



**GENDER MEANING AS NARRATED IN TONI MORRISON'S
BELOVED : GREIMAS' ACTANTIAL ANALYSIS**

A Thesis Presented to the English Department,
Faculty of Letters, Jember University,
as One of the Requirements to Obtain
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in English Studies

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DEDICATION

This thesis is honorably dedicated to:

1. My beloved father, the late Khusnan, S.Pd, who hasn't a chance to read this dedication. I'm sorry for being late. Rest in Peace, Dad. Thank you for your attention, guidance, inspiration, and patience;
2. my lovely mother, Titik Sumarti, S.Pd, the best mother on earth, who always remains and encourages me to finish my thesis. Thank you for your support and prayer for my success;
3. my oldest brother, Bhaktiar Rifki Ardiansyah, thank you for your support;
4. my man, Fadli Khoiron Setya Pranata, thank you for your support, affection and patience. I thank you for every step in our life. I believe we could be so good together;
5. Alma Mater.

MOTTO

“The more you love, the more love you have to give”
[Anonymous]

DECLARATION

I hereby state that the thesis entitled **Gender Meaning as Narrated in Toni Morrison's "Beloved": Greimas' Actantial Analysis** is an original piece of writing. I certify that the analysis and the research described in this thesis have never been submitted for any degree or any publications.

I certainly certify to the best of my knowledge that all sources used and any help received in the preparation of this thesis have been acknowledged.

Jember, January 17th 2014

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Wishfully, this thesis may have a good contribution towards the English studies, especially for those who intend to develop their knowledge on the study of literature.

Jember, January 2014

(Uswatun Hasanah)

SUMMARY

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Beloved is a novel about an African-American family in the mid 1800's whose beliefs and values have been influenced by the effects of slavery. For the former slaves in the novel, the past is a burden that they desperately try to forget. It is also the story of the character, Sethe, who has escaped from slavery and who is haunted by her own baby daughter, Beloved, whom she has murdered. In the novel, as a female slave, Sethe is one of black women who has been treated badly. Moreover, the story is about how the other characters endure suffering as slaves and as former slaves. Thus, it arises a question of how does the actions of the characters construct the plot of the story. Futhermore, the goal of this study is to know gender meaning in the story that is reflected in Sethe's experience as a female slave.

This analysis uses Actantial Model by A.J. Greimas (1987) to analyze the actions of the characters in the story and also to know the motivation of the characters represented in a story. Greimas breaks down the Actantial Model into 6 actants. There are sender, receiver, subject, object, helper and opponent. Those actants are expected to prove the gender meaning in this novel. Based on the theory, one character can be a subject in one situation or as an object in different situation. Then, I will count how many times a character becomes a sender, a subject, an object, etc. To analyze the text, I divide the novel into several segments. The division of segment is based on the movement of the event in the story. After that, I analyze the acts of the characters in each segment by using Greimas' Actantial Model. The same characters may appear in some segments however the actantial function may be different in each segment. In this case, this thesis uses mixed method because what will be analyzed are from both aspects, qualitative and quantitative. The data are quantitative because there will be numbers to count the actantial functions of characters. The data are also

qualitative because there will be many explanations from the novel about the characteristic of the characters seen from the text and the dialogue in the novel.

The results of the research show that women have important roles in the novel. It defines how Sethe fights for herself to escape from slavery although she is a woman. It is also reflected in another woman characters in the novel. They are strong, powerful and brave and never give up to get the better future. It breaks an opinion that women are always inferior. It proves that women still can do what they want to do, although they are women. The gender meaning as narrated in the story shows that the women have more roles than men. Although they live in paternalistic culture, they still hold on their will. Thus, the stereotype about women that women are weak, submissive, inferior are proven wrong in this novel.

TABLE OF CONTENT

	Page
TITLE	i
FRONTISPIECE	i
DEDICATION	ii
MOTTO	iii
DECLARATION	iv
APPROVAL SHEET	v
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	vi
SUMMARY	vii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	ix
LIST OF FIGURES	xi
LIST OF TABLES	xii
CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION	
1.1 The Rationale	1
1.2 The Problems to Discuss	4
1.3 The Goal of Study	4
1.4 The Significance of the Study	5
1.5 The Organization of the Thesis	5
CHAPTER 2. LITERARY REVIEW	
2.1 The Previous Researches	6
2.2 The Actantial Model by. A.J. Greimas	7
2.2.1 The theory of Actantial Analysis	8
2.3 The Concept of Gender	14
2.3.1 Sex and Gender	14
2.3.2 Gender Stereotypes	15

CHAPTER 3. RESEARCH METHOD

3.1 The Type of Research 17
3.2 Type of the Data 18
3.3 Data Collection 19
3.4 Data Analysis 19

**CHAPTER 4. GENDER MEANING AS NARRATED IN TONI MORRISON’S
*BELOVED***

4.1 Analysis of Plot Using the Actantial Model 21
4.1.1 Actantial Analysis Based on the Action of
The Characters 21
4.1.2 The Composition of the Actantial Scheme Based on
Segment of Story 40
4.1.3 The Function of Actants Based On Gender 41
4.1.4 The Result of the Actantial Analyses toward the Action
of the Characters in Each Segment of the Story..... 44
4.2 Analysis of the Characters 46
4.2.1 Analysis of Characters Seen from the Characterization
in the Story 46
4.2.2 The Relation between Characters 51

CHAPTER 5. CONCLUSION 56

BIBLIOGRAPHY 58

APPENDICES 61

Appendix A. Synopsis of *Beloved* 61

B. Biography of Toni Morrison 68

List of Figures

- Figure 2.1 The scheme of the actantial model.
- Figure 2.2 Cinderella's desire to go to the royal ball
- Figure 2.3 Stepmother ambition to be rich family
- Figure 2.4 The prince desire's to get married
- Figure 4.1 Sethe escapes from slavery
- Figure 4.2 Sethe's desire to write her baby's name in the gravestone
- Figure 4.3 Denver's feeling
- Figure 4.4 Halle's sacrifice
- Figure 4.5 Sethe's wedding
- Figure 4.6 Paul D's attention to Sethe
- Figure 4.7 Paul D's attention to Sethe's family
- Figure 4.8 Paul D's curiosity about Beloved's background
- Figure 4.9 Denver's curiosity about Beloved
- Figure 4.10 Stamp Paid helps Sethe
- Figure 4.11 Beloved's feeling to Sethe
- Figure 4.12 Paul D's past life when he was a slave
- Figure 4.13 Beloved's confrontation with Paul D
- Figure 4.14 Sethe's anxiety about her daughter's future
- Figure 4.15 The brutality of Stamp's Master
- Figure 4.16 Denver fears about Sethe's past life
- Figure 4.17 The brutality of Schoolteacher
- Figure 4.18 Beloved forces Sethe's life
- Figure 4.19 Denver's pretention to help Sethe
- Figure 4.20 Denver's pretention to Sethe
- Figure 4.21 Paul D's attention to Sethe

List of Tables

Table 4.1 The details of schemes

Table 4.2 The composition of actant as a subject

Table 4.3 The composition of actant as an object

Table 4.4 The composition of actant as a sender

Table 4.5 The composition of actant as a receiver

Table 4.6 The composition of actant as a helper/ auxiliant (+)

Table 4.7 The composition of actant as an opponent/ auxiliant (-)

Table 4.8 The position between male and female of the actantial functions