



COMPARISON OF CHARACTERIZATION IN THE NOVEL SUNSET & ROSIL BY TERE LIYE AND THE NOVEL SIRKUS POHON BY ANDREA HIRATA

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Abstract

One of the most important aspects in a novel is characterization. The author's creativity determines the role of the characters in the story until its climax. Therefore, it is necessary to conduct a kind of characterization analysis in the novel *Sunset & Rosil* by Tere Liye and the novel *Sirkus Pohon* by Andrea Hirata. This study was conducted to describe the characterization of the two novels *Sunset & Rosil* by Tere Liye and the novel *Sirkus Pohon* by Andrea Hirata. The analysis was carried out by analyzing the content of the novel *Sunset & Rosil* by Tere Liye and the novel *Sirkus Pohon* by Andrea Hirata. Data collection was carried out using the technique of noting sentences and paragraphs related to the characterization of the two novels. The data is analyzed and interpreted for each sentence/paragraph to obtain the meaning contained therein. To test the data, data reduction is used by rearranging the data obtained by sorting data that is relevant to the characterization. After the data is interpreted, the data is then analyzed by collecting data, selecting data, and compiling reports. The results of this study show that the characterizations in the novel *Sunset & Rosil* by Tere Liye and the novel *Sirkus Pohon* by Andrea Hirata are described as sincere, honest, fair, patient, and forgiving of others. The novel *Sirkus Pohon* by Andrea Hirata tells about the daily life of the people in one of the villages in Tanjong Lantai, Belitung.

1. INTRODUCTION

In this digital era, literature remains relevant to the dynamics of reality, which impact cybertexts. Readers have increasingly easy and flexible ways to read and appreciate literature, as it is readily available on platforms for exploration and enjoyment. Many changes in readers' paradigms regarding literature today have created friction between literature and verbal violence, particularly among millennial feminists. The existence of women as authors, women as characters in stories, women as victims in stories, and even women's culture are often at odds (Olina and Rahayu, 2023).

The world of literature is very important in the context of life's journey, because it can provide reflection for its readers. Literature becomes a mirror that provides a reflection of reality that is larger, more complete, more alive, and more dynamic (Wijaya, 2025). Real life can be read and reflected upon through the world of literature. In other words, literature is the manifestation of a person's ideas through views of the social environment around them using beautiful language. Literature exists as a result of the author's reflection on existing phenomena (Irawanti and Agustiani, 2020). Literature as a work of fiction has a deeper understanding, not just an imaginary story or dream of the author alone, but a manifestation

of the author's creativity in exploring and processing the ideas in his mind (Wulandari et al, 2025). By reading literary works, readers can open their eyes to understand social and cultural realities within a moral and aesthetic framework (Abraham, 2017). Through literary works, students can enjoy the reality of the author's imagination through the characters, events, and settings presented (Nurfitriani, 2017).

One type of literary work is a novel that tells the story of a person's life with those around them, highlighting the character of each actor. This type of literary work is in prose, which contains several building elements, one of which is style (Abdullah, 2024). In putting together a story in a novel, the author always uses style as a characteristic and identity in telling the story. Ismawati (2023) states that each literary author always has a different way of presenting the storyline according to the author's abilities. The author of a novel that presents a teenager reader will certainly be different from the author of a novel that is presented to adults. This is what makes the author use a unique characteristic in presenting the series of stories (Wulandari et al, 2023). Beautiful novel can allow readers to enjoy, understand, and be swept away by the experience of a story. The beauty of literature can be seen from the real phenomena of human life, using language as its medium (Nurhaliza et al., 2020) . Authors express ideas, theories, or systems of thought through two aspects: the content and the form of the literature itself. The intended content of literature is the content of human life experiences, while the form of literature is aspects concerning the author's method of delivery. Writers utilize beautiful language to accommodate their content (Hutabarat et al., 2019).

A literary author's ability is greatly influenced by their ability to develop imagination and creativity so that readers can understand the values contained in the literature they write. The position of literary works is inseparable from social life, human life in the real world, represented by the characters in the author's fictional world. The author reflects the characters with the values that exist in society in general. Literature can provide beauty for readers, such as soothing the heart/soul, and clear thoughts. Through literary works, readers gain literary knowledge and benefits in real life. In addition, literary readers can be entertained by the series of stories they read.

In a novel, the plot is crucial for the story's continuity until the end. The author must be able to develop a narrative pattern in accordance with the story's purpose (Iqbal, 2017). The plot can be divided into two parts: the forward plot and the backward plot. The forward plot refers to the story that begins from the birth of the main character to his death, while the backward plot refers to the story that retells his past, even though the story has already ended (Rosyanti, 2017). One factor that allows the plot in a novel to proceed according to the author's wishes is creativity in using language. The author's style, which expresses different meanings, reflects the author's ability to tell a story with the power of imagination (Apriyani, 2020). The author's imaginative ability can create fiction that has deep meaning, polished through language as its medium. The author's language will determine whether the novel is interesting to read (Hardianti et al, 2024).

The author's style of characterization in this novel is clearly illustrated through various well-crafted fragments. The time and date of events or incidents provide readers with insight into the plot. The writing style is also captivating, incorporating English into the dialogue, as if the reader is transported to a foreign country (Ellawati and Henny, 2023). This demonstrates the author's ability to craft language to create a beautiful narrative through the novel (Juherni et al., 2022). One way to create beauty in a novel is by emphasizing the role of characters and their characterization. Authors must be able to design stories that impact readers. This is in line with Husada's (2017) opinion , which states that characters occupy a strategic position as carriers of messages, mandates, morals, or something intentionally conveyed to readers. In this case, the author describes characters as a medium for revealing the realities of human life. The

analysis of characters and characterization is limited to the main character as the central figure in the story regarding self-actualization.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Literature as a Work of Imagination

Literature is a highly complex world, composed of closely interwoven elements. This fact makes literary works multifaceted and worthy of study. Literature is not a communication between the reader and the author, but rather a communication between the reader and themselves, mediated by the literary work. The fundamental understanding of genetic structuralism is that the context of literary works cannot be separated from existing social classes. Literary works reflect the ideology of authors who occupy a particular social class. Nurfitriani (2017) states that literature is a masterpiece that not only emphasizes aesthetic elements, style, composition, and the power of its delivery, but also possesses scientific value. This scientific value in literary works is reflected, among other things, through the forms of socio-cultural reality contained within the literary work.

Literature includes works of fiction or fantasy created by the author's imagination and creativity through their experiences using language. Literature is not an inanimate artifact, but rather a work of fantasy that can provide a perspective on life and become a societal convention (Ensen, 2022). Although literature is imaginary (imaginary), it still makes sense and contains truth. Literature can construct a world through words because words possess energy. Through this energy, images of a particular world are formed as new worlds.

Literature possesses the qualities of paradigmatic relationships, a system of signs, and a system of symbols; words point to something beyond themselves, so that new events are continually present. Through reading literary works, readers indirectly acquire messages and moral values through the narrative content within a work. This is evident in works of fiction that focus on beauty and wordplay. In addition to its beauty, literary works can also serve as food for reflection in real life. Literature is inseparable from the processes of (1) production: the creation of literary works by the author; (2) product: the literary work as an autonomous creation; and (3) consumption: the enjoyment of the work by the reader. Reading literary works can open readers' eyes to social and cultural realities within a moral and aesthetic framework. Through literary works, students can enjoy the reality of the author's imagination through the characters, events and settings presented (Nurfitriani, 2017).

2.2. Novels as Literary Works

Novels are both easier and more difficult to read than short stories. They are easier because they don't have to convey something quickly or concisely, while they are more difficult because they are written on a larger scale, thus containing broader organizational units than short stories (Hardianti et al., 2024). This aligns with Priyatni's (2010) opinion that a novel is a relatively long prose story that examines everyday life. A novel's plot is long enough to fill one or more books, and it explores human life in an imaginative way. Novels, as literary works, have a dual function: they entertain and benefit readers because they contain elements of social reality (Ensen, 2021). By reading literary works, readers will gain noble life values and in-depth knowledge of the social realities that occur in society.

Literature, as a cultural product that embodies life's experiences and values, can be used as a medium and learning resource for education, particularly in schools (Nurfitriani, 2017). A type of literary work in the form of prose/a fairly long story, presenting a series of extraordinary events involving characters and possessing complete building blocks such as plot, moral, point of view, and so on, as if the story were real. A novel can also be described as a story that tells a story, spiced with setting and plot (Elawati et al., 2023). In a story, the author must design characters to play their roles

throughout the story until the story's conclusion. The author must be highly creative, crafting words into a compelling narrative, as if the story were truly happening. Dialogue within the story is key to the success of a novel (Nurfitriani, 2017).

Novels are divided into three types: abstract idealism, romantic despair, and educational novels. First, the abstract idealism novel. Abstract idealism novels feature characters who still desire to be at one with the world, but because their perspectives are too subjective and narrow, their idealism becomes abstract. Second, the romantic despair novel. Romantic despair novels are the opposite of abstract idealism. Third, the educational novel. Educational novels, namely novels in which the hero possesses interiority, but also desires to unite with the world (Ismail in Iqbal, 2017). Characterization in Novels Characters occupy a strategic position as carriers of messages, morals, or something intentionally conveyed to the reader (Wahyungsi, 2018).

The author portrays characters as a medium for revealing the realities of human life. Analysis of characters and characterization is limited to the main character as the central figure in the story regarding self-actualization. Similarly, Nurgiyantoro (2013) proposed several types of characters or characterizations in stories, as follows: First, the main character and supporting characters. The main character is the character whose narrative is prioritized in the novel. The main character is constantly present in every event and can be found on every page of the story. Supporting characters are characters who play a supporting role in the story and are not the focus of the reader's attention.

Second, the protagonist and antagonist. A protagonist is an admired character, one type popularly known as a hero a character who embodies ideal norms and values. An antagonist is also known as a character who causes conflict. An antagonist can be said to oppose the protagonist, either directly or indirectly. Third, there are simple characters and round characters. A simple character is a character who possesses only one particular personal quality, one particular character trait. As a human being, they are not revealed in all aspects of their life. They lack traits and behaviors that can surprise the reader. A round character is a character whose life, personality, and identity are fully revealed. Round characters can have specific traits and can also display diverse traits and behaviors, perhaps even contradictory and unpredictable.

Fourth, there are static characters and developing characters. Static characters are characters whose character does not essentially experience change or development as a result of events. This type of character appears less involved and unaffected by interpersonal relationships. Fifth, there are typical characters and neutral characters. A typical character is a character who is only shown a little. A typical character is one whose individual circumstances are shown only minimally and whose work, nationality, or something else representative is emphasized more. A neutral character is a story character who exists for the sake of the story itself. An imaginary character lives and exists only in a fictional world.

3. RESEARCH METHOD

This research was conducted using a qualitative method that describes data by analyzing the content of the object being studied and interpreting the meaning contained therein. In line with Sugiyono's (2017) opinion that qualitative research is conducted using the researcher's own primary instrument through observation and interviews. Researchers consider the form, content, and nature of literature as the subject of study (Endraswara, 2013). In other words, qualitative research focuses on a phenomenon experienced by a subject holistically by describing the form of words, sentences, and discourse in a natural context (Moleong, 2014).

The main data sources of this research are the novel *Sunset & Rohil* by Tere Liye and the novel *Pohon Sirkus* by Andrea Hirata and supporting sources related to the scope of the

study. The data collection technique in this research is carried out by (1) documentation, namely the researcher collects, reads, and tests data sources. The first submission, understands and appreciates critically (whole, comprehensive) and sharpens, deepens understanding and appreciation to select and examine data. The reading is carried out carefully and in depth so that the determination of the forms of social reality in the data sources can be achieved; (2) rereading the novel to be studied carefully to look for words, groups of words, paragraphs, and discourse by marking, quoting, noting, parts that are used as data from the data sources.

The data analysis technique used was *content analysis*, which involves describing the problem and then analyzing and interpreting the data. The *content analysis method* was used to examine the contents of a document. In this study, the documents in question were Tere Liye's novel "Sunset & Rohil" and Andrea Hirata's novel *Pohon Sirkus*.

4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

4.1. Characterization Description in the Novel "Sunset & Rohil" by Tere Liye

Analyzing the characterization of these two novels using Abraham Maslow's theory of human needs related to the conflict of the main character Tegar, namely physiological needs, the need for security, the unfulfilled need for love and belonging, the unfulfilled need for esteem, and the unfulfilled need for self-actualization. These needs are closely related in forming the main character's inner conflict.

The most basic needs of every human being and have the greatest power or influence of all needs, such as food, water, oxygen, maintaining body temperature, and so on. Below, the researcher will discuss the physiological needs of the main character that are not met. In the novel *Sunset and Rosie* Tegar's physiological needs are in panic. This can be seen from the quote below.

Oh my gosh! I nearly threw my cell phone away, using the cellular network, which always disconnected in critical situations. Trembling, I dialed Kadek's number again. Busy tone. Busy. And busy. I stared at the cell phone screen in annoyance. Despair. By tomorrow, the cellular network to Jimbaran *would be overloaded*, a hundredfold. And my heart was currently a hundredfold panicked (*Sunset & Rohi*, page 24).

When people have met their physiological needs, they become motivated by the need for safety which includes: physical security, stability, dependency, protection, and freedom from threatening forces, such as war, terrorism, disease, fear, anxiety, danger, unrest, and natural disasters. Researchers will analyze the main character's unmet sense of security.

In the novel *Sunset and Rosie Cinta*, Tegar's need for safety is evidently not met because Rosie's family was hit by the Jimbaran bombing, causing Tegar to feel anxious. This is evident in the quote.

What happened to Rosie? Is she safe? Orchid, Sakura, Jasmine, Lili, Nathan? Clarice? I trembled as I put down my phone. I stood up. I swallowed. I wiped my face. I quickly assessed the situation. Okay, without further thought, I immediately dashed towards the door. Without needing to turn off the big screen television that was showing a picture of a stew, *an error*. Without needing to grab my jacket from the back of my chair, let alone tidy up the table filled with messy files (*Tere Liye*, 2016: 24).

This need usually arises after a person's sense of security has been met. However, in the novel *Sunset and Rosie*, Tegar feels compassion for Rosie's depression and the plight of her children. He decides to care for Rosie and her children. This is evident in the quote.

I've decided to accompany them. Whatever the price. Grandma may be right. I've always loved these children. But what's the harm? I want to see them grow into proud children, children who remain joyful in their childhood. Even if fate takes their father and their

mother (Tere Liye, 2016: 183).

In this novel, Tegar's need for appreciation as the main character seems unfulfilled. This is evident in Tegar's decision to call off his engagement to Sekar. Sekar thinks Tegar hasn't forgotten her engagement. This is evident in quote.

"Are you love him?"

"For us, it is much better to marry someone who loves us, not someone who is loved," Sekar answered quietly.

"You're wrong, Sekar. That's a lie. Give me a week; you still have a chance. As long as you give me a chance to correct this mistake. Please, believe me."

Sekar raised her head.

"I'll fix everything, Sekar. I promise." Sekar's body trembled, she was about to cry again. I kept wiping the tears from her cheeks.

Silent. That night an important decision will be made (Tere Liye, 2016: 351).

In the novel *Sunset and Rosie*, it appears that Tegar's need for self-actualization is not met because Tegar is plagued by fear and anxiety. This is evident in quote.

SEKAR. He who call me.

"You haven't forgotten that we're engaged today, have you, Tegar?" Sekar's voice sounded a little sulky.

It was as if I had been dipped into a pool filled with ice sticks. "Ergh." My voice was cut off. Kelu. How could I forget?

"Where are you, Tegar? I've been waiting for a while—I mean, Papa, Mama, and the whole family. We're waiting for their fiancé. You know, we're waiting with anxious faces like in those movies." Sekar's voice was heard. cheerful.

"I, I'm in Bali." I choked. This had completely taken my breath away. My panic last night had made me forget that today was an important day for me. Our engagement. Sekar's cheerful voice suddenly disappeared. It was quiet (Tere Liye, 2016: 49).

In addition, the main character of the novel *Sunset & Rohil*, Tegar, experiences conflicting inner conflicts, namely unfulfilled needs by the main character, which causes the main character Tegar to feel sad, angry, disappointed, hopeless, and hateful. The following researcher will show the four inner conflicts caused by unfulfilled needs. In Tere Liye's novel *Sunset and Rosie*, the main character, Tegar, experiences a sad inner conflict. The main character's (Tegar's) sadness is evident in the following quote.

My legs are broken step.

Inside the room, Kadek stood clutching his hair, staring at me weakly. On the bed in the middle of the room, Nathan's body looked frozen. It had been covered with a white sheet. Thirty minutes earlier, several doctors had been struggling to save him. In vain. It was too late. Nathan had taken the promise of life, gone forever. (Tere Liye, 2016: 40)

Another quote is illustrated below.

I was instantly hurt when I saw it. Silence for a moment. "*Nathan's gone, Tegar*," Rosie whispered softly. I was at a loss for words. (Tere Liye, 2016: 41).

Furthermore, the main character Tegar also feels hatred as depicted in the following quote.

Six months later after graduation, they married. And I decided to go. Long before that happened (Tere Liye, 2016: 9).

Apart from being sad, the main character Tegar also experiences an inner conflict which results in him... angry. This is shown in the following quote.

I was the one who introduced them to each other. Two months after we met, while the

three of us were climbing Mount Rinjani together, Nathan confessed his feelings to Rosie. It was quick. Too quick, in fact. Nathan's two months were equivalent to twenty years of mine. Their beautiful past, but also my own bitter past (Tere Liye, 2016: 9).

4.2. Characterization in the Novel "Sirkus Pohon" by Andre Hirata

In the novel *Circus Tree*, Sobri as the main character is someone who is disciplined and obeys the advice given by Tara's mother. Sobri was very grateful to be accepted into the Blasia traveling circus.

I floated to the clouds. I was grateful to have been accepted into the extended circus family. A family as wonderful as my own. The circus artists fueled my passion for hard work, and the boss inspired me to dare to dream. She said to me when she interviewed me, "Get up early, *let's go!*", I hold as my new life motto (Sirkus Pohon, 2017:84).

Sobri, a new member, felt very comfortable in the Blasia traveling circus. The circus artists warmly welcomed Sobri's presence as a clown. This warm welcome made Sobri feel at home and feel like he had a new family besides his own. Mrs. Tara, as the owner of the traveling circus, always encouraged her circus artists, including Sobri. All advice given, Sobri carried out with pleasure. He was very disciplined, obeying Mrs. Tara's advice, as the owner of the traveling circus, to go straight to work after waking up in the morning. Every morning, Sobri immediately went to the traveling circus to work. Another quote that shows that Sabri is very tolerant. Here is the quote.

Slowly, I began to accept Dinda's condition. After all, I had promised myself that I would follow my father's example when I lost my mother: that I wouldn't grieve for more than 40 days. So, I returned to Ketumbi happily, eager to see Dinda, no matter what her condition. I became a happy person, as happy as a traveling circus. (Sirkus Pohon, 2017:134)

The second character is Tara, a creative and innovative child. Imagine, at elementary school age, Tara was already able to decorate gypsy carriages, design decorative lights, and create the main stage for her mother's traveling circus.

People say she inherited her artistic talent from her mother, who graduated from a fine arts high school in Yogyakarta, and admitted that, at the same age as Tara now, her daughter's abilities far surpassed hers. Her daughter drew the decorations for the gypsy carriages, designed the decorative lights, tents, and the main stage (Sirkus Pohon, 2017:62).

From the quote above, we can conclude that Tara is a creative child. She is also hardworking, disciplined, and independent at a young age. Furthermore, Tara also possesses a strong sense of curiosity, as seen in the following quote.

Tara spent hours practicing her mother's face painting lessons. The trash overflowed with clumps of paper from failed paintings. I often asked her why she threw away the portraits that I thought were so beautiful. She said it was because she was learning to paint. I quickly realized my own inexperience. For Tara, painting is no longer just about the skill of applying paint or pencil to paper.

There is something else he wants to achieve (Sirkus Pohon, 2017:63).

Tara's curiosity about face painting lessons is immense. The quote above is a statement from Sobri, who is very unfamiliar with painting. Sobri thought Tara's painting was very good, but Tara didn't think it was good enough. So, tirelessly, Tara repeated the painting over and over again until she considered it truly perfect. Tara's knowledge of the circus came from her love of reading. Through reading, Tara learned a lot about the thriving traveling circus scene in the 1970s, the history of famous circuses, and other interesting stories about circuses

around the world. A love of reading is the habit of freely setting aside time to read various information, including books, journals, magazines, newspapers, and so on, which creates wisdom for herself. A love of reading is a habit practiced by Tara, as seen in the following quote.

She had a comprehensive collection of books and documentation about the circus. It was Tara who opened the door to that magical realm for me. She was young, but her knowledge of the circus was vast. Her collection of books and documentation was comprehensive. She was born into a circus family and her parents expected her to one day carry on the tradition of a traveling circus. Her parents taught her everything, so she knew the names of every circus prop, its origins, its use, and the history of famous circus figures (Sirkus Pohon, 2017: 85).

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Discussion

Based on the results of the description of the two novels 'Sunset & Rohil' by Tere Liye and the tree circus novel by Andrea Hirata, it can be explained as follows.

a. Humble attitude

In this life, the true purpose is to be a person who is useful to others. This means living a life filled with mutual respect and humility. The author of this novel conveys the message that readers should be humble in their actions and attitudes. Many dynamics in life need to be improved with humility, as the author's message suggests. The majority of people today are driven solely by pleasure, leading to arrogance and pride. This is the message the author conveys to readers: "Always humble yourself in this life." The author, a Muslim student who studied in Egypt, brought with him religious knowledge and experience. This is the reason why this novel serves as a spiritual remedy to correct a paradigm that has deviated from religious life. Many see life as centered on material possessions, leading to a greed for pleasure.

b. Honest and Sincere Attitude

Honesty and sincerity are two dimensions of life that shape a good and righteous life. Honesty and sincerity will result in a sincere attitude in one's work. Despite challenges and obstacles in life, facing them with honesty and sincerity will yield good results. The novelist is passionate about conveying honesty and sincerity in the era of globalization, where lies and hypocrisy are rampant. It's as if wrong is right, and vice versa. Honesty is practiced starting from finding a life partner. This is fundamental to practicing honesty and sincerity. Even though Bowo had to be late in writing his thesis to realize his love for Naura, he was willing to be late. Even though his father had urged him to graduate from college. Honesty should be applied from the smallest matters to the biggest challenges. Viewed from a global perspective, honesty and sincerity have been eroded by time, which is poisoned by lies and hypocrisy.

The author's message in this novel is that honesty can be applied in family life, family ties, communities, society, and the nation and state. Honesty and sincerity are the foundation of a dignified life within a moral framework. The loss of ethics, politeness, and morality is driven by lies practiced by families, as evidenced by the many students at school who lie to their parents. The author of this novel conveys a message to strengthen honesty and sincerity, from the smallest to the largest matters.

c. Fair and Caring Attitude

The third message is fairness and caring. Fairness and caring are also crucial in everyday life. When parents fail to treat their children fairly, it creates an imbalance in affection, resulting in the children feeling unhappy and discontented. Therefore, parents should be fair and caring toward their children to foster mutual love between parents and

children. Likewise, in a large organization, a leader must demonstrate fairness in serving employees or subordinates to foster good relationships and foster a sense of shared caring. As a manifestation of fairness and concern, an employee was dismissed by the company's leadership. This will create division among employees, ultimately hindering the relationship between the leader and the employees. It is crucial for a leader to have a balanced and considerate approach to management decisions when employees make mistakes. The author of this novel conveys a message to readers that they should be fair and caring in life, at least within the family. Implementing fairness and caring within the family will foster a sense of nationalism in children, fostering love for their peers at school.

d. Attitude of Patience

Another message conveyed by the author of this novel is patience. Everyone experiences problems in their lives. Whether they're big or small, solving them depends on the ability to manage the solution. The author conveys a deeply touching message of patience to readers. A husband's patience with his wife, who previously refused to wear the hijab, in a pesantren environment, eventually led to her acceptance. The husband patiently met his wife's needs without forcing her to wear the hijab, and she eventually accepted it without his coercion. Patience is indeed difficult to cultivate, but striving for it is a constant aspiration for becoming a civilized human being.

5. CONCLUSION

Novel *Sunset & Rohil* was written solely to provide a different understanding, through the story of a great family on a beautiful beach. This novel tells the story of a man named Tegar who has loved his childhood friend Rosie for decades. However, Rosie married Tegar's best friend, Nathan, and they have four children who are very close to Tegar. Tegar is very fond of Anggrek, Sakura, Jasmine, and Lili. This novel emphasizes extraordinary friendship, but not together in family. The novel "Tree Circus" by Andrea Hirata tells the daily life of people in one of the villages in Tanjong Lantai, Belitung. People whose economic conditions are lower middle. Where they must struggle to earn a living every day. A hope to receive a steady salary every month. Sobri, a village youth who does not have a permanent job tries to get a permanent job. While all his brothers are already established, have families, and work like office workers. Besides Sobri, other characters highlighted in this story are Tegar and Tara. Young people who meet accidentally in the park. Andrea Hirata inserts a different love story in both. Here, Andrea Hirata tells the struggle of a young man's first love since they first met. Love that must be fought for even though it seems vague, love that is still pursued even though it is in vain. In truth, nothing is in vain even though the reality is meaningless.

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