

**A FORMALIST-STRUCTURALIST ANALYSIS OF THE NOVEL  
SAB'ATU AYYĀM FAQATH BY WAIL WAJDI**

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**ABSTRACT**

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Literature is defined as a creative work of humankind that utilizes language in its creation. There are many forms of literary works, including novels. As a medium of expression, novels enable authors to systematically convey ideas, experiences, and social reflections, allowing readers to interpret the meaning and values contained within. This research aims to examine intrinsic elements and show the relationship between structural elements in the novel. Sab'atu Ayyām Faqath karya Wail Wajdi ini. This research falls under the qualitative research category. Descriptive. The technique used in this research is structural formalism, which views literary works as a complete and whole structure where intrinsic relationships are generated. Data analysis techniques include the disclosure method (identification and description) and the systematic analysis method (examining the relationship between elements). This research shows that the novel's structure is very cohesive. The story elements center on the father's physical and psychological suffering, driving the main plot. The central character, Wail Wajdi, emphasizes strong motifs of devotion and loyalty. This research examines the intrinsic elements present in the novel and reveals the coherence or relationship between these elements. This research can also provide a theoretical contribution to the study of Arabic literature and serve as a reference in improving the ability to understand Arabic texts.

**Keywords:** *Analysis, Novel, Structural Formalism, Intrinsic Elements.*



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## **Introduction**

Literary works represent human experiences in the form of aesthetic and imaginative language (Ariby Zahron, 2024). Literature and language are two interrelated disciplines. Literature is defined as a human creative work that utilizes language in its creation process, and language becomes the primary medium in its delivery (Syuriati et al., 2024). Literary works are essentially a person's (author's) response to situations that occur in society (Bayu Setiaji, 2020). Through literature, authors express their views on life, morality, and spirituality (Salwa et al., 2025). Novels as a form of narrative literature have the power to display the complexity of the human mind and universal human values (Didipu, 2018). In this case, novels become a means to express feelings through writing.

Novels present fictional stories with complex character development, conflict, and plots (Alya Wijaya et al., 2025). As a medium of expression, novels allow writers to convey ideas, experiences, and social reflections systematically, so that readers can interpret the meaning and values contained therein. In the context of modern Arabic literature, novels become a tool to convey the current social, political, and spiritual dynamics of Arab society. According to Bin Has & Zaky Sya'bani (2020), modern Arabic literary works not only display the beauty of language but also reflect issues related to human existence, such as suffering, love, loss, and the search for meaning in life.

Sheikh Sayyid Qutb explained that novels are expressions of life, complete with details and parts that evolve. Novels present themselves in the form of events and profound feelings. He further explained that life in a novel does not have to begin at a specific point or end at a particular stage (Sayyid, 2003). Therefore, it is essential to analyze modern Arabic novels to comprehend the messages related to humanity that they convey.

Novel theme "Sab'atū Ayyām Faqath" Highlights the devotion of a son, Wail Wajdi, to his father, who undergoes drastic changes after retiring and losing his wife. The once-enthusiastic father becomes a pessimist, losing sight of life's meaning. This story reflects the struggle, loss, and sincerity of a son in caring for his father until the end of his life. His zest for life was gone. He spent his days in bed. He no longer wanted to move, and the only place he felt most comfortable in the world was his bed (Wagdy & Wail, 2010). Researchers are interested in studying the novel Sab'atū Ayyām Faqath because this work presents a profound reflection on loss and the human spiritual journey, but has not been widely studied from a formalist structuralist perspective in the context of modern Arabic literature (Ayesha Ismaidini et al., 2024).

The theme of a child's devotion to their parents is one rarely addressed by novelists, short story writers, cultural figures, and writers. Yet, this issue is a pressing one, given the numerous cases of parents being neglected because their children no longer care for them. Some are placed in nursing homes, while others are left to live in poverty. Likewise, frail parents, often placed under the care of their children, usually experience unkind, even abusive, behavior from their children. They seem to forget all the support their parents have provided them, from infancy through their own success.

While novelists and writers are generally preoccupied with romantic themes of young love, Wail Wajdi raises a simple yet very valuable theme: devotion to parents. In a time of crisis of children's devotion to their parents, Wail Wajdi reawakens their souls to realize the importance of devotion to parents. Wail Wajdi conveys this moral message in his novel entitled "Sab'atu ayyām faqath". This novel is exciting to study further in terms of its structural and intrinsic elements.

Formalist structuralism, as proposed by (Rene & Austin (1995), views literary works as autonomous systems. The author or external context does not determine the meaning of a work, but by the relationship between internal elements such as theme, characters, plot, setting, and style (Putri Amanda et al., 2019), Through this approach, the structure of a text can be analyzed to find the integration of elements that form the overall meaning of the work.

Research on Arabic-language novels remains limited, particularly in terms of formalist structuralist approaches. Many previous researchers have researched novels from various aspects. "Analysis of Educational Values in the Novel "Dahlan's Shoes" by Khrisna Pabhicara (Aziz, 2021),"Character Values in the Novel Matahari Minor by Tere Liye (Development of Teaching Materials Analyzing from the Novel)" (Pramesti Setiawan et al., 2024), "Analysis of Character Education Values in the Novel Catatan Juang by Fiersa Besari and Its Utilization in Learning to Analyze Novels for Class X of Vocational High School" (Utari et al., 2023), "Analysis of Moral Values in the Novel "Find Me in Your Istikharah" by E. Sabila El Raihany" (Siti Mujarod, 2022),"Moral Values in the Novel Sagaras by Tere Liye and Their Implementation in Learning Novel Texts" (Rizka Ananda & Anggraini, 2023), "Analysis of the Values of Da'wah in the Novel "Islammu Adalah Maharku" by Ario Muhammad, PhD" (H Nanda et al., 2022), "Analysis of National Character Values in the Novel "Amelia" by Tere-Liye" (Wulandari Lubis & Tansliova, 2018),"Analysis of Religious Values in the Novel Tenggelamnya Kapal Van Der Wijck" by Hamka" (Budi et al., 2024) , "Analysis of Religious Values in the Novel "Loving You Like I Love the Qur'an" by Wahyu Sujani" (Mulyati, 2020) and "Religious Values in the Novel Lentera Jelita by Alifia Ramadhani"

(Purnama & Sukardi, 2024). Most previous studies have focused on moral or religious aspects, without examining how the text structure constructs meaning. The formalist structuralist approach enables an objective reading of the work, as it focuses on the integration of intrinsic elements as constructs of meaning (Nenoliu et al., 2024). Therefore, this study is urgently required to reveal the structure of meaning in the novel textually.

Research on structuralism in novels has been extensively studied from various aspects. The following is previous research that explains structuralism "*Analysis of the Novel About You by Tere Liye Using Structuralist Theory (Intrinsic Elements)*" (Nuryanti et al., 2020), "*Structural Study and Educational Values in the Novel Hayya by Helvy Tiana Rosa and Benny Arnas*" (Septiana & Isnaniah, 2020), "*Genetic Structuralism Analysis of the Novel Perahu Kertas by Dewi Lestari*" (Sundari, 2015), "*Structural Analysis in the Novel Chicago by Alaa Al Aswany*" (Rahayu N & Noor, 2023), "*Analysis of Genetic Structuralism and Pedagogical Aspects in the Novel Kartini by Abidah El Khalieqy*" (Dewi & Kartolo Silitonga, 2022), and "*Structuralism Analysis in the Novel "Warisan Masa Silam" by V. Lestari*" (Sukarismanti et al., 2023). This study provides a structural analysis of the novel, highlighting several notable differences. Previous researchers have studied Indonesian novels, whereas this study will focus on analyzing Arabic novels. Therefore, from the problems that have been raised, one issue identified in the novel "Sab'atu ayyām faqath" is the existence of formal structure and intrinsic relationships within the novel.

This research aims to reveal the intrinsic elements contained in the novel and reveal the coherence or relationship between one element and another, and reveal the dominant elements in the story, so that it can provide a deep understanding of the content and characters in the novel Sab'atu Ayyām Faqath by Wail Wajdi, as well as reveal the relationship between its intrinsic elements. In addition, this research makes a theoretical contribution to the study of Arabic literature and serves as a valuable reference for students in developing their Arabic language skills, particularly in enhancing their ability to comprehend Arabic texts.

The findings of this study are expected to enrich Arabic literary studies by providing new perspectives in understanding the work through its internal structure. Furthermore, this study offers insight into how the themes of sadness and acceptance of fate in Sab'atu Ayyām Faqath serve not only as narrative elements but also as structures of meaning that reflect the human perspective on life in modern Arabic literature.

## **Research Methods**

The research method employed in the study of the novel "Sab'atu ayyām faqath" by Wail Wagdi is a qualitative method with a descriptive-analytical approach, based on literature analysis (Library Research) (Wahidul Akbar et al., 2024). The data source in this study is the novel *Sab'atu Ayyām Faqath* by Wail Wajdi, published in Cairo by Dār al-Syurūq in 2010. This novel is used as a research material object because it contains intrinsic elements relevant to the study of modern Arabic literature.

Meanwhile, the technique used to implement this method utilizes elements that previously existed in structural formalism, namely characters, plots, motifs, themes, and language (Sangidu, 2007). In revealing and describing the elements of literary works, the structural method is a technique that can technically begin with any aspect, as there are no standard rules governing the presentation system. The process of expression involves identifying and explaining the intrinsic elements contained in literary works, such as character traits, series of events (plot), recurring motifs, main themes, and linguistic aspects that contribute to the atmosphere. Furthermore, the method of analysis involves examining the relationships between the identified elements. Researchers study how characters contribute to the development of the plot, how motifs reinforce the theme, and how language serves to enhance the aesthetic expression and meaning of the work. This process aims to explain the integration of the structure and function of each element in forming a complete unity of meaning.

This research was conducted through three main stages: data collection, data analysis, and presentation of the analysis results. During the data collection stage, the researcher conducted an in-depth reading and study of Wail Wajdi's novel *Sab'atu Ayyām Faqath* to identify the intrinsic elements it contains. Data analysis stage: In analyzing the data, the author employed the translation method throughout the book. By translating, the author can understand the content of the story, its theme, and the structure that builds the work (Sangidu, 2007). Furthermore, the presentation of data analysis results is as follows: the results of the analysis are presented in the form of a description of the intrinsic elements and the relationships between these elements that form the wholeness of the novel *Sab'atu Ayyām Faqath*. Next, the researcher compiled a table of structural analysis instruments, which included data identification, intrinsic elements, descriptions, analysis (revealed and analyzed), relationships between elements, and implied meanings. This table serves as a guideline for a systematic and objective analysis process. Therefore, the application of the structural-formalist method in this study emphasizes the interconnectedness of elements that form the whole meaning of a literary work.

## **Results And Discussion**

Wail Wajdi is an Egyptian writer active in the Egyptian Writers' Union, the Cairo Short Story Club, and Jam'iyyah Adibba. Born in Cairo on June 10, 1962, he graduated from Cairo University's Faculty of Law but developed a keen interest in literature from childhood. Driven by his love of reading, he wrote various works that combined his life experiences and observations. To date, he has produced approximately 13 highly acclaimed literary works.

As far as can be observed, research on literary works on "Novels" "Sab'atu ayyām faqath" In Wail Wajdi's work, several elements are found in it, including: Stories (al-hikayah), characterization (as-sakhshiyah), channel (al-habkah), time and place background (az zaman wal makan), means of storytelling, ideas or concepts (al-fiqrah), and the relationship between the elements, which will be described with the following explanation.

### **A. Story (Al-hikayah)**

According to the view of formalist structuralism theory (Rene & Austin, 1995), literary works have an autonomous structure, and each element functions to build the meaning of the entire text. Therefore, in analyzing the novel Sab'at Ayyām Faqāth, it is essential to examine how the elements of the story present a coherence of meaning through a series of events.

The story goes that the father, who was once a strong, enthusiastic, and optimistic figure, suddenly transformed into a weak, sickly, and pessimistic person in the face of life. This happened after he retired and was abandoned by his beloved wife. This marked the beginning of the father's transformation. He was often ill and spent his days in bed, as the following text illustrates:

وصل الأمر إلى منتهاه بعد وفاة أمي، لا يطيق الحديث عن الخروج، أقصى شيء يفعله أن يجلس في الصالة يشاهد التليفزيون. مع مرور الأيام لم يعد يترك حجرة نومه، يشاهده وهو نائم على السرير، أو يقرأ

**الصحف**

"It got to the point where, after Ummi died, he couldn't leave the house anymore. The least he could do was sit in the main room watching television. As the days passed, he no longer wanted to leave his bedroom. He spent his days sleeping on the bed or reading the Quran."

Father suffered from various illnesses, among the diseases and sufferings experienced by his father were: calf pain that made it difficult to move, diabetes that had long been eating away at his body, gangrene on his heels that produced a foul odor due to dead tissue, to pressure sores that had worsened due to prolonged lying

down. These conditions indicated that his father's health was steadily declining and required intensive care. As there is in the following texts

تصور أني نسيت تعب ساقي، وهممت أن أذهب إلى الحمام من غير مساعدة أحد..

"You probably think I've forgotten about my calf problem. I just want to go to the bathroom without anyone's help".

أتعجب وأصمت. قرح الفراش، ازداد حجمها وتغير لونها،

"I was speechless. Decubitusits size increases and changes color.

Seeing his father's frequent illnesses and need for serious care and attention, Wail devoted himself to the task to the fullest. This can be seen in the following texts: During Father's illness, in whatever condition and how busy he was, Wail Wajdi was always present at his father's side when he was sick, strengthening his father in every treatment process that he had to go through, always praying for him, always guarding, accompanying and paying attention to his father, accompanying his father for the last time to the grave, and accompanying his father for the last time to the grave.

This is expressed in the following texts:

أثناء السجود أدعوا لأبي وأن يمن الله عليه بالشفاء وتخفيض آلامه.. منذ سنوات طويلة، ومرض السكر،  
ينهش في جسده

"While prostrating, I prayed for my father that Allah would protect him with healing and alleviate his illness. He has had diabetes for years."

أبي الواهن وحالته المرضية المتداعية، يسربني بالشقاء، أراه يذبل أمامي، ولا أستطيع أن أفعل سوى محاولة أن يأكل. اليوم يعف عن كل شيء، لم يعد يتقلب في سريره مثلما يفعل، لم يعد ينادي عليّ أو على شقيقتي أو ولديها "محمد" و "عمرو". أفتح باب حجرته، أدخل وأخرج، أنظر إليه، وهو يرقد على جانبه الأيمن، لا يشعر بتواجدي، أنسحب من الحجرة والكمد يغزوني.

"My father's weak voice and his ill condition made me panic. I watched him wither before me while I was unable to do anything but coax him to eat. On this day, everything disappeared. He no longer tossed and turned in bed as he had done. He also no longer called for me or my sister, or his children, Muhammad and Amru. I opened the door to his room and went in and out. I saw him lying on his right side.

He was no longer aware of my presence. I withdrew from the room, grief enveloping me."

Based on the theory of formalist structuralism (Rene & Austin, 1995), each element in a literary work has a function to form a complete unity of meaning. In the novel *Sab'at Ayyām Faqāth*, a series of events that depict the suffering and changes of the father illustrate the integration between the plot, characters, and atmosphere that builds the emotional structure of the story.

This story not only depicts the reality of human suffering but also presents a symbolic meaning of powerlessness in the face of fate. The relationship between events and themes demonstrates the regularity of form, as emphasized in formalist structuralist theory, which posits that the meaning of a work arises from the relationships between its elements, rather than from external factors such as the author or social context.

### B. Figure / As Syakhsiyahd

This character's role is crucial because he represents the author, leading the story from beginning to end. As is known, the main character in this story is Wail Wajdi, the author himself. His mother died long ago. His father is ill and seems to have lost his will to live. Wail works in an office and has many responsibilities. However, despite the circumstances, he always prioritizes his father's care. As the following quote shows:

There are also supporting characters who complement the plot and storyline in this story, namely: Wail Wajdi, his father, his younger sister and her husband and his son Muhammad, the doctor who treated his father, Sa'id, his childhood friend, the nurse who treated the decubitus wounds, Khalid, his friend who always accompanied him, a Sheikh who washed the body and Asyraf who helped, as well as colleagues such as Yusuf, Samih, and Ali, also Ahmad and the neighbors who helped take care of the funeral process.

This is expressed in the following text:

كيف استطاع أبي أن يترك سريره، لم يناد أحداً كي يساعد له دخول الحمام كعادته، يقف على باب حجرته، ثابت الخطو، بهم بالسير في الممر..

"How could my father leave his bed without calling anyone to help him to the bathroom like usual...? With firm steps and he walked on the floor.

قرر الطبيب له نظاماً غذائياً جديداً، وحقن أنسولين.. تعب في بداية العلاج لكنه استجاب له، وعادت نسبة السكر في الدم إلى المستوى المعقول. فترة مرضه الطويل بالسكر أثرت على عضلات وأعصاب الساقين.

"The doctor recommended a new diet and injections. Unsulin.. "My father objected at the beginning of the treatment, but he still complied. And finally, his blood sugar levels returned to normal. Diabetes affected the muscles and nerves in both calves."

Based on the formalist structuralist theory (Rene & Austin, 1995), characters in literary works serve to establish a unity of meaning through interaction, role, and emotional development. In this novel, the main character, Wail Wajdi, runs the story from beginning to end, depicting loyalty and concern for his ailing father. Supporting characters, such as the father, younger brother, and his son, the doctor, Sa'id, the nurse, Khalid, the Sheikh, colleagues, Yusuf, Samih, Ali, and Ahmad, and the neighbors, each play a role in enriching the plot and emphasizing the emotional dynamics of the main character. The relationships between these characters emphasize an orderly and interconnected narrative structure, demonstrating that the novel's meaning arises from the intrinsic interaction between characters and events, rather than from external factors such as the author or social context.

### C. Setting Time and Place (Az-Zamān Wal-Makān)

In this novel, several time and place settings have been mentioned:

#### 1. Time Background (Az-Zamān)

There are several time settings shown in this novel, including:

##### a) Night

As stated in the following text:

ظلمة الطريق تحوطني من كل اتجاه، رغم أنني أسير بسيارتي في هذا الطريق سنوات وسنوات إلا أننيأشعر  
الآن بخفوت ضوء أعمدة الإنارة، غاللة شفيفة تحجب رؤيتي..

"The darkness of the road surrounds me from all directions and sides. Even though I've been driving this road for years, I still feel the faint light of the streetlights. The darkness of the night. Blocking my view ".

##### b) Friday morning

The time setting on Friday morning contains the following textual quote:

أصحو من نومي والصداع يكسر رأسي، أغسل وجهي، وأتوضأ استعداداً للصلوة الجمعة.

"I woke up and felt a headache hanging over me. I washed my face and performed ablution, getting ready for Friday prayers."

##### c) Early Morning 2:30 AM

The early morning time setting is explained in the following text:

نقرات على باب الحجرة، تدخل الممرضة وبصحبته الطبيب - الذي طال انتظاره - أطل على عقارب ساعتي، الثانية والنصف صباحاً.

"Suddenly I heard a knock on the door. The nurse came in with her friend, the long-awaited doctor. I glanced at my watch, it was 2:30 a.m.

**d) One Morning**

The morning in this story is set when the father is bathed by his son, Wail Wajdi. This is explained in the textual exposition as follows:

لم أنتظر رنين المنبه كي أستيقظ، أفتح عيني بتألق، أسحب ساعتي من جانبي، أنظر إلى عقاربها، الساعة الثامنة صباحاً،

"I didn't wait for the alarm clock to ring to wake up. With great difficulty, I tried to open my eyes. Then I reached for the clock beside me. I saw that the hands showed eight o'clock."

Based on the theory of formalist structuralism (Rene & Austin, 1995), every element in a literary work forms a unity of meaning. In this novel, the time setting serves to build the atmosphere and rhythm of the narrative: night reflects loneliness and uncertainty, early morning emphasizes tension, while morning presents the rituals and responsibilities of the characters. The integration of time, events, and the characters' emotions demonstrates that meaning arises from the relationship between intrinsic elements of the text, rather than external factors.

**2. Place Setting (Al-Makān)**

**a) Like**

The room settings are shown in the following text:

أضغط على مفتاح غلق هاتفي المحمول وأدفع به في درج مكتبي، أرفع نظري، أتابع خيوط العنكبوت ونسيجه المتشعب على سقف حجرتي. أفك في حديث شقيقتي. أهي صحوة الموت؟

"I pressed the lock button on my phone and then put it in the desk drawer. I lifted my gaze and noticed the spider web. The web stretched across the attic of my room. I thought about my little sister's words. Had she awakened death?"

**b) Workplace (Office)**

The office is the place where the Wail wajdi works as explained in the following text:

أريد أن أترك العمل، وأذهب إلى والدي كي أراه، وأطمئن عليه.

"I want to leave work, then I will go to my father's place so I can see him so that I can comfort him."

c) Daglah Muhandisin Street,

The setting is the home where the father lies weak due to his illness. This is explained in the following text:

Engineers. -

- المهندسين.

أسرح، لا أتابع الطريق، لا أتحدث مع السائق، أطلب منه أن يدخل إلى شارع "دجلة"، أهبط أمام العمارة التي يسكن بها والدي، أقفز من فوق عتبة الباب، أركب المصعد، أضغط على زر الدور الخامس

- You are an engineer.

Frankly, I wasn't paying attention to the road. I didn't even chat with the driver. I asked him to get out of the way. Be there."Then I went down in front of the building where my father lived. I jumped up the stairs to the door. I got into the elevator, and then I pressed the button for level five."

d) Father's Room

In a smaller scope, the setting of the father's room is described in the following text:

أدخل حجرة أبي ضوء "الأباجورة" الشاحب يسقط على سريره. أجده يلتحف بملاءة خفيفة، ينام على جانبه الأيمن، يشعر بخطواتي، يسأل بصوت واهن

"I went into my father's room, and the light was on. Lamp shades illuminated his bed. He found himself covered with a thin cloth. He was sleeping sideways to the right. Feeling my steps, he asked in a soft voice:

e) Hospital

The hospital is where my father's treatment takes place, and all administrative costs are settled. The hospital's setting is described in the following texts:

لم أستغرق وقتاً طويلاً في إنهاء الأوراق المطلوبة في المستشفى.

"I didn't spend a long time completing all the required paperwork at the hospital.

f) Shop Full and Tho'miyah, Cafe and Bus Terminal

يُصر خالد أن أفتر، بعد ملاحظته شحوبني، وانخفاض طبقة صوتي، ندخل ميلاً للفول والطعمية..

"Khalid forced me to have breakfast after he saw that I was pale and my voice had dropped. We went into the shop. Full and Tho'miyah (Egyptian specialty food)".

g) Mosque and Cemetery in the Sixth of October Area

تحضر سيارة نقل الموتى، نضع جثمان أبي في النعش بدون غطاء، أركب مع جاري وصديقي "أحمد" سيارته للسير وراء أبي، للصلاة عليه في "مسجد الحصري" بمدينة السادس من أكتوبر.

"The hearse arrived. Our father's body was placed in an unopened coffin. My friend Ahmad and I, along with our neighbors, got in the car right behind the hearse to pray for him at the al-Hushari Mosque in the district. October 6".

Based on the theory of formalist structuralism (Rene & Austin, 1995), the setting in this novel serves to build atmosphere, guide the plot, and strengthen the characters' emotions. The father's room and bedroom present an intimate and reflective atmosphere, while the office shows the responsibilities and pressures of the main character's work. Jalan Daglah Muhandisin emphasizes the physical and emotional journey to the father, while the hospital becomes a space for action and administration. Shops, cafes, bus terminals, mosques, and cemeteries present social interactions, rituals, and the transition process of life and death. The integration of these settings shows that the meaning of the birthplace of an intrinsic relationship between text elements is not derived from external context.

#### **D. Channel (Al-Habkah)**

Al habkah is the structure or plot of a story that is carried out by a character throughout the story. This structure can begin at the beginning, then climb to the climax, and then decline again until the story ends (Sangidu, 2007).

Novel Sab'atu Ayyām Faqath Wail Wajdi's work features a plot structure that alternates between forward and backward narratives. The forward plot depicts the main character's life journey from childhood to adulthood, while the backward plot focuses on the last seven days of the father's life, which serves as the emotional center of the story.

This story represents the author's personal experience caring for his father, who suffered from various chronic illnesses such as diabetes, gangrene, and low blood pressure. His father's condition worsened after the loss of his wife and retirement, leading to a loss of enthusiasm for life and a reluctance to seek treatment.

Through the character of Wail, the author presents a portrait of a devoted and patient child dealing with his parents' suffering. He is depicted as always accompanying his father, both at home and in the hospital, without complaint and always prioritizing his filial duties over his personal interests.

Supporting characters such as Wail's younger sister, Muhammad's son, and her husband play a role in caring for and accompanying their father as he passes away. Furthermore, the characters of doctors and nurses represent a suboptimal medical care system, thus raising social criticism of the professionalism of healthcare workers, which tends to be formal and materialistic.

Thematically, this novel emphasizes the value of devotion to one's parents, patience in facing life's trials, as well as a social critique of modern healthcare services. The back-and-forth plot structure used strengthens the emotional and spiritual messages in the story, as expressed in Wail's tone of disappointment in the following text:

أقبل جبينه، أربت كتفه، أخرج من حجرته، لاأشعر بتفاؤل قط.  
لا علاج أو تمريض صحيح، المهم الفاتورة، العامرة بالبنود. للأسف أمست حالته لا تقبل النقل إلى مستشفى آخر. أدعوه بكل خلجة من خلجاتي.

"I kissed both of my father's cheeks and rubbed his shoulders. I left his room. I never felt that his incoherent speech was a sign of his approaching death.

There's no proper treatment or care. All that matters is the rich receipts. I'm sorry, but even my father's treatment isn't allowed to be transferred to another hospital. I appeal to them with all my sorrow."

Sa'id, her childhood friend, also complements Wail's childhood memories with her father. Wail once paddled a canoe with him on the Nile River. This experience remains vivid in Wail's memory.

To assist doctors in treatment, the presence of nurses cannot be overlooked. This is because doctors cannot handle patients alone. They also have many other patients to care for, making the nurse's involvement in this process crucial.

If Sa'id was Wail's childhood friend, then Khalid is Wail's best friend as an adult. Khalid is a true friend who cares deeply about Wail's well-being. This is evident in his presence from far away to visit his friend in her grief and to see her father in critical condition. He is the one who comforts and strengthens Wail when she is troubled. As quoted in the conversation:

أشعر بثقل في رأسي،:  
- أنا خالد.. ما هي أخبار والدك الآن؟  
- لازم أكون معك.. أذكر لي العنوان.. سأنتظرك في الاستراحة بإذن الله..

"I feel like my head is so heavy...

- I'm Khalid... how is your father's condition now...?
- I have to be with you... tell me the address... I will wait (meet) you during break time, God willing.

After undergoing a long period of treatment, Wail's father's condition did not improve until he finally reached a critical stage and died. A funeral director was

present during the funeral service—Sheikh, who led and guided the entire procession, from bathing and shrouding to praying and burial. Wail was not alone; he was accompanied by his colleagues—Yusuf, Samih, and Ali—as well as Ahmad and neighbors who helped and provided moral support during his time of grief.

Through this plot, the author emphasizes that devotion to parents must be carried out with patience, sincerity, and without regard for time limits, even to accompany parents to the grave. The character of Wail is depicted as a sincere, patient, and devoted son who makes his father a priority despite being busy with work. In addition, the author inserts social criticism of hospital services in Egypt, which are considered slow, rude, and more oriented towards material gain. With a straightforward and touching language style, this work conveys a profound moral message about the love and devotion children have for their parents throughout their lives.

Based on the formalist structuralist theory (Rene & Austin, 1995), the plot in this novel establishes unity of meaning through a forward-backward structure. The forward plot depicts the main character's life journey from childhood to adulthood, while the backward plot focuses on the last seven days of her ailing father's life. This structure highlights Wail's personal experience in caring for her father, showcasing the patience, devotion, and responsibility of a child towards their parents. The presence of supporting characters—her younger brother, Muhammad, a doctor, a nurse, Khalid's friend, a coworker, a sheikh, and a neighbor—enriches the plot dynamics and emphasizes the emotional tension and social critique of hospital services. The relationship between events and characters reveals that the story's meaning arises from the intrinsic interaction of text elements, which reinforces the moral message about devotion, patience, and dedication throughout life.

### **E. Story Tools**

Besides characters, setting, and plot, narrative devices are also elements that shape a story. These devices include tension, atmosphere, narrative focus (point of view), and style. In this study, only the narrative focus (point of view) and atmosphere will be discussed.

#### **1. Viewpoint**

Point of view (point of view, center of narration) is the position of the narrator in a story. In this case, the position of the novel writer acts as the first person. He is present in the story. He is the person who experiences and knows all the events from beginning to end, so that he can tell an event that he experienced and mention a little about other supporting characters (Sangidu, 2007).

The point of view will answer the question of who is telling the story in this novel. Therefore, the narrator in this novel adopts a first-person perspective. He knows everything he feels, thinks, and experiences. The narrator tells all of it from beginning to end. In other words, the point of view in the novel *Sab'atu Ayyām Faqath* is that of someone who directly experiences an event, as this novel is based on his personal experience during the last moments he spent with his father, Muhammad Wajdi.

## **2. Atmosphere**

A literary work is essentially a depiction or depiction of everything humans feel, think, and experience in their lives, presented through the characters in a story. Many events may be felt, thought, and experienced by the characters in a story, such as pleasant, sad, annoying, and so on. All the events, thoughts, and experiences felt, thought, and experienced by the characters in a story are collectively referred to as the atmosphere.

Using point-of-view storytelling, the author can describe the feelings, thoughts, and experiences of his characters. Wail Wajdi's feelings, thoughts, and experiences are those of sadness, anxiety, worry, and disappointment. This state persists from his father's illness until his death. The joy and happiness Wail Wajdi experiences are merely memories of his past with his father, family, and friends.

## **F. Ideas (Al-Fiqh (Jurisprudence)**

Al-fiqrah is the idea that underlies the writing of a work. This idea is not explicitly expressed, but rather implied through the tensions experienced by the characters in an event (Sangidu, 2007).

Inside story Novel "Sab'atu Ayyām Faqath" The central theme is a son's devotion to his elderly and ailing father. Since his wife left him, his father has lost his zest for life, is often bedridden, and is plagued by various chronic illnesses. Despite his busy work schedule, the main character consistently accompanies, cares for, and comforts his father with unwavering patience. His father's reluctance to take medication and eat emphasizes the conflict between human effort and limitations. Ultimately, his father dies, affirming that the final decision rests with God. The main character's deep sorrow is implied in the following quote:

أخرج من المحل، يرن هاتفي المحمول...، أجد اسم زوج شقيقتي:  
— البقاء لله.

تسقط حقيبتي في الأرض، تنبجس دموعي الحارة، الملائعة، لم أعد أرى من شدة النحيب، أدخل في دوائر  
اليتم والحزن المقيم

"I came out of the shop. My phone rang... I found my sister's husband's name (he said)  
- Eternity belongs only to Allah....

My bag fell to the ground. My tears gushed out hot. I lost my balance (was upset). I had never cried so hard before. I was entering a phase of life as an orphan, and deep sadness.

The funeral arrangements were also carried out by his son, Wail Wajdi, who was responsible for completing all the funeral rites. He was guided by a sheikh and assisted by several friends. He also accompanied his father to the grave, his final resting place. This was a manifestation of a son's devotion to his father's death, even to his final resting place.

Every child experiences loss when their parents die. Generally, everyone will feel the beauty of their parents' love and the sweet memories of their lives. When a parent dies, life can feel empty. That's how Wail felt when he lost his beloved father. When he returned home and entered his father's room, he felt only emptiness and deep sadness. He realized how precious a father's presence in his life is, as the following text suggests:

أعود إلى شقتك، ألمح ضوء "الأباجورة" الكثيف، يسقط على سريرك. لا أستطيع أن أخطو عتبات حجرتك.  
كيف أدلّف من يأبهوا ولا أجده؟

"I went back to your house, then turned on the light, the dim light, and the slumber on the bed. I couldn't even step into your room. How could I dirty the door when I couldn't find you?

Based on the formalist structuralist theory (Rene & Austin, 1995), the ideas in the novel "Sab'atu Ayyām Faqath" are constructed through the relationship between the plot, characters, and atmosphere, which depicts a son's devotion to his father throughout his life. The meaning of the work emerges from the unity of these elements, which highlight the value of patience and sincerity in the face of loss.

#### G. Relationship between elements

The ultimate goal of structural analysis is to reveal the meaning of a literary text in its entirety through its intrinsic elements. Therefore, in the structural analysis of literary works, the most important thing is the interconnectedness and interdependence of the functions of one element (dominant and functional elements) with other elements (less dominant or less functional elements) in a coherent and synergistic (harmonious) manner (Sangidu, 2007).

As stated in the presentation of the analysis of each structural element in the history "Sab'atu ayyām faqath," Wail Wajdi's work above can be explained through a story.

The story revolves around a child named Wail Wajdi, who devoted himself to his ailing father. His father had lost his will to live since retiring and losing his wife. He spent his days in bed, not exercising. He was even reluctant to eat or take his medicine.

Various illnesses plagued him. Things became even more complicated when his father lost his enthusiasm for recovery and even began to feel the approach of death. Before his retirement and the death of his wife, he had always been a spirited and optimistic figure. He was even the one who kept his wife and children motivated and confident in learning and facing life. As an element, Al-Shakhsiyah (characterization) played by Wail Wajdi, she never stops and tirelessly strives to treat her father so that he can recover. Her younger sister and her husband also accompany the main character in this case. At the hospital, some doctors and nurses treat and care for her father. When her father's illness becomes critical and requires intensive care, Wail's grief deepens. Then the character Khalid is there to support Wail.

StoryThis (story, event) escalates when the father relapses and vomits the medicine he was given. This vomiting is accompanied by vomiting blood. Therefore, the father is immediately given intensive care. The event faced by the main character is his father's illness, which does not improve. Even though every effort has been made. However, Allah SWT's decision is also specific. The father finally dies before vomiting blood. This is the peak of Wail's sadness. Humans (children), in this case, can only make efforts as proof of their efforts and devotion to their father. Therefore, the elemental habkah (The plot) is essential so that readers can understand the extent to which the son has devoted himself to his father, what he has done to deserve being considered devoted to his parents, in this case, his father.

Wail Wajdi's struggle to serve his father is evident from the time setting (Azzaman). Every time the father needed his son's presence, the son was always there. Even without being asked, the son was still present, accompanying him to the hospital to check on his father's condition before Friday prayers. At 2:30 in the morning, Wail was waiting for the doctor while looking after his father. At night, when he was tired and resting his body after completing all his obligations from morning to night. The time setting also occurred in the morning when he washed his father's body. Here is the following process.

Meanwhile, for the setting of the place as an employee, he used the setting of an office. Meanwhile, the setting of the place directly related to the father's care and treatment business was the father's room, which was located in a house in the Engineer area. Along with the various illnesses that attacked his father, he was often hospitalized. Full and Tho'miyah, Cafes, and bus terminals became places where

children sought relief from boredom, fatigue, and anxiety. There, he filled his stomach and tried to calm his mind after his father was admitted to intensive care and eventually died.

After his father died, he was bathed and prayed for in the mosque and buried in the cemetery in the Sixth of October area, Egypt. All the structural elements are centered on one idea or theme (al-fiqrah) about the devotion of a son to his father, who is old, sick, and seems to have lost the spirit of life. All the elements expressed above have their respective functions and are interconnected coherently and synergistically.

### **Conclusion**

The novel "Sab'atu ayyām faqath" is one of the modern Arabic novels written by Wail Wajdi, an Egyptian writer. The theme of this novel tells the story of a child devoted to his ailing father. The study, entitled "Analysis of Formalist Structuralism in the Novel 'Sab'atu ayyām faqath' by Wail Wajdi, focuses on formalist structuralism, which prioritizes the intrinsic structure of a novel. The formalist structure in the novel "Sab'atu ayyām faqath" is as follows: First, the story revolves around the father, who fell ill and lost his will to live after his wife left him, while Wail devotedly cared for, accompanied, and stood by his father until the end of his life. This story builds emotional flow cohesive. The relationship between these events highlights the significant theme of human powerlessness in the face of destiny. Second, the characters in this novel include: Wail Wajdi, Father, Younger sister, Muhammad, the Husband of his sister, Doctor, Sa'id, the Nurse, Khalid, the Sheikh who washed the corpse, Asyraf, Coworkers, Yusuf, Samih, Ali, Ahmad, and the neighbors.

All of these characters are interconnected through the central axis of the story, namely, Wail's journey in caring for his sick father until his death. Third, the time settings in this story include night, Friday morning, early morning at 02.30, and the morning when his father was bathed, while the place settings include Wail's room, office, Jalan Daglah Muhandisin, father's room, hospital, food shop, mosque, and cemetery. All of these settings are interconnected because they describe Wail's journey in caring for his father from home until his death, showing an atmosphere of anxiety, routine, and struggle, until the final farewell process. Fourth, the forward-backward plot that describes Wail Wajdi's journey in caring for his sick father until his death. The forward plot presents childhood memories, while the backward plot focuses on the seven days. Fifth, the first-person point of view creates an intense atmosphere of sadness, anxiety, and grief, while the straightforward language style strengthens the social criticism of poor medical services. Sixth, the main idea of this novel is the

devotion of a child to his parents throughout his life, as shown through a series of events, including illness, treatment, death, and the funeral procession. Based on formalist structuralism, the story, characters, time setting, plot, point of view, and ideas in this novel are interconnected coherently to form a unified meaning: patience, love, and sincerity in the face of loss.

This research can enrich Arabic literary studies by providing a new perspective on understanding works through their internal structure. It can also contribute theoretically to Arabic literary studies, serving as a reference for students in developing Arabic language learning, especially in improving their ability to understand Arabic texts.

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