a death-like sleep.
- Supporting sentence: *"She took a bite of the apple and immediately fell to the ground."*
- Resolution: Snow White is revived and lives happily ever after with the Prince.
- Supporting sentence: *"The Prince kissed Snow White, and she awoke from her sleep."*
- Characters  
Snow White's virtues position her as a symbol of traditional femininity, representing ideals of beauty, grace, and inner strength. (*"Snow White was as fair as snow, as red as blood, and as black as ebony wood."*), on the other hand, the Evil Queen, as the antagonist, personifies vanity, jealousy, and cruelty. Her obsession with being the "fairest of them all" fuels the conflict, seeing Snow White's beauty as a direct threat to her own. The Queen's malevolent actions, including ordering Snow White's death and using a poisoned apple, highlight her deep moral corruption. (*"Bring me her heart in a box!"*). Meanwhile, the Seven Dwarfs, who represent loyalty and friendship, offer Snow White a safe refuge. Each dwarf's distinct personality brings depth and humor to the narrative, while their collective support underscores the importance of community. (*"The dwarfs decided to let her stay in their home if she would cook and clean for them."*).
- Setting  
The story is set in a magical kingdom and forest, reflecting a typical fairy-tale environment. The following is an example of a supporting sentence :*"Snow White ran deep into the forest where she discovered a small cottage."*
- Themes  
The themes in Snow White revolve around powerful moral lessons and universal truths. Jealousy and Competition is a central theme, represented by the Queen's envy of Snow White. This destructive power of envy serves as a cautionary tale, warning against the dangers of vanity and insecurity. The theme of Good vs. Evil is also prominent, as the story clearly contrasts the purity of Snow White with the malevolence of the Queen, emphasizing the triumph of goodness over wickedness. This universal theme reinforces core moral values and resonates deeply with audiences across different cultures. Lastly, the theme of Innocence and Redemption shines through, with Snow White's innocence symbolizing the purity of youth. Her eventual revival, coupled with the Queen's downfall, represents a powerful message of redemption and justice. The following is an example of a supporting sentence:  
*"The Queen, who was her stepmother, grew jealous when the magic mirror declared Snow White to be the fairest of them all."*

### Extrinsic Elements

According to Nurgiyantoro (2009: 23), extrinsic elements are elements that are outside the work of fiction that influence the birth of the work but are not part of the work of fiction itself. Extrinsic elements in a story, including Snow White, include elements that are outside the work itself but influence the content and form of the story. The external elements of the story of Snow White include a variety of factors that influence and provide context to the story, including historical, sociological, and cultural aspects. Here are some important points regarding the external elements of the Snow White story:

- Historical Aspects  
New Historicism Theory:  
The story of Snow White can be analyzed through the lens of New Historicism, which emphasizes the relationship between the text and the sociocultural context of the time. The story was written. The Brothers Grimm, who wrote the story, lived in 19th-century Europe, where social norms and expectations for women were high. Their work reflected the idea that marriage was the path to happiness and stability.
- Social and cultural norms  
Female roles:  
In the social context of the time, women were expected to take on certain roles, such as being good mothers. The story depicts Snow White as a symbol of beauty and kindness, but

also shows the challenges she faces from her evil stepmother, which reflects the rivalry between women. Example of a quote related to cultural elements:

*"The magic mirror and the queen's obsession with beauty reflect beauty standards and competition in European society in the 19th century."*

- Humanity and Morals:

This story contains a moral message that goodness will eventually prevail. Although *Snow White* faces many obstacles, her kindness always shines through, showing that kindness will always triumph in the end. This can be supported by statements :

*"Snow White, with her kindness and compassion, became a beloved queen, ruling the land with wisdom and grace."*

- Cultural Influence

The story of *Snow White* also reflects the social-historical conditions of the time it was written, such as inequality of power and the importance of social hierarchy. This story was also inspired by local legends depicting the lives of German aristocrats. Example of a quote related to historical value:

*"The presence of the seven dwarves may depict the lives of child miners who worked hard in German mines in the 16th century."*

Story Adaptation:

*Snow White* has been adapted into various forms of media, including film and theater. Each adaptation often reflects different cultural and social values over time. For example, in the Disney movie, the character of *Snow White* is portrayed as more active and brave than the original version which is more passive.

The external elements of *Snow White* explain how the story is not only entertaining but also reflects the social and cultural values of the time. Through this analysis, we can gain a deeper understanding of the context in which the story was written and the message the author wants to convey.

## CONCLUSION

The analysis of the intrinsic and extrinsic elements of *Snow White* demonstrates its richness as a timeless narrative that continues to resonate with audiences across cultures and generations. The intrinsic elements, such as its well-defined characters, universal themes of good versus evil, and a cohesive narrative structure, highlight the story's literary strengths and moral depth. *Snow White*'s innocence, the Queen's jealousy, and the dwarfs' camaraderie create a compelling dynamic that conveys essential life lessons about virtue, envy, and justice. On the other hand, the extrinsic elements reveal how *Snow White* reflects and adapts to the cultural, historical, and societal contexts of its time. Rooted in European folklore, the tale originally aligned with 19th-century values, emphasizing traditional gender roles and morality. However, as societal norms evolved, so did the interpretations of the story. Modern adaptations challenge traditional portrayals, emphasizing empowerment, independence, and diversity while retaining the story's core moral lessons.

The enduring relevance of *Snow White* lies in its ability to adapt to changing cultural landscapes while maintaining its essence as a tale of morality and human experience. Its transformation from oral traditions to global adaptations in film, literature, and theater underscores its universal appeal. By bridging intrinsic literary elements with extrinsic societal influences, *Snow White* continues to inspire and reflect the complexities of human nature, making it a story that transcends time and culture.

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