

## ABSTRACT

Motuhonu, J. C. (2025). *An analysis of the gift from “The Gift of the Magi” as a symbol of sacrifice*. Yogyakarta: Department of English Language and Education, Faculty of Teachers Training and Education, Sanata Dharma University.

Literature is a form of written art that conveys meaning or moral value that relates to the present. One of the literary works is a classic story by O. Henry entitled “The Gift of the Magi.” *The Gift of the Magi* has rich literary features and has been analysed in various findings and interpretations. This story portrayed the spirit of love between Della and Jim that encouraged them to let their important things go, which reflects the present relationship between couples.

The researcher developed two research questions to specify the area to discuss. The first research question was “How do Della and Jim develop the act of sacrifice?” and the second research question was “How do Della and Jim develop the equal act of sacrifice?”

The concept of the hierarchy of needs by Maslow (1943) was used to explain the development of the act of sacrifice by Della and Jim. The concept of structuralism by Parsons (1943), Capital (1986), and Sentimental Value by Brown (2021) were used to explain the equality of sacrifice by Della and Jim.

In this study, the researcher found that the development of the act of sacrifice between Della and Jim was influenced by the fulfillment of the third level of Maslow's hierarchy of needs (1943), which is love and belonging. The fulfillment of love and belonging resulted in the act of sacrifice and forced Della and Jim to let go of their valuable and prestigious things in exchange for the Christmas gift. Another finding was related to the equality in the act of sacrifice by Della and Jim examined by the theory of structuralism by Parsons (1943), capitalism by Bourdieu(1986), and sentimental value by Brown (2021), which were the foundation in determining the equal act of sacrifice by Della and Jim.

**Keywords:** *The Gift of the Magi*, Gift, Act of Sacrifice, Love and Belonging, Equality.

## ABSTRAK

Motuhonu, J. C. (2025). *An analysis of the gift from “The Gift of the Magi” as a symbol of sacrifice*. Yogyakarta: Department of English Language and Education, Faculty of Teachers Training and Education, Sanata Dharma University.

Karya sastra adalah bentuk seni tertulis yang menyampaikan makna atau nilai moral yang berhubungan dengan masa kini. Salah satu karya sastra adalah cerita klasik karya O. Henry yang berjudul “The Gift of the Magi.” *The Gift of the Magi* memiliki fitur sastra yang kaya dan telah dianalisis dalam berbagai temuan dan interpretasi. Ini menggambarkan semangat cinta antara Della dan Jim yang mendorong mereka untuk merelakan hal-hal penting yang mereka miliki, mencerminkan hubungan antara pasangan-pasangan saat ini.

Peneliti mengembangkan dua pertanyaan penelitian untuk menentukan area yang akan dibahas. Pertanyaan penelitian pertama adalah “Bagaimana Della dan Jim mengembangkan tindakan pengorbanan?” dan pertanyaan penelitian kedua adalah “Bagaimana Della dan Jim mengembangkan tindakan pengorbanan yang setara?”

Konsep hirarki kebutuhan oleh Maslow (1943) digunakan untuk menjelaskan pengembangan tindakan pengorbanan oleh Della dan Jim. Konsep strukturalisme oleh Parsons (1943), kapitalis (1986), dan nilai sentimental oleh Brown (2021) digunakan untuk menjelaskan kesetaraan tindakan pengorbanan yang dilakukan oleh Della dan Jim.

Dalam penelitian ini, peneliti menemukan bahwa perkembangan tindakan pengorbanan antara Della dan Jim dipengaruhi oleh pemenuhan tingkat ketiga dari hierarki kebutuhan Maslow (1943), yaitu rasa cinta dan memiliki. Pemenuhan kebutuhan cinta dan rasa memiliki menghasilkan tindakan pengorbanan dan memaksa Della dan Jim untuk melepaskan hal-hal berharga dan bergengsi yang mereka miliki untuk ditukarkan dengan kado Natal. Temuan lainnya adalah terkait kesetaraan dalam tindakan pengorbanan yang dilakukan oleh Della dan Jim yang dikaji dengan teori strukturalisme oleh Parsons (1943), kapitalisme oleh Bourdieu (1986), dan nilai sentimental oleh Brown (2021), yang menjadi landasan dalam menentukan kesetaraan tindakan pengorbanan yang dilakukan oleh Della dan Jim.

**Kata Kunci:** *The Gift of the Magi*, hadiah, tindakan pengorbanan, rasa cinta dan memiliki, kesetaraan