ABSTRACT

Rr Rieta Anggraheni. (2016).**A Stylistic Study of the Interior Monologues in William Faulkner's *The Sound and The Fury.*** Yogyakarta: English Language Studies, Graduate Program, Sanata Dharma University.

The different linguistic styles used by authors in their novel have made them interesting and challenging to study. Those styles are able to create certain effects to the readers; they might be empathic, amused, persuaded, or even perplexed. William Faulkner's *The Sound and The Fury* is a novel with a very unusual narrative style, which is widely known as interior monologue. The style utilizes complicated and assorted language features that might create confusion to the readers. For this reason, the novel was chosen as the object of this study in the hope that the whole meaning of the literary work could be clearly explained. The interior monologue that made it possible for us to see directly through the windows of the characters' minds results in the portrayal of their personae. Therefore, this study was interested to know what major and salient language features in each monologue and the effect they raised as well as the impression they gave about the characters' personae.

In order to achieve the purposes, this study used stylistics as an approach (Verdonk, 2002; Barry, 2002; Leech and Short, 2007).The main research instrument was the checklist of features by Leech and Short (2007) to examine the major and significant language features or formal properties in each monologue. The features included grammatical features, lexical features, figures of speech, and graphological features. The analysis was supported by Halliday's Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG), specifically transitivity and modality (language metafunctions) and Fowler's underlexicalization. The data analysis encompassed three main procedures: 1) finding the major and salient features using checklist of features, 2) conducting transitivity analysis, and 3) making interpretations based on the analysis sample by Verdonk (2002).

The result confirms that William Faulkner uses interior monologue in the first three sections in his novel *The Sound and The Fury*. The style is manifested through different major language features in the three sections which result in different effects and correspond to the characters' personae.

Firstly, the simple language including simple syntax and simple lexis in Benjamin's (first) section can make the readers feel as if they were reading a children story which was so innocent, while incoherence as a result of the inappropriate use of cohesive devices can frustrate and confuse the readers and make them experience time shifts. The language features also suggests that Benjamin is a man-child. This is enforced by the major processes in transitivity analysis which include material process and mental perceptive process and underlexicalization cases where Benjamin fails to name or identify things precisely. The inference to make from those features is that Benjamin suffers a mental disorder.

Secondly, complicated and stylistically rich language features such as adjective-loaded nouns, metaphors, fragmented syntax, grammatical and lexical schemes, and unusual use of graphological features in Quentin's (second) section

can give acute frustration, confusion, and tiredness. However, the complexity may also create dramatic and artistic effects that amuse the readers. Complex language features also give an impression that Quentin is an intelligent but extremely anxious or, using a well-known term, neurotic.

Less unusual language features in Jason's (third) section will give relieving effect for the readers after reading the first two sections which are frustrating. They make the section way more comprehensible. The non-standard grammar or informal language including profanity and hedges as the most dominant feature in the section characterizes the language of Southerners. Aside from informal language, simple sentences, simple lexis, first-person pronoun dominance, and similes give a suggestion that Jason is an illiterate, selfish, and aloof person who is prone to sarcasm, misanthropy, sovereignty, and cynicism. However, the language features which are simple and normal also imply that he is the most realistic person among the three characters.

By employing interior monologue style in his novel, Faulkner has created a brilliant and distinguished novel. The dynamic use of language in the monologues has resulted in striking and breathtaking effects and enables readers to tune in to the characters' minds without being impeded by the presence of the narrator and to recognize their individual difference. After all, this study does not merely examine the linguistic style and its effect but also helps in the pre-step of determining to what extent stylistics is valid as an approach to study personality.