



ANALYSIS OF NARRATIVE ELEMENTS A CASE STUDY OF THE BIBLICAL STORY OF THE CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS AND THE DEATH OF JESUS

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Abstrak This study delves into the narrative surrounding the crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ, examining it through historical, theological, and narrative perspectives. The aim is to comprehend its significance and the impact it has on the lives of Christians. The crucifixion of Jesus, a pivotal event in Christian belief, occurred under Roman authority in the first century, symbolizing not only physical suffering but also deep spiritual implications. The research scrutinizes a variety of biblical and extra-biblical sources related to the crucifixion, including the events leading up to Jesus' arrest, the legal trials he underwent, and his death on the cross. The study found that the narrative conflicts involve multiple parties and layers of complexity, with internal conflicts accounting for 9% and external conflicts constituting 45%. The theological exploration focuses on the role of the crucifixion in the atonement of humanity's sins. The narrative analysis, on the other hand, concentrates on how the Gospels narrate this story, its influence on Jesus' early followers, and its ongoing relevance to contemporary Christian faith. The external conflicts are further categorized into conflicts between characters (18%), society (14%), nature (9%), and the supernatural (5%). The findings suggest that Jesus' crucifixion and death have transformative significance, influencing both historical developments and the spiritual lives of his followers. These percentages not only quantify the conflicts but also underscore their importance in the narrative, offering a deeper understanding of these events from social, political, and theological perspectives.

Keywords: Analysis, Narrative, Story, Conflict

Abstrak Studi ini menggali narasi seputar penyaliban dan kematian Yesus Kristus, menelaahnya dari perspektif sejarah, teologis, dan naratif. Tujuannya adalah untuk memahami signifikansi dan dampaknya terhadap kehidupan orang Kristen. Penyaliban Yesus, sebuah peristiwa penting dalam kepercayaan Kristen, terjadi di bawah kekuasaan Romawi pada abad pertama, yang melambangkan tidak hanya penderitaan fisik tetapi juga implikasi spiritual yang mendalam. Penelitian ini meneliti berbagai sumber alkitabiah dan ekstra-alkitabiah yang berkaitan dengan penyaliban, termasuk peristiwa-peristiwa yang mengarah pada penangkapan Yesus, pengadilan hukum yang ia jalani, dan kematiannya di kayu salib. Penelitian ini menemukan bahwa konflik naratif melibatkan banyak pihak dan lapisan kompleksitas, dengan konflik internal menyumbang 9% dan konflik eksternal sebesar 45%. Eksplorasi teologis berfokus pada peran penyaliban dalam penebusan dosa-dosa manusia. Di sisi lain, analisis naratif berkonsentrasi pada bagaimana Injil menceritakan kisah ini, pengaruhnya terhadap para pengikut awal Yesus, dan relevansinya yang terus berlanjut dengan iman Kristen kontemporer. Konflik eksternal dikategorikan lebih lanjut menjadi konflik antar karakter (18%), masyarakat (14%), alam (9%), dan supranatural (5%). Temuan-temuan ini menunjukkan bahwa penyaliban dan kematian Yesus memiliki signifikansi transformatif, yang mempengaruhi perkembangan sejarah dan kehidupan spiritual para pengikutnya. Persentase ini tidak hanya mengukur konflik-konflik yang ada, tetapi juga menggarisbawahi pentingnya konflik-konflik tersebut dalam narasi, yang menawarkan pemahaman yang lebih dalam tentang peristiwa-peristiwa tersebut dari perspektif sosial, politik, dan teologis.

Kata Kunci: Analisis, Narasi, Cerita, Konflik

INTRODUCTION

Literature is expression of human being which consists of feeling, ideas, thought, spirit and experience using language as the media (Wulan, 2016). Literature was often defined as writing that was valued as an art form. According to Taylor (1981), it represented an imaginative act where the writer selected, ordered, and interpreted life experiences. This perspective emphasized that literature was deeply intertwined with life, serving as a bridge for communication about societal conditions through artistic expression. Diyanni (2001) cited in Yulianti (2019), categorized literary works into three major types: poetry, drama, and fiction. Fiction itself could be further divided into novels, novelettes, and short stories. This classification highlighted the diversity within literary forms and their unique ways of conveying human experiences.

Literary works were fundamentally constructed through two main elements: intrinsic and extrinsic elements. Intrinsic elements included aspects such as theme, plot, setting, character, conflict, and point of view. Good literature is created with intrinsic elements, and one of these intrinsic aspects is conflict. Conflict plays a crucial role in making the story stimulating (Artawan, Dewi, & Savitri, 2020). Conflict arises as a result of miscommunication, misunderstanding, underestimation, and other unrealized processes (Hasanah & Wardana, 2023). Dewinta (2019) stated conflict in literature can be divided into two types: internal conflict and external conflict. Internal conflict occurs within characters, whereas external conflict involves challenges in the outside world. According to Kenney (1966) cited in Swijana & Permana (2024), noted that conflicts in fiction could vary widely, encompassing internal struggles within a character or external conflicts between individuals and society or nature.

This study also examined narrative texts about the crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ, particularly those found online that were not specifically designed for Sunday School contexts. Bruner (1990) cited in Brown (2017), a narrative is a mode of thought or communication that helps people make sense of their experiences through storytelling. It focuses on the meaning and purpose of events rather than just logical or factual explanations. The significance of this research lay in its analysis of how these widely accessible narratives shaped theological insights and historical understandings within Christian communities. With over 5.17 billion internet users globally in 2024, the reach of these narratives had expanded significantly, allowing diverse audiences to engage with the story of Jesus' crucifixion through various formats, including articles, videos, and social media.

Alo Jakaria emphasized that social media served as a powerful tool for religious education and the dissemination of faith-based messages. The narratives surrounding Jesus' crucifixion often facilitated deep spiritual reflections and moral education, presenting dramatic conflicts such as betrayal, unjust trials, and ultimate sacrifice, all of which held substantial theological significance.

This research aimed to identify and analyze the narrative elements present in online depictions of Jesus' crucifixion. By tracing the narrative structure, the study illustrated the sequence of events, including Jesus' arrest, trials, and crucifixion. The findings were expected to provide insights into how these narratives functioned as sources of historical knowledge and tools for theological reflection.

From a theoretical standpoint, the research employed Literary and Linguistic approaches to examine narrative features such as characterization, plot development, conflict, and resolution. This analysis sought to understand how these elements communicated moral, spiritual, and historical messages, offering new perspectives on the adaptation and interpretation of religious narratives in the digital age. In conclusion, both literature and online narratives about significant events like the crucifixion of Jesus served as vital means of exploring and communicating complex human experiences and societal conditions. This study aims to offer new perspectives on how religious narratives are adapted and interpreted in today's digital era. The findings are expected to benefit not only academic research but also religious media producers, theologians, and the broader public seeking deeper insight into the meaning of Jesus' crucifixion in modern life.

Research Data Source

The data for this research is derived from documents as concrete materials. These documents narrate the story of the crucifixion and death of Jesus for Sunday School children. The online publication of these stories about the crucifixion and death of Jesus for Sunday School children serves as the context for the participants. These documents are made available on the internet to ensure accessibility for netizens, especially those involved in Sunday School activities.

Research objective

Examining the internal and external struggles in the biblical account of Jesus' crucifixion and death to comprehend how these conflicts communicate theological themes of sacrifice, atonement, and salvation.

Research Object and the Data Collection

Qualitative research can use inductive methods to describe general principles based on document 5 as research data. In qualitative research, data requires processing to be analyzed based on further observation of words and text.

Step 1. Define the Research Focus

The main goal of this research is to analyze the conflicts within the biblical account of Jesus' crucifixion and death. The study will explore different types of conflicts, including internal struggles (emotional and spiritual) and external tensions (conflicts with other individuals or groups).

Step 2. Collect Relevant Data

- a) Gather pertinent Bible passages that recount the crucifixion and death of Jesus, particularly from the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.
- b) Focus on sections that highlight conflicts, such as the confrontations between Jesus and the religious leaders, the fear of His disciples, and the suffering Jesus endured.

Step 3. Identify Key Areas of Conflict

- a) Focus on significant conflict areas, including
- b) Jesus' Internal Conflict: His prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane, feelings of abandonment, and the struggle between His will and that of God the Father.
- c) External Conflicts: Tensions between Jesus and religious authorities, like the chief priests and scribes, along with Judas' betrayal.
- d) Conflicts with His Disciples: The fear and denial of the disciples, and their misunderstanding of the significance of Jesus' suffering.

Step 4. Analyze the Narrative Structure

- a) Study how the conflicts are introduced, developed, and resolved throughout the narrative of Jesus' crucifixion and death.
- b) Identify symbols and metaphors in the narrative, such as the cross, blood, and suffering, that represent conflict.

Step 5. Consider Theological and Social Contexts

- a) Provide a theological analysis of the significance of these conflicts in the broader framework of human salvation. Explore how these conflicts align with the themes of sacrifice, atonement, and the restoration of humanity's relationship with God.
- b) Include a social analysis to understand the historical and cultural context influencing the conflicts between Jesus and the religious authorities, as well as how society reacted to His death.

Step 6. Organize and Present the Data

- a) Sort the collected data and identify recurring patterns in the conflicts to draw meaningful insights from the narrative.
- b) Create a coherent story that illustrates how the conflicts evolve in the narrative of Jesus' crucifixion and death and how they influence the spiritual lives of Christians.

Step 7. Conclude and Discuss Implications

- a) Conclude how the conflicts in the story of Jesus' crucifixion and death convey important moral and theological lessons for Christian life.
- b) Reflect on the implications of this research for teaching in churches, particularly regarding the understanding of suffering and sacrifice in daily life.

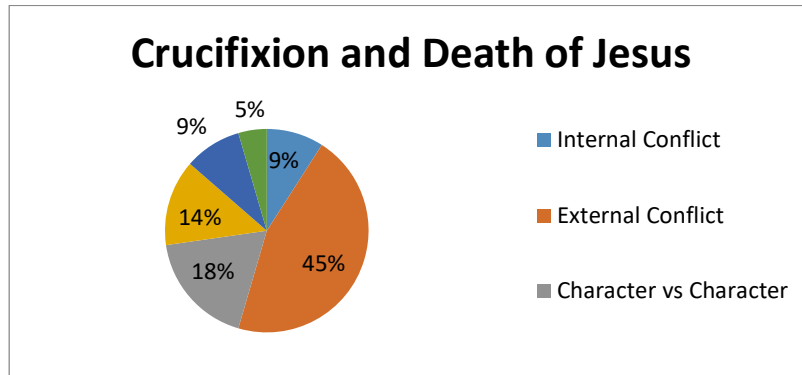
METHOD

This research adopts a qualitative approach aimed at describing and explaining a particular phenomenon as its object of study. The phenomenon examined in this study is the use of narrative elements to depict the cause-and-effect sequence in the story of the crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ as presented in digital media. The research approach centers on analyzing issues related to narrative usage within a digital context, based on the collection and inductive analysis of narrative materials. The study investigates how narrative elements such as plot, characterization, conflict, and resolution are incorporated into the story of Jesus' crucifixion and death to communicate moral, spiritual, and theological messages. The data collected consists of digital texts such as articles, videos, blogs, and social media content that narrate this event, aiming to understand how these elements shape the perceptions and understanding of a contemporary audience regarding this story. Data analysis will be conducted inductively, identifying emerging patterns, themes, and meanings within the texts, and providing a comprehensive description of how the narrative structure develops the cause-and-effect sequence of events. Through this approach, the research seeks to reveal how narrative elements are organized to present a dramatic and reflective experience of Jesus' crucifixion, as well as the emotional and spiritual impact it has on today's digital audience.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The conflicts depicted in the narrative of Jesus' crucifixion and death go beyond historical disputes, encompassing deep theological implications that have shaped the evolution of Christian doctrine. This event represents a turning point in the interactions between the Jewish community and Jesus' followers, laying the groundwork for the developing identity of the Christian faith. This study highlights that the crucifixion story embodies intricate tensions and diverse conflicts that require contextual understanding.

Story	Internal Conflict	External Conflict	Character vs Character	Character vs Society	Character vs Nature	Character vs Supernatural
Crucifixion and Death of Jesus	2	10	4	3	2	1
Percentage	9%	45%	18%	14%	9%	5%



Conflict Explanation

The Story of Jesus' Crucifixion and Death This account features a total of 12 conflicts, comprising 2 internal and 10 external conflicts.

1. Internal Conflict (9%):

In the Garden of Gethsemane before His arrest, Jesus faced an intense internal struggle. He prayed to the Father, asking for the suffering He was about to endure to be taken from Him, if possible, but ultimately submitted to God's will (Matthew 26:39-42). This highlights His fear and ultimate surrender before facing immense suffering.

2. External Conflict (45%):

The external conflicts are further divided into four categories: Character vs Character (18%), Character vs Society (14%), Character vs Nature (9%), and Character vs Supernatural (5%).

3. Character vs Character (18%):

Conflict arose between Jesus and the religious leaders who accused Him of blasphemy and gave false testimony against Him (Matthew 26:59-68). Jesus also faced conflict with Pontius Pilate, who wanted to release Him but eventually handed Him over for crucifixion under public pressure (Matthew 27:11-26). Another conflict was with the Roman soldiers who mocked, scourged, and ultimately crucified Him (Matthew 27:27-31). Additionally, one of the criminals crucified next to Him insulted Him (Luke 23:39).

4. Character vs Society (14%):

Jesus faced conflict with the crowd that demanded the release of Barabbas and called for His crucifixion (Matthew 27:20-23). He was also mocked by the people as He hung on the cross (Matthew 27:39-43). While carrying the cross, He encountered a crowd that witnessed His suffering (Luke 23:27-31).

5. Character vs Nature (9%):

The entire land was covered in darkness from noon until three in the afternoon during His crucifixion (Matthew 27:45). When Jesus died, an earthquake occurred, and the temple veil was torn in two (Matthew 27:51).

6. Character vs Supernatural (5%):

Jesus' struggle with the weight of humanity's sin was expressed in His cry, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" signifying a moment of feeling forsaken by God (Matthew 27:46).

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the study demonstrates that the conflicts in the narrative of Jesus' crucifixion and death provide a deeper and more comprehensive understanding of the meaning behind His sacrifice. These conflicts represent humanity's ongoing battle with sin, injustice, and the pursuit of true salvation and spiritual renewal. The research findings indicate that the conflicts in the narrative can be categorized into internal and external conflicts. The internal conflict, which accounts for 9% of the total conflicts, highlights the intense struggle Jesus faced in the Garden of Gethsemane before His arrest. This struggle underscores the human fear and ultimate surrender before facing immense suffering. The external conflicts, which make up 45%, are further divided into conflicts between characters (18%), society (14%), nature (9%), and the supernatural (5%). These conflicts involve multiple parties and layers of complexity, from the religious leaders who accused Jesus of blasphemy, to Pontius Pilate who handed Him over for crucifixion under public pressure, to the Roman soldiers who mocked and crucified Him, and even the supernatural moment of feeling forsaken by God. These percentages not only quantify the conflicts but also highlight their significance in the narrative. They emphasize the multifaceted nature of the conflicts that Jesus faced, from personal internal struggles to societal and supernatural challenges. This quantitative analysis complements the qualitative narrative, providing a more profound understanding of these events from social, political, and theological viewpoints.

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