

Modern Rhetorical Strategies in the Novel *Sejambak Bakti*. The Realisation through Sentence Types

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Abstract

This study examines the relationship between sentence types and rhetorical strategies in the novel *Sejambak Bakti*. Guided by the Modern Rhetoric Theory by Enos & Brown (1993), the study adopts a qualitative descriptive approach using document analysis. Sentences in the novel are classified into four types, namely declarative, interrogative, imperative, and exclamatory sentences, and are analysed in relation to five rhetorical strategies, which are narration, description, exposition, argumentation, and persuasion. The findings show that declarative sentences are the most frequently used, accounting for 76.7% of the total, and mainly function in constructing narration, description, and exposition through clear and structured presentation of information. Interrogative sentences support exposition and argumentation by eliciting responses and reinforcing narrative conflict. Imperative and exclamatory sentences, on the other hand, contribute to persuasive rhetoric by influencing characters' actions, expressing emotions, and shaping interpersonal interactions. Overall, the study shows that sentence types function not only as a grammatical feature but also as a linguistic resource in realising rhetorical strategies and constructing meaning in the narrative. The integration of structural and rhetorical analysis provides a clearer understanding of how language operates at the micro level in literary texts.

Keywords: Sentence Types, Rhetorical Strategies, Narrative Analysis, Modern Rhetoric Theory, Malay Novel

Introduction

In recent years, there has been increasing attention on how language structure influences meaning construction in literary texts, particularly in educational contexts. Rhetoric is the art of effective communication that emphasises the strategic and effective use of language to influence the thoughts and emotions of readers or listeners. In the linguistic context, rhetoric is not merely concerned with aesthetic aspects of language, but also involves techniques for conveying meaning in a structured and layered manner. Haziq Aisha (2023) states that

effective communication competence requires the use of rhetoric to convey meaning indirectly. This indicates that rhetoric functions as an important mechanism in constructing meaningful and effective discourse.

In creative writing, especially in novels, rhetoric plays a significant role in shaping the reading experience by delivering ideas, emotions, and values. Brooks and Warren (1979) define rhetoric as the art of using language effectively, while recent research by Muhammad Nur Akmal Rosli (2022) shows that the use of rhetoric in writing can attract readers' interest and help them understand the content and message being conveyed. Additionally, Mahmudul Hasan (2024) emphasises that rhetoric influences and raises readers' awareness of life's realities through strategic language delivery. Therefore, rhetoric in novel writing can be seen as a linguistic strategy that supports meaning construction and narrative effectiveness.

In this study, rhetorical analysis is based on the Modern Rhetoric Theory by Enos & Brown (1993), which highlights five main types of rhetoric: narration, description, exposition, argumentation, and persuasion. This theory emphasises the role of rhetoric in written texts, especially how language is strategically used to construct and convey meaning. Therefore, this theory enables a more systematic analysis of the role of rhetoric in novel writing.

At the same time, the use of rhetoric cannot be separated from the structure of language, especially sentence types. According to Tatabahasa Dewan, a sentence is the highest unit of speech that carries complete meaning, and sentence types such as declarative, interrogative, imperative, and exclamatory have different communicative functions. This variety of sentence types can serve as the primary means of realizing rhetorical strategies in a text, particularly in narrative writing.

The novel *Sejambak Bakti* was chosen as the subject of study because it is a text in the Malay Literature Component (KOMSAS) for Form One students under the Malaysian Ministry of Education. As a text targeted at early adolescents, this novel contains noble values, educational elements, and character-building elements. At around age 13, adolescents are in a stage of rapid cognitive development, beginning to think more abstractly and logically (Piaget, 2001). Yessy Nur Endah Sary (2017) also states that adolescents at this stage tend to develop idealistic thinking about themselves and their environment. Therefore, language use in KOMSAS texts must be strategically planned so that the values and messages conveyed can be understood and internalized effectively by the target readers.

Although studies related to rhetoric have been widely conducted, the focus has mostly been on rhetorical analysis in speech texts, advertisements, or general works. In the context of the novel *Sejambak Bakti*, existing studies have focused more on character and characterization (Siti Khariah Mohd Zubir & Nur Denna Samsudin, 2016), cultural diversity (Hasrina Baharum et al., 2018), and sentence type analysis (Rusydiah Abd Salam et al., 2024). However, studies that specifically examine the relationship between sentence types and rhetorical strategies in this novel have received little in-depth attention. This shows a research gap that needs to be explored, especially in understanding how sentence types function as a medium for realizing rhetorical strategies in novel writing. This situation indicates that rhetorical analysis has not yet been thoroughly examined from the perspective of linguistic realization at the micro level, particularly with respect to sentence types.

Therefore, in the context of Malay language education, particularly in KOMSAS texts, understanding how language functions at the micro level is crucial for enhancing students' comprehension and appreciation of literary works. While previous studies have focused on thematic and stylistic aspects, limited attention has been given to how sentence types contribute to rhetorical effectiveness in narrative texts.

This study is therefore significant as it provides insights into how linguistic structures, particularly sentence types, function as strategic tools in constructing meaning and influencing readers. The findings of this study are beneficial not only for researchers in linguistics and discourse analysis but also for educators, curriculum designers, and students, especially in improving the teaching and learning of literary texts in Malaysian classrooms. Furthermore, this study contributes to the development of rhetorical analysis by demonstrating the integration of grammatical and rhetorical approaches, offering a more comprehensive framework for analyzing narrative discourse in Malay literature. This study is particularly useful for Malay language teachers and students in enhancing the understanding of KOMSAS texts.

Problem Statement

Although the Malay Literature Component (KOMSAS) texts are widely used in Malay language teaching in schools, research on rhetorical aspects in these texts has not been given in-depth attention, particularly regarding the relationship between rhetorical strategies and language structure. Most studies focus more on content or theme, whereas linguistic aspects such as sentence types that play a role in conveying meaning are less explored. This may affect the effectiveness of message and value transmission in literary works to students (Nuur Hikma Natasha Lamsah et al., 2023; Nor Hani Suhaimi & Mohamad Nik Mat Pelet, 2024).

In novel writing, the use of sentence types such as declarative, interrogative, imperative, and exclamatory not only functions grammatically but also contributes to meaning construction and plot development. Each sentence type carries a different communicative function and has the potential to support rhetorical strategies such as narration, exposition, argumentation, and persuasion. However, most previous studies have not directly linked sentence types to rhetorical strategies, instead focusing more generally on rhetoric without examining how linguistic elements are realized at the micro level. This lack limits understanding of the actual mechanisms of rhetorical construction in literary texts.

In the context of the novel *Sejambak Bakti*, several previous studies have been conducted with different focuses. The study by Siti Khariah Mohd Zubir and Nur Denna Samsudin (2016) examined character and characterization, while Hasrina Baharum et al. (2018) focused on cultural diversity. In addition, Rusydiah Abd Salam et al. (2024) also touched on syntactic aspects in the narrative. However, studies that directly connect sentence types with rhetorical strategies in this novel are still lacking. This deficiency shows a significant research gap, especially in understanding how sentence types function as a medium for realizing rhetorical strategies in KOMSAS's novel writing.

Therefore, this study applies the Modern Rhetoric Theory by Enos & Brown (1993) as an analytical framework to examine rhetorical strategies in the story narrative. This theory is

chosen because of its ability to systematically explain rhetorical functions through five main categories: narration, description, exposition, argumentation, and persuasion. In this study, the analysis is combined with a grammatical approach based on *Tatabahasa Dewan* to examine how sentence types play a role in realizing rhetorical strategies. This approach is expected to provide a clearer and more comprehensive picture of the relationship between language structure and rhetorical function in constructing meaning in literary works.

Research Objectives

Accordingly, this study aims to examine the use of language in the novel *Sejambak Bakti* with a focus on the relationship between sentence types and rhetorical strategies used. As stated by Muhammad Afnani Alifian et al. (2024), the use of rhetorical strategies in narrative plays a role in strengthening readers' appreciation of the message through diverse and creative language styles. Therefore, an approach that combines grammatical and rhetorical analysis is expected to provide a more comprehensive understanding of how language is used strategically in building meaning and conveying values in literary works.

Based on these aims, the research objectives are as follows:

1. To identify the use of sentence types in the novel *Sejambak Bakti* based on the *Tatabahasa Dewan* framework.
2. To analyze the role of sentence types as a representation of rhetorical strategies based on the Modern Rhetoric Theory by Enos & Brown (1993) in the novel *Sejambak Bakti*.

Concept of Modern Rhetoric by Enos & Brown (1993)

This study is descriptive in nature, utilizing the Modern Rhetoric Theory by Enos & Brown (1993) as the primary framework for analyzing the application of rhetorical strategies in the novel *Sejambak Bakti*. This theory was chosen for its ability to systematically explain the functions of rhetoric in written texts through a clear and structured classification of rhetorical types. In this study, the analysis is conducted using content analysis methods to examine how rhetoric functions as a medium for the development of ideas and the delivery of meaning in narrative discourse.

According to this theory, rhetorical strategies can be classified into five main categories: persuasion, argumentation, description, exposition, and narration, each playing a different communicative role within a text. Persuasive rhetoric emphasises the use of language aimed at influencing thought and gaining the reader's agreement on an issue, while argumentative rhetoric involves delivering ideas supported by structured and rational arguments to strengthen the reader's acceptance of a particular stance.

Next, descriptive rhetoric focuses on portraying scenes, characters, or situations vividly through sensory and detailed language, while expository rhetoric explains ideas, concepts, or information in a clear and structured manner to enhance the reader's understanding. In a broader context, both these types of rhetoric play important roles in building clarity of meaning and discourse structure.

Lastly, narrative rhetoric refers to the delivery of ideas in a narrative form that involves the sequential development of a plot. In this type of rhetoric, language use is more flexible and imaginative to support the construction of events and the reader's immersion in the story.

Overall, the Modern Rhetoric Theory by Enos & Brown (1993) demonstrates that the use of language in texts is not only a communication tool but also a discursive strategy that builds meaning, influences readers, and drives the entire structure of the novel.

Methodology

Research Design

This study uses a qualitative descriptive approach to examine the use of sentence types as representations of rhetorical strategies in the novel *Sejambak Bakti*. This approach was chosen because it allows for in-depth analysis of linguistic phenomena in their natural context without manipulating variables. Additionally, the descriptive approach enables the researcher to systematically describe the relationship between sentence types and rhetorical function in constructing meaning in narrative texts.

Research Materials

The primary research material for this study is the novel *Sejambak Bakti* by Rejab F.I., which is a Malay Literature Component (KOMSAS) text for Form One students under the Malaysian Ministry of Education. The selection of this novel is based on several key justifications.

First, this novel is an official text in the KOMSAS syllabus, which serves as a medium for conveying noble values and building students' character. Second, the text contains a variety of discourse forms such as narrative and dialogue, rich in the use of diverse sentence types. Third, the novel targets early adolescent readers, making it suitable for examining how rhetorical strategies are used to deliver messages to this audience. Therefore, this novel is appropriate as research material for examining the relationship between sentence types and rhetorical strategy in creative writing.

Data Collection Methods

Data in this study were obtained through library research and document analysis methods. Library research involved gathering and reviewing reference sources such as academic books, journal articles, theses, and online sources related to rhetoric, linguistics, and discourse analysis. Sources such as academic databases and the Malay Literature Reference Center were also used to ensure the validity of concepts and the accuracy of terminology used in this study.

In addition, document analysis was employed as the primary technique for data collection. Document analysis refers to the process of systematically examining written texts to identify, classify, and interpret linguistic data contained in the research material. In this study, the novel's text was thoroughly analysed, with attention given to every sentence in the text to identify sentence types and the rhetorical functions they represent.

Data Analysis Methods

Data analysis in this study was conducted systematically by thoroughly examining the text of *Sejambak Bakti* to identify the relationship between sentence types and rhetorical strategies. Initially, all sentences in the text were identified and classified based on the *Tatabahasa Dewan* framework: declarative, interrogative, imperative, and exclamatory sentences. This process was carried out through careful reading of the text and data coding to ensure each sentence was categorized according to its syntactic features and communicative functions.

Subsequently, each identified sentence was analysed to determine its role as a representation of rhetorical strategies based on the Modern Rhetoric Theory by Enos & Brown (1993). In this analysis, the researcher examined how sentence types are used in the narrative context to realize rhetorical strategies such as narration, description, exposition, argumentation, and persuasion. The determination of rhetorical categories was done interpretively, taking into account the context of sentence use, dialogue functions, and the meaning relationships built in the text.

Additionally, a coding process was carried out to group sentences according to the appropriate sentence type and rhetorical strategy categories. The data obtained were analysed descriptively to identify patterns of sentence type usage supporting certain rhetorical strategies. The results of the analysis were then interpreted to explain the relationship between sentence types and rhetorical function in the construction of meaning and delivery of messages in the novel.

Research Findings and Discussion

Distribution of Sentence Types in the Novel Sejambak Bakti

To address the first research objective, the distribution of sentence types in the novel is analysed based on the *Tatabahasa Dewan* framework, proposed by Nik Safiah Karim et al. (2014). According to *Tatabahasa Dewan Edisi Ketiga* (2011), a sentence is the highest unit of utterance in grammatical structure and contains complete meaning; its pronunciation begins and ends with a pause, and it carries perfect intonation. Each sentence can be categorized into types: declarative, interrogative, imperative, and exclamatory sentences. Declarative sentences constitute the dominant sentence type, accounting for 76.7% of the total usage, followed by exclamatory (9.5%), interrogative (8.9%), and imperative sentences (4.9%). The distribution is presented in table 1.

Table 1

Percentage of Sentence Types in the Novel Sejambak Bakti

Sentence Types	Percentage (%)
Declarative Sentences	76.7%
Exclamatory Sentences	9.5%
Interrogative Sentences	8.9%
Imperative Sentences	4.9%
Total	100%

Declarative Sentences

Declarative sentences are the type of sentences that provide information about something. Declarative sentences are also known as informative or descriptive sentences (Nik Safiah Karim, 2011). They are used to narrate or explain events, stories, feelings, or opinions. Declarative sentences are the most frequently used in this novel. Most of them are constructed grammatically according to a language style that matches the situations presented by the author.

Example 1:

Murid berduyun-duyun menuju ke sekolah. (page: 2)

Example 2:

Pembantu kedai koperasi itu digaji khas untuk mengurus kedai tersebut. (page: 4)

Example 3:

Munir, Silvam, dan Leong meninggalkan tempat itu dan berjalan menuju kedai koperasi. (page: 19)

Example 4:

Dalam kedai koperasi petang itu, beberapa orang ahli lembaga pengarah sibuk menyusun dan mengemas barang. (page: 100)

Example 5:

Seorang anggota polis yang masuk bersama-sama dengan mereka bersedia untuk mencatat soal siasat tersebut dalam sebuah buku laporan polis. (page: 113)

Interrogative Sentences

According to Siti Salbiah Alias, Sharil Nizam Sha'ri, Halis Azhan Mohd Hanafiah, and Ahmad Mahmood Musanif (2017), interrogative sentences are one element in gathering information in communication. According to Nik Safiah Karim et al. (2014), an interrogative sentence is a sentence used to ask about something. Interrogative sentences end with a question mark. The question mark is placed at the end of the sentence, indicating it ends with a pause.

In the rhetorical strategy used, interrogative sentences also appear in the dialogue of characters in the novel. A total of 136 interrogative sentences are identified in the narrative. These 136 sentences make up 8.9% of all sentences in the rhetorical structure. In the novel, two types of interrogative sentences are used: those with question words and those without. Examples of interrogative sentences with question words found in the novel are as follows:

Example 6:

"Kenapa kau orang menuduh kami yang bukan-bukan?" tengking Ramlah dengan perasaan amat marah. Dia memandang tepat ke arah Munir dan Silvam. (page: 18)

Example 7:

Eh, bila kau pulang, Razali? (page: 93)

Example 8:

"Siapakah yang pegang kunci kedai koperasi tu?" tanya anggota polis itu. (page: 112)

Example 9:

Mengapakah kamu cuba memburuk-burukkan Razali? (page: 135)

Example 10:

Apakah hukuman yang diterimanya hari itu mengubah segala kelakuan dan tindak-tanduknya selama ini? (page: 144)

According to *Tatabahasa Dewan Edisi Ketiga* (2011), an interrogative sentence with question elements includes words like *apa*, *siapa*, *mengapa*, *bagaimana*, *di mana*, and *sejak bila*. These question words are clearly used in speech or writing. However, there are interrogative sentences without question words. The following are examples of such sentences in the novel:

Example 11:

"Anak kunci kedai koperasi tu ada pada kamu semalam?" soal pegawai polis itu seterusnya. (page: 113)

Example 12:

"Bilik itu tak dipecah orang semalam?" tanya lagi. (page: 113)

Example 13:

kau tak masuk kedai koperasi tu? (page: 115)

Example 14:

"Pak Zakaria baru pulang dari sawah?" tegur Munir. (page: 120)

Example 15:

"Pak Zakaria tahu tak pasal Razali di sekolah tu?" tanya Munir setelah menongkat motosikalnya. (page: 120)

Examples 11 through 15 are interrogative sentences without question words. These are uttered with a rising intonation at the end. According to Nik Safiah Karim et al. (2004), this questioning tone is represented by a question mark.

Imperative Sentences

According to *Tatabahasa Dewan Edisi Ketiga* (2011), imperative sentences can be divided into four types: commands, prohibitions, invitations, and requests. In this study, these categories are treated as functional subtypes of imperative sentences, based on the classification proposed in *Tatabahasa Dewan*. Each type carries its own function and meaning. In the novel *Sejambak Bakti*, the author more frequently uses requests among the imperative sentences, which make up 4.9% of all sentence types in the novel.

Command Sentences

Command sentences are used to give orders or instructions (Siti Khodijah Che Mee, 2022). The second-person pronoun is often used. The particle *-lah* is added to create a softer tone. Examples of command sentences in the novel include:

Example 16:

"Munir, kamu tak habis-habis mengganggu orang. Sudahlah kamu kurang belajar; orang yang nak belajar kamu ganggu pula. Kerja rumah pula selalu tak siap. Berubahlah, tahun ini kamu akan menduduki Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM)," tegur Cikgu Saiful dengan perasaan kesal. (page: 51)

Example 17:

"Tidak Zali, Kau tak boleh tinggalkan emak!" (page: 127)

Example 18:

"Sejarah hidup emak dengan ayah kau tu, sejarah hitam nak. Janganlah kau sakiti hati emak. Kasihanilah emak, Zali," (page: 128)

Prohibition Sentences

Prohibition sentences use words like *jangan*, *usah*, or *tak usah* before the verb to tell someone not to do something (Nik Safiah Karim, 2011). Examples from the novel include:

Example 19:

Abang jangan tuduh yang bukan-bukan. Tak pernah pun saya dengar orang kata Razali tu sombong. (page: 73)

Example 20:

Jaga diri baik-baik, nak. Bawalah resmi padi, semakin berisi semakin menunduk. Jangan bawa resmi jagung semakin tua semakin tegak, nanti dibenci orang. (page: 86)

Example 21:

Usahlah kau bimbang, Razali. (page: 96)

Invitation Sentences

Invitation sentences use words like *sila* or *jemput* before the verb to invite or welcome someone (Nik Safiah Karim 2011).

Example 22:

"Jemputlah cikgu, Razali, Ramlah. Ini ayah saya," kata Swee Lan memperkenalkan ayahnya. (page: 24)

Example 23:

"Sila duduk cikgu," pelawa Cikgu Syamsudin. (page: 80)

Example 24:

"Sila duduk," pelawa pegawai polis itu dengan mesra. (page: 113)

Request Sentences According to *Tatabahasa Dewan Edisi Ketiga* (2011), request sentences use words such as *minta* and *tolong* to ask for help or a favor. In the novel, *tolong* is used 19 times and *minta* 12 times.

Example 25:

"Kalau begitu saya minta kamu dan cikgu pergi ke balai polis. Kami ingin soal siasat," minta pegawai polis itu. (page: 112)

Example 26:

Saya nak minta kebenaran daripada cikgu untuk buat pemeriksaan mengejut kepada semua murid sekolah kita pagi ini juga. (page: 131)

Example 27:

"Boleh juga tolong kemaskan barang. Banyak lagi yang belum disusun," tegur Ramlah dengan ikhlas. (page: 29)

Exclamatory Sentences

Exclamatory sentences are also used in the writing of this novel. These sentences are expressed with tones or intonation of exclamation to express feelings such as fear, anger, amazement, annoyance, pain, etc. (*Tatabahasa Dewan* Edisi Ketiga, 2011). Exclamatory sentences must end with an exclamation mark to indicate the exclamatory intonation. They can express various feelings depending on the sentence's meaning. Exclamatory sentences can appear with or without exclamatory words. For those with exclamatory words, the author uses words like *aduh*, *amboi*, *cis*, *oh*, *eh*, *wah*, *aduhai*, *syabas*, and *wahai*. However, *syabas*, *wahai*, *cis*, and *nah* are not used in this novel.

Example 28:

"Eh, Munir, Silvam, Leong! Buat apa tunggu di sini?" (page: 29)

Example 29:

"Amboi, gemuknya ayam-ayam ini! Banyak pula telurnya. Banyaklah dapat hasilnya, cikgu," kata Encik Mansur sambil mencapai sebiji telur ayam di situ. (page: 43)

Example 30:

"Aduh, laci meja koperasi kita dah dikopak!" keluh Razali. (page: 108)

Example 31:

Oh, mesti maju, cikgu! Bekerja bersungguh-sungguh seperti orang Jepun. (page: 25)

Example 32:

"Ah, ambillah!" Munir mendesak lagi sambil menarik tangan Ramlah untuk menyerahkan surat itu. (page: 32)

Example 33:

"Wah, rajinnya ahli lembaga pengarah koperasi kita ini!" sindir Munir pura-pura bergurau dan memaniskan mukanya. (page: 32)

This novel also uses exclamatory sentences without exclamatory words.

Example 34:

Hai, Ramlah! (page: 29)

Example 35:

"Yalah, kenapa? Mereka tu patut dihukum!" sokong Saridevi. (page: 68)

Example 36:

"Dia sahalalah yang gagah dalam kampung ni!" cemuh Pak Zakaria lagi. (page: 73)

Analysis of Sentence Types as a Representation of Rhetorical Strategies

The analysis of sentence types in the novel *Sejambak Bakti* shows that the choice of sentence type is not only to fulfill grammatical needs but also functions as a linguistic mechanism for realizing rhetorical strategies. Based on the *Tatabahasa Dewan* framework, the identified sentence types include declarative, interrogative, imperative, and exclamatory sentences. These structures are then analysed as representations of modern rhetorical strategies proposed by Enos & Brown, namely narration, description, exposition, argumentation, and persuasion. In this context, the analysis does not only focus on surface sentence forms but examines how these structures discursively function in constructing meaning, driving narrative development, and shaping readers' cognitive and emotional responses.

Declarative sentences are the most dominant form and serve as the basic structure in building narrative rhetoric. Their use allows for the linear and organized presentation of events, contributing to narrative cohesion. This can be seen in example 1, "Murid berduyun-duyun menuju ke sekolah" (page: 2), which depicts the collective movement of characters as an opening to the story's flow. Next, example 3, "Munir, Silvam, dan Leong meninggalkan tempat itu dan berjalan menuju ke kedai koperasi" (page: 19), shows the continuity of actions forming cause-effect relationships in plot development. In the context of description, example 4, "Dalam kedai koperasi petang itu, beberapa orang ahli lembaga pengarah sibuk menyusun dan mengemas barang" (page: 100), serves to detail the physical setting and character activities visually, reinforcing readers' imagination of the situation. Additionally, examples 2 and 5 function as exposition by conveying background information significant to understanding the structure of events. Thus, declarative sentences not only deliver information directly but also build discourse continuity that supports systematic narrative development.

Interrogative sentences function as discursive mechanisms that activate dialogic interaction and reinforce the dimension of conflict in the narrative. In the context of expository rhetoric, example 8, "Siapakah yang pegang kunci kedai koperasi tu?" (page: 112), raises questions that prompt the revelation of important information in investigative situations. Furthermore, sentences like example 9, "Mengapakah kamu cuba memburuk-burukkan Razali?" (page: 135), demonstrate argumentation functions as the posed question challenges the actions of other characters through cause-based inquiry, building conflict and rationality in the narrative. Interrogative sentences without question words also play a similar role, as in example 12, "Bilik itu tak dipecah orang semalam?" (page: 113), which expresses doubt and opens room for further explanation. Likewise, example 15 connects a character to a particular situation, reinforcing logical relationships in the narrative. Therefore, interrogative sentences not only function to obtain information, but also drive conflict and stimulate readers' cognitive engagement in interpreting the text.

Imperative sentences in this novel demonstrate rhetorical functions dominant in persuasion, particularly in influencing actions, emotions, and social relationships between characters. For instance, example 25 is a request that functions persuasively to obtain cooperation, thereby propelling events in the narrative. In the context of prohibition, example 19, "Abang jangan tuduh yang bukan-bukan" (page: 73), reflects efforts to prevent actions that could trigger

interpersonal conflict. Meanwhile, command sentences such as example 16 show elements of advice that encourage changes in character attitudes, contributing to value-building in the text. Additionally, example 20, which contains proverbs, shows that imperative sentences also serve as a medium for conveying moral values implicitly. Invitation sentences like examples 22 to 24 reflect politeness norms and harmonious social relationships between characters. Thus, imperative sentences not only function as commands but also as rhetorical strategies shaping actions, values, and social relationship structures in the narrative.

Exclamatory sentences function as expressive elements that reinforce emotional and evaluative dimensions in the narrative. In the context of persuasive rhetoric, example 30, "Aduh, laci meja koperasi kita dah dikopak!" (page: 108), illustrates a surprised reaction that heightens narrative tension and influences readers' emotions. Example 32 shows an element of insistence reflecting emotional pressure in character interactions, functioning as direct persuasion. In the context of description, example 29 provides a more vivid picture through emotional expression, while example 28 shows a spontaneous interaction supporting plot development. Additionally, in the category without exclamatory words, example 35 combines emotion and evaluation, reinforcing narrative conflict. Thus, exclamatory sentences not only enrich language expression but also play a role in shaping emotional engagement and readers' evaluation of events in the text.

Overall, this analysis shows that sentence types in the novel *Sejambak Bakti* function as an essential component in realizing rhetorical strategies in the narrative. Declarative sentences dominate narrative, descriptive, and expository rhetoric through organized and cohesive information delivery. Interrogative sentences support expository and argumentative rhetoric by raising questions that stimulate thought and build narrative conflict. Furthermore, imperative and exclamatory sentences play a major role in persuasive rhetoric by influencing the actions and emotions of characters and readers. Thus, the author's choice of sentence types can be seen as a deliberate linguistic strategy that not only supports narrative clarity but also enhances the effectiveness of meaning delivery and the overall reading experience.

Conclusion

This study aimed to analyze the use of sentence types in the novel *Sejambak Bakti* and to examine their role as representations of rhetorical strategies in the narrative. Based on the *Tatabahasa Dewan* framework and the modern rhetoric model by Enos & Brown, the findings show that sentence types play a significant role in constructing meaning and realizing rhetorical functions in narrative texts.

Overall, declarative sentences were found to be the most dominant and serve as the main medium for building narration, description, and exposition through the delivery of structured and cohesive information. Interrogative sentences support the dimensions of exposition and argumentation by raising questions that stimulate thought and reinforce narrative conflict. Furthermore, imperative and exclamatory sentences play an important role in persuasive rhetoric by influencing actions, emotions, and social relationships among characters. These findings indicate that the author's choice of sentence type is not coincidental, but rather a deliberate linguistic strategy to produce effective and meaningful narrative development.

In addition, this study also demonstrates that analyzing sentence types can broaden our understanding of the relationship between language structure and rhetorical function in literary works. The approach, which combines grammatical and rhetorical analysis, provides a more comprehensive picture of the construction of narrative discourse, thereby contributing to the development of Malay linguistics and literature, especially in understanding how language is used strategically in creative writing.

Based on these findings, two main recommendations are put forward to strengthen research in the field of rhetoric. First, future studies are encouraged to examine the interactions between various rhetorical strategies in constructing narrative discourse, especially how rhetoric such as narration, argumentation, and persuasion operate in overlapping ways within a text segment. This approach is important for understanding the real dynamics of rhetorical use, which do not occur in isolation but complement each other in the construction of meaning.

Second, future research can focus on the realization of rhetoric at the micro level through more detailed linguistic analysis, examining how sentence types interact with other elements such as lexical choice, language style, and discourse organization. This more holistic approach has the potential to strengthen our understanding of the construction of rhetoric as a complex and layered system within literary texts.

In summary, this study emphasises that sentence types are not just a grammatical element, but an essential component in the development of rhetorical strategies. The appropriate choice of sentence type enables the author to control narrative flow, shape emotion, and effectively convey meaning to the reader. Thus, this study not only reinforces the understanding of the relationship between language and rhetoric, but also opens up further exploration of the role of language as a strategic tool in producing high-quality literary works.

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