



## SOCIAL CRITICISM: CHARLOTTE’S WEB ANALYSIS

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<p>ARTICLE INFORMATION</p>	<p><b>A B S T R A C T</b></p>
<p>Received: 19 April 2025 Revised: 22 Mei 2025 Available online: 12 Juni 2025</p>	<p>Aim of this analysis was to describe social criticism in Charlotte’s Web. Descriptive qualitative method was applied in analyzing. Novel became main focus to be analyzed. Unfair friendship like a toxic friendship and bad relationship between characters in the novel are found as the social critics. Besides, It was also analyzed that a complicated friendship was happen and left a conflict like different perspective on the way someone though about life. There was no willingness to listen to and discuss with partners. Trust became one point that was analyzed. Trust to others was so essential. When one believed in others so all things run well becuse there was a respectable eachother. In addition, social criticism was also seen in this novel by analyzing that friend was widely loved and care about but it is not as beautiful as thought by writer. Social problems and classification like what was called by bad <i>circle</i> that gave a very strong influence to the way one interact with others.</p>
<p>KEYWORDS</p>	
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## INTRODUCTION

Literature is human expressions of happiness and sadness that is written in a special book. It is able someone or people to follow the center in the story by reading it. There are three kinds of literary works which are able to be read and enjoyed by reader namely prose, drama, and poetry. According to Kosasih (2002:32), prose is kind of bouquet arranged in the form of free and detailed. Wahyu (2007:35) states that drama is a play that can be performed for theatre, radio or even television. These plays are usually written out as a script, or a written version of a play that is read by the actors but not the audience. According to Webster (2000:89) poetry is an imaginative awareness of experience expressed through meaning, sound, and rhythmic language choices so as to evoke an emotional response.

One of the literature will be discussed in this study is prose. Prose is a communicative style that sounds natural and uses grammatical structure. Prose is one of literary work that consist of novels, poetry, drama. While some common types of prose are nonfictional prose, fictional prose, heroic prose, and poetry prose.



One of the elements can be analyzed from novel is social criticism. According to Wellek and Warren (2006:174), social criticism is any utterance or mode of criticism that exposes and delineates sources of social evil or injustice. According to Semi (2012:92), social critics proceed from the assumption that the literature is a reflection of society's lives.

One of the novel analyzed in this study was Charlotte's Web by Elwyn Brooks White. Charlotte's Web talks about a girl named Fern, a pig named Wilbur and a spider called Charlotte. They live on a farm and Fern is horrified when she finds out that Wilbur as a piglet is to be slaughtered. She rescues Wilbur only then to have him sent away from her to her uncle's farm where he is friendless and snubbed by the other animals except Charlotte, a spider, and this is where Wilbur's adventures begin. The genre of this novel is Animals. The favourite character in the book is Charlotte because she is very kind and helpful to everyone, even a pig who is about to die. The nice bit in the novel when Charlotte's eggs hatch and they all leave apart from three of them who stay with the pig and will forever remain there because they do not want to leave.

### **Literature Review**

Literature represents the culture and tradition of a language or a people. It is difficult to precisely define, though many have tried, but it is clear that the accepted definition of literature is constantly changing and evolving. Ultimately, people may discover meaning in literature by looking at what the author writes or says, and how he or she says it. People may interpret and debate an author's message by examining the words he or she chooses in a given novel or work, or observing which character or voice serves as the connection to the reader.

One of the literature discussed in this study was prose. Prose is a communicative style that sounds natural and uses grammatical structure. According to Clairewait (2010:2), prose refers simply to any written piece of work that is built on sentences (and paragraphs) rather than lines or verses. According to Kosasih (2002:32), prose is kind of bouquet arranged in the form of free and detailed. Lewis (2010:3) states that prose refers a form of language that exhibits a grammatical structure and a natural flow of speech rather than a rhythmic structure. It defined to be as the epic literature that is written in lines. It is basic literature that seen and used daily. Prose includes books, such as novels, tales, and short stories. According to Kosasih (2002:34), most forms of writing and



speaking are done in prose, including short stories and novels, journalism, academic writing, and regular conversations.

According to Priyatni (2010:124), social criticism is any utterance or mode of criticism that exposes and delineates sources of social evil or injustice. The social criticism of literature has, no doubt been practiced more widely than it has been recognized as a theory. With the more or less unconscious practice of such criticism, however, this book does not attempt to deal. It is concerned solely does not attempt to deal. It is concerned solely with the explicit theory of social criticism and with the development of the conception of literature underlying it, which has "come to consciousness" either partially or wholly in various writers about literature, since the time of Plato.

Novel is a piece of prose fiction of a reasonable length. According to Nurgiyantoro (1994:9), novel is a form of literary work which is called fiction. Novel is narrative text informing of prose with a long shape that including some figures and fiction event. According to Kosasih (2002:36), novel is a genre of fiction, and fiction may be defined as the art or craft of contriving, through the written word, representations of human life that instruct or divert or both. According to Priyatni (2010:123), novel word comes from the Latin *Novellus*. *Novellus* word is formed from the word meaning *Novus* means new in English. Considered new because novel is a form of literature that came later than other forms of literature, such as poetry and drama.

A novel is a totality, a comprehensiveness that is artistic. As a totality, the novel has passages elements, most related to one another in close and mutually dependent. According to Subhan (2006:60), there are some elements of novel, they are:

a. Plot

Plot means the sequence of events in the novel are intentionally created by the author based on the cause and result relationship.

b. Characters

Character means the perpetrator of events in the novel. Character can be divided into two, namely the main characters and side characters.



c. Setting

Setting means one of the important elements in the novel that should be worked or constructed by the author. It should be done because the story was not in place or an empty time, but being in a space and time.

d. Conflict

Different from the expectations of man who want all smoothly in every efforts, literature built and developed by the conflict between the characters. Literature that there is no conflict will not interesting.

e. Theme

Theme means the main idea be conveyed by the author to the reader. A theme means what the story talking about.

## RESEARCH METHOD

Isaac and Michael (1985:46) state that descriptive qualitative research is used in the literal sense of describing situations and events. It was the accumulation of a data base that is solely descriptive. It did not necessarily seek or explained relationships, tested hypotheses, made predictions, or got meanings and implications, although research aim at these more powerful purposes may incorporate descriptive methods. Isaac and Michael (1985:18), define the descriptive method as the one that describes systematically the fact and characteristics of a given population all or area of interest factually and accurately. The subject of this study was novel.

There were some steps in collecting data, they were:

1. Read the novel several times to help the writer in understanding the story.
2. Find out the impression and the public response to literature.
3. Find out the social criticism in Charlotte's Web by Elwyn Brooks White such as find out about what is happen in the story and what must be corrected, improved and supported to be continued for the society life better.

According to Sugiyono (2011:88), technique for analyzing data means technique that used for analyze the data collected. Based on the collecting the data above, after the data have been collecting, the writer analyzed several social critics that found in the novel and giving opinion about what must be corrected, improved and supported to be continued for the society life better.



## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

After read the novel and biography of Elwin Brooks White, the writer found many social critics in Charlotte's Web novel.

### a. Unfair Friendship

The writer though that it was unfair friendship because Charlotte is a true friend and did anything he caould to help Wilbur and works very hard to save his life. But Wilbur did not do anything to safe Charlotte's life. Charlotte creates new words every day in her web that describe Wilbur and talks to him when he is sad. She does not ask for Wilbur to give her anything in return for her kindness. Charlotte is kind simply because she is Wilbur's friend.

After Charlotte dies in the book, Wilbur takes care of her babies. Charlotte can no longer help Wilbur, but he still wants to help her because of his loyalty to his friend. This book is especially important for young children who often have a difficult time understanding what makes a person a good friend. The friendship between Charlotte and Wilbur illustrates a positive, powerful, loving and true friendship for children. Think bad or do bad about someone. The another value from this story was we should not despise or look down on others because we have think bad or do bad for someone, one day the person we hate so much can become a person who we are proud so much. This often happens in the environment around us. We should not prejudge how valuable something can be. At first, Wilbur seems like a runt and is going to get killed. Even so, he ends up winning a prize at the fair.

### b. Female Did More Sacrifation than Male

It is about how the female spider does all the work, but the male pig gets all the glory and then the female was die in happily at the end. It was describe in our real life that most of woman do much sacrifice for the man she love very much. But it goes a bit deeper than this. Again and again in this book, the women are the ones doing the rescuing and saving: Fern, her mother (who makes the fateful suggestion to send Wilbur to a friendly farm), the goose (who schools Wilbur on certain realities, and is technically the person who saves Charlotte's life, allowing Charlotte to save Wilbur), the old sheep (who is the one to persuade Templeton to help out at the fair) and, of course, Charlotte. On a small note, the one person to appreciate this is also a woman. Therefore it could be concluded that woman are most good heart than man.



From this story we also can know that a little girl named Fern, an eight year old had a good heart and her feeling was more lovely than older people. From the story we can know that Fern extremely upset to find that the runt of the latest pig litter is going to be killed. After she argues that this is the most terrible injustice she's ever heard of, her father allows her to save the tiny pig, whom she names Wilbur. Fern keeps the pig as a pet for a few weeks-the illustrations of Wilbur in a doll pram are particularly adorable-bottle feeding the baby pig and basically saving his life.

## CONCLUSION

The writer found some social critics in Charlotte's Web novel, they were:

1. Unfair Friendship, the writer though that it was unfair friendship because Charlotte is a true friend and did anything he caould to help Wilbur and works very hard to save his life. But Wilbur did not do anything to safe Charlotte's life. Charlotte creates new words every day in her web that describe Wilbur and talks to him when he is sad. She does not ask for Wilbur to give her anything in return for her kindness. Charlotte is kind simply because she is Wilbur's friend.
2. People Dislike Animal, many people should not despise or look down on animal because they have do bad for animal. This often happens in the environment around us. Many people ignored runt and hungry animal, people take it far away without give animal food therefore it die soon. In another case, even people take away animals' children to another place, and people who see them just see and ignore it without emphaty feeling. At first, Wilbur seems like a runt and was going to get killed. Mr Arable wanted to killed Wilbur for winter days. Even so, he ended up winning a prize at the fair. In addition, many people hates spider because spiders naturally eat another animals and bloodthirsty. But we must know that not all things look wild, cruel and terrifying evil have bad heart, for example charlotte's. In this story she did good thing and safe her friend's life by sacrificed herself.
3. Female Did More Sacrifation than Male, it is about how the female spider does all the work, but the male pig gets all the glory and then the female was die in happily at the end.



It was described in real life that most of woman do much sacrifice for the man she love very much. But it goes a bit deeper than this. Again and again in this book, the women are the ones doing the rescuing and saving: Fern, her mother (who makes the fateful suggestion to send Wilbur to a friendly farm), the goose (who schools Wilbur on certain realities, and is technically the person who saves Charlotte's life, allowing Charlotte to save Wilbur), the old sheep (who is the one to persuade Templeton to help out at the fair) and, of course, Charlotte. On a small note, the one person to appreciate this is also a woman. Therefore it could be concluded that woman are most good heart than man. Charlotte's Web by Elwin Brooks White was published in Elizabeth II goverment era at 1952. It show that the female more influenced than male in that era. Female could handle any problems with good result.

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