



## An Analysis of Irony in Narrative Text “ Snow White” By Jacob Grim

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### Abstract

Despite the fact that many authors have used irony as a significant literary device because it makes their literary works' language more revealing and emphatic. They frequently employ irony as a form of satire to highlight flaws in their characters or society as a whole. The goal of this study was to find the irony in “ Snow White” by Jacob Grim. Two issues were investigated in the research in order to analyze the aspects of the story in depth. First, consider how the story depicts irony. The second issue concerns how the irony affects the story's flow. The method used in the research was a descriptive qualitative method. Data and references were acquired from printed and electronic books, articles, encyclopedias, journals, and some online references for the analysis. To address the issues raised above, there are two conclusions. The first discovery demonstrates dramatic irony in the crisis and climax portions of the story; the situational irony is depicted in a crisis of the story, while the verbal irony is also depicted in the story's crisis. The second finding demonstrates that using irony in the plot twist might provide the necessary suspense for readers to continue reading the story.

**Keywords :** irony, narrative

### Introduction

Literature has always played an essential role in our lives. Literature can be found in books, novels, poetry, and other forms of writing. In a broad sense, literature refers to any sort of written work that uses elegant styles to communicate creativity, interests, or ideas ("Literature," n.d.). Literature frequently fabricates catastrophes and crises in order to generate the impression of rich and beautiful expressions. Literature, on the other hand, permits us to reap the benefits of it. It allows people to develop their personalities and intelligence in one way or another. It also encourages people to be more rational and compassionate toward one another and other living creatures.

Literature is defined as "compositions that tell stories, dramatize situations, express emotion, analyze and advocate ideas," according to Robert and Jacobs (1987, as cited in Marpaung, 2010, p. 1). According to literary definitions, the subject of literature is primarily concerned with human life stories and sentiments, and nature. The type of literature chosen by each author differs since it represents the author's literary style and how he or she delivers the subject.

Because literature is intended to transmit people's thoughts or feelings, it is customary for authors to intentionally employ figurative language to arouse the readers' emotions and thoughts. More frequently than not, figurative language conveys ambiguity, however, this is not always the authors' aim (Roberts and Kreuz, 1994). Hyperbole, metaphor, irony, personification, and simile are examples of figurative language. Figurative language is defined as "the use of language, in which words are

used in ways other than their literal sense, or in ways other than their ordinary locutions, in order to suggest a picture or image or for other special effect."

The irony is figurative language that contrasts the true meaning of what is stated with what is spoken. Because irony allows readers to observe "a mismatch between what the characters think can, should, or will happen and what really unfolds," it is frequently used in literature to teach moral lessons (Thompson, 2014). According to Di Yanni (2002, p. 93), irony is any "contrast or disparity" that exists inside a thing about another. He also mentions the possibility of a disparity between "what is stated and what is meant," or "what happens and what is expected to happen." It is another way of saying that irony can aid in creating tension, which is an essential aspect of any literary work. The rise of conflict leads to the climax, the most essential and most extensive feature in a story, for example.

There are two types of irony: verbal irony and situational irony (Reyes, Rosso, & Buscaldi, 2012). According to Colston & Gibbs (2007, as referenced in Reyes, Rosso, & Buscaldi, 2012), linguistic irony occurs when a speaker makes words that have the opposite meaning to what is uttered. Someone can say "What a wonderful day" while the weather is gloomy to convey the contrast with reality because he or she is unable to go anyplace. Situational irony refers to a significant disparity between the goal of a given action and the outcome or a contradiction between what one anticipates and what occurs. The readers of J.K. Rowling's "Harry Potter" expect Harry Potter to kill Voldemort, the adversary, to defeat him. However, contrary to popular perception, to murder Voldemort, Harry Potter must first be killed in order for Voldemort to become mortal and subsequently die ("Situational Irony," n.d.). Situational irony is demonstrated in this plot twist. In addition to the varieties above of irony, dramatic irony is a regular occurrence in a setting. In a drama, this form of irony is frequently used. This irony lets readers aware that the character's action or anticipation is out of sync with the story's reality.

On the other hand, Pettineo (2012) describes verbal, dramatic, and situational irony as "the most prevalent kinds of irony discussed in textbooks or anthologies" in his dissertation. According to Arp and Johnson (2012), those three types of irony are the most common in literature. Verbal irony is formed when the implied interpretation of the expressed message is either the opposite of or incompatible with the statement's meaning (Pettineo, 2012). Dramatic irony occurs when the characters are unconscious of the impending fate that the audience is aware of. Similarly, Arp and Johnson (2012) depict it as a contradiction between what is revealed from the characters' point of view and what the readers are aware of. Situational irony results from characters' actions that bring different outcomes from what was expected (Pettineo, 2012). Another elaboration by Arp and Johnson (2012) additionally limits that situational irony occurs in the incongruity between three things; "between appearance and reality, between expectation and fulfillment, or between what is and what would seem appropriate." In their opinion, situational irony is an essential kind of irony to be used in fiction. In this paper, the researcher will focus on the irony

used by Jacob Grims in his renowned narrative, Snow White, and the effect of irony in the story.

### **Research Methodology**

This study used a descriptive analysis method to study the sentences and events to figure out the irony in the Snow White story. The purpose was to make a clear and systematic description of the irony used in the story. In qualitative research, descriptive data collection was tried, which was then written in the report. The data obtained from this study are in the form of words, images, and not numbers. The corpus of this research is the Snow White story by Jacob Grims. It will include all chapters in his story.

According to Arikunto (2006:126), the equipment used by the researcher to collect the data is called an instrument. This research use content analysis, a tool for identifying specific words or concepts in a document. The researchers calculated and examined the meanings of words and concepts before drawing judgments about the text's messages.

The researcher gathers and documents information on the study's problem. The data for this study comes from a short fiction by Jaco Grims, "Snow White." The irony analysis will be described, presented, and argued in this way, based on the concepts and theories used. The result of qualitative research should be able to create meaningful information rather than mere statistics and information

The analysis in this study was completed by content analysis. The sentences were also analyzed using the content analysis method. Reading the sentences first, summarizing the story, explaining the extrinsic and intrinsic elements, identifying and categorizing the types of irony set in the novel by underlying the sentences, and finally analyzing and explaining the meaning of each irony found in the novel were all part of the method.

This study used an independent rater (Swales, 1990) to validate the result of the data analysis. The independent rater of this study is a graduate student from Magister of English Language Teaching Training and Education of Bengkulu University. Independent rater was trained to identify sentence patterns using the research instrument attached in the Appendix to ensure that the independent rater clearly understands how to count the number of words in each sentence as well as identify the structure of the sentence and code the sentence pattern in the introduction section of each article. Furthermore, an independent rater was assigned to analyze 25% of the total number of articles taken randomly. If there are errors and code errors, occur in the sample of articles in the training, discussion, negotiation, and clarification were held to reach an agreement between the researcher and the co-rater.

### **Findings and Discussion**

#### **Finding**

The writers have previously identified several kinds of irony found in Snow white story by Jacob Grims. Dramatical irony occurs when there is a disconnect between the audience's and characters'

interpretation of events in a play. Dramatic irony occurs (Pettineo, 2012). Situational irony happens when a character acts in ways that are contrary to the story's expectations. As a result, using it produces unexpected results. When events in a story turn out differently than they should, it is referred to as situational irony (van Thompson, 2016). Verbal irony is a discrepancy between what the character says in the story, which carries out different meanings intended by the speakers (Colebrook, 2003). Kinds of Irony found in Snow White Story by Jacob Grims can be seen in the chart below:

**Table 1. Total Number of Kinds of English Collocation**

No	Types of Irony	Total Number
1	Dramatical Irony	1
2	Situational Irony	2
3	Verbal Irony	1
	Total	4

Based on the analysis, the researcher found three dramatic ironies in the story "Snow White" by Jacob Grims. The first is that the huntsman was a lie and did not kill Snow White as the queen asked him to kill Snow White and bring her lung and liver. In here, the queen does not know that Snow White is still alive, but we know it as the reader. The second is the apple that puts Snow White into a deep sleep. As the reader, we know that the queen cursed the apple, but Snow White does not.

The writer also found that there are two situational ironies in the "Snow White" story. The first is when the queen asks the looking glass about the most beautiful girl in the world. Here, the queen believes that the glass will say her name, but the reality is not. The glass mentioned that the most beautiful girl in the world is snow white. Second, then the queen believes that Snow White died. The reality is that Snow White is still alive and lives in the forest.

Last, the writer found that there is one verbal irony in the "Snow White" story. When the glass said, "oh, queen, thou art fairest of all," but the most beautiful girl is Snow White."

## Discussion

Dramatical irony occurs when there is a disconnect between the audience's and characters' interpretation of events in a play, dramatic irony occurs (Pettineo, 2012). The characters are unaware of the impending destiny that the viewer is aware of, which is dramatic irony. Similarly, Arp and Johnson (2012) portray it as a conflict between what the characters' point of view unfolds and what the readers are aware of (p. 302). Because Grisham does not apply this irony through Rudy's use of the first-person point of view in revealing the novel's events, the writer limits the concept mentioned above of dramatic irony. In Snow White's story, dramatic irony occurs when the character does not know what happened, but we know what happened as the reader.

The first dramatical irony is when the queen does not realize that Snow White is still alive. The huntsman did not kill her. He asked snow white to go away. As a result, he kills a bear and takes

its lung and liver. The queen thinks that Snow White is dead. Here dramatical irony occur. The queen did not know what the reader knew and what happened at that time. The second irony is when Snow White eats the poisonous apple. In here, Snow White does not realize the queen gave her poisonous apple to kill her. This drama is categorized as dramatical irony because the characters do not know what the reader knows.

Situational irony happens when a character acts in ways that are contrary to the story's expectations. As a result, using it produces unexpected results. When events in a story turn out differently than they should, it is referred to as situational irony (van Thompson, 2016). It entails a misalignment of appearance and reality and expectation and fulfillment (Arp and Johnson, 2012). In this story, situational irony occurs when the queen asks the looking glass about the most beautiful girl in the world. In here, the queen believes that the glass will say her name, but the reality is not. The glass mentioned that the most beautiful girl in the world is snow white. It is called situational irony because the situation hoped is not as the expectation. The character in the story hopes the glass will mention her name, but the reality is not her.

Second, when the queen believes that Snow White died. The reality is that Snow White is still alive and lives in the forest. Here, the queen believes that she will be the most beautiful girl because Snow White is dying. The reality is not like she thinks. Snow White is still alive and lives in a forest with dwarfs. Here the condition that happened is not like the character's expectation.

Verbal irony is a discrepancy between what the character says in the story, which carries out the speakers' different meanings (Colebrook, 2003). As Booth (1974) states that verbal irony has characteristics that make the receptor reject literal meaning, the discussion is carried out. It is used to perceive literal evaluation that is implicitly either the opposite or incongruous with the statement's meaning (Pettineo, 2012). The different meanings intended by the character in the novel depend on interpretation. It could be differently perceived from different points of view. In the following discussion, the subchapter will provide the intended meaning behind the following statement.

Verbal irony in this story happened when the glass said: "**oh, queen, thou art fairest of all.**" If we understand the meaning of the words, we will realize that the most beautiful girl is Snow White. What the glass said is not based on the happened. This case is called verbal irony.

### Conclusion and Suggestion

In this study, the researchers described and elaborated the story and found several points which can be concluded. There are three kinds of irony found in Snow White's story. They are dramatical irony, situational irony, and verbal irony. The using irony in the plot twist might provide the necessary suspense for readers to continue reading the story. Regarding the importance of understanding irony in the story, the researcher suggests the reader learn more about irony to have a better understanding in reading the story.

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