ABSTRACT

An Analysis of Science Fiction Genre in James Dashner The Maze Runner

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The Maze Runner is a novel written by James Dashner which was published on 2009. The novel tells the story about Thomas who was deliberately put into a place surrounded by a technological maze whose route changes every night. The conflict begins when Thomas and the Gladers have to work together to get out of the maze but have to face attacks in the form of deadly beetle robots known as Grievers. The aim of this study is to identify the intrinsic elements of science fiction genre.

In this study, the writer used descriptive qualitative method to describe the intrinsic elements of science fiction genre. The data are presented in the form of dialogues and narrations. The writer utilizes structuralism approach and structuralism theory of Burhan Nurgiyantoro (2002) in order to see the intrinsic elements of the story. In addition, genre studies were applied in this study for further information and as a supporting theory on the science fiction genre and characteristics.

The results of this study show that The Maze Runner novel by James Dashner clearly contains the intrinsic elements of science fiction genre. The theme of this story is about the teamwork to spur from the technological maze. The plot of this story classified as progressive-regressive plot, since the story has both a progressive storyline and a flashback. The major characters in this novel are Thomas, Newt, Minho, Alby, Chuck, Gally and Teresa, while the minor characters are Ben, Winston, Frypan, Zart, Clint, and Jeff. The setting place in this novel are in Glade, Maze, Homestead, Gardens, Map room, and Computer Station. The setting of time only appears in the morning, noon and night. The social setting is about how they survive the maze until they escape it to avoid being killed by the Grievers' attack.

Keywords: Genre, Intrinsic Elements, Science Fiction, Structuralism Approach, The Maze Runner