



## The Intersection of Philosophy and Literature: Exploring Ideas and Reality

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### Article Info

### Abstract

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The study of literary philosophy is a relatively new field in Indonesia, though it cannot be said to be a completely new discipline globally. There is growing optimism that the philosophy of literature will attract significant interest due to its unique advantages and distinct focus. This field explores the intersection of philosophy and literature, encompassing both written and oral traditions. This intersection offers a rich area for exploration, both in the realm of ideas and the tangible world. Philosophy and literature both concern themselves with the human experience, examining relationships between individuals, the divine, nature, life, and various existential issues. As a new branch of its parent discipline, the "Philosophy of Literature" joins other specialized fields such as the philosophy of language, law, economics, politics, education, development, medicine, communication, culture, management, religion, and more. In the future, literature is likely to be increasingly studied as a philosophical subject, although some argue that philosophical values have always been inherent in literary works, making the relationship between philosophy and literature a form of 'acronym.' In the digital era, as modern humans become increasingly dependent on digital communication and information, both written and spoken languages continue to evolve. They now often appear on the screens of tablets, cellphones, laptops, computers, and televisions. The challenges and impacts of digital language are significant, affecting not only language and literature but also linguistic and literary philosophy..

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## INTRODUCTION

Literature is a creative activity, a work of art, while the study of literature is a branch of science. As for the relationship between literature and literary studies itself, it has raised some complicated issues, and some theorists even deny that literary studies is a science, such as the difficulty of transferring Leonardo da Vinci's famous painting *Monalisa* into writing (Wellek.2014: 3).

Literary studies, which means that literary works are examined similar to works of art such as *Monalisa* paintings, are certainly not an easy matter to narrate how the curves of *kuwas* scratches on canvas to be described in words as a study. Perhaps it is the same with the literary works of one of Shakespeare's plays and the legendary story of Abu Nawas in a thousand and one nights in the classical Islamic treasury, which is also not an easy thing to study because the type of literary work referred to here is more likely to be oriented towards literary works such as works of art that can be enjoyed by taste and not by logic. While literature can be enjoyed by logic, taste, and imagination, it is different from philosophy which can only be judged by logic.

In contrast to literary works such as novels that contain the value of philosophical thought, for example, literary works in the form of novels actually invite curious readers to study them with their various phenomena. Because the study of literary philosophy is closely embedded in many novels.

Along with the times, the era of digital, fast, instant, but still using language narratives and literary narratives has arrived. Now the news and information that is preferred by modern society is news or information with stories or literature and no longer with textual language that is spelled out so that it is boring and monotonous even though it is still formal but still informative. This is where the role of literary philosophy urgently needs to be brought to the surface as social control in general and media control in particular.

So what is literature? According to Teeuw (1984:21), literature cannot and does not need to be definitively defined in a single agreement. In my view, the nature of literature is not static, but dynamic, ever-changing, unstable and highly responsive. Something that becomes a convention in the literary world will not stay that way forever, because the creativity that occurs due to the tension between convention and innovation always offers novelty. Literature is also a creative work whose potential for innovation continues to move quickly and endlessly, so Wellek (1968: 26) views literature as sufficiently recognizable through its characteristics alone. Through literature, the reading public can experience an inclusive awareness process without being indoctrinated and dictated. In appreciating literature, the reading public enjoy experiencing various enlightenments, because literature depicts various problems and alternatives to life that are useful for addressing life well and wisely.

Then simply put, what exactly about the philosophy of literature? A study using philosophy to study a work of literature? Can the two be juxtaposed side by side or are they so different that it's difficult to combine them?

Endraswara (2012:v) in his book on *Philosophy of Literature*, concludes that philosophy and literature are a unity that cannot be separated, because literature and thinking always coexist. In other words, literature stimulates humans to think or philosophize, it could be that without literature, philosophy is still in the form of values, rules, rules of logic, pure philosopher's thoughts alone. But with the birth of literary works, philosophical values, philosophical rules, logical rules, and the flow of philosophers' thoughts become unraveled with the narratives of writers, poets, essayists, novelists, tennis players, poets, and other practitioners of the literary world who never run out of story ideas about life.

In line with Endraswara, the author considers that the more solid the narrative of the author's ideas is poured with inserts of philosophical value of a writer who does not only rely on the flow of writing that purely contains a row of linguistic text reviews. Like the flow of fiction stories that appear

to be fiction books and fairy tale books or stories that do not use philosophical value in unpacking the story they want to build, of course it is not too exciting to make readers interested in listening to their literary works. As a writer who does not just describe event after event like a series of historical events tells the following characters with events and events in his life that are scenarized by a writer, then becomes a history book, story book, or fairy tale book. Or a newsreader, story, interview, dialog that does not only describe event after event from a series of events in an area with the perpetrators of the event alone. But if it is all told or narrated with philosophical values so that truth, logic, meaning, and others emerge, what emerges is a literary work that is far more qualified and many things will be obtained by the readers.

The form of literature is inseparable from philosophical values because in many ways philosophical values express the meaning of life. Only how far literature has contributed to alternative ideas in human life so far and to what extent it has answered questions of human concern (Martha Nussbaum & Erna von der Walde.1995: 1).

Philosophy is a science that relates scientific thought or can be defined as the science of thinking, while literature is an art that arises from the thoughts and imagination of the creator, philosophy and literature themselves have a relationship, these two things can be a separate study, this can also be a new discipline because this study has many separate discussions that are special and become differentiated from other scientific discussions (R.A Niken Larasati Wirawan and Wandani. 2020: 1).

Because with philosophy, a literary work such as a novel (Endraswara.2012:13) is a narrative that is rich with philosophical values. Novels are known as a form of literature that plays a philosophical narrative. The world of philosophy would be dry without the presence of literature.

The author considers that literary journalism now exists more than language journalism, because in the latest developments, journalistic reports are not only in the form of news narrated in language, but now various journalistic reports are often carried out in the form of stories or literature. Currently, we follow a variety of information on social media such as podcasts, YouTube, or talk shows which are dominated by a series of information in the form of literary stories and not just news info that is only linguistic narrative.

Philosophy and literature are two terms that have often been kept apart but are also often connected, due to differences in perspective, so that often the relationship between philosophy and literature is always dilemmatic, even in tension. However, theoretically and empirically, idealistically and practically, this indicates that the discussion of literature is never free from the discussion of philosophy. Philosophy and literature seem to be a topic or object that is shunned but others look forward to the realization of a permanent relationship between the two. There are at least two relationships; First, a coordinative or parallel relationship between philosophy and literature, both interacting, influencing each other, and attracting each other in an equal and balanced manner. Both can influence and contribute to each other because both are subjects. Second, the subordinative relationship between philosophy and literature. Here one becomes the subject and the other becomes the object (Saryono. 2023).

While in terms of linguistic definitions and terms, literary philosophy as defined by Endraswara as a philosophical study that makes literature a beautiful wrapping of the world and life with extraordinary beauty. While the task of literary philosophy researchers is to organize thoughts that often use big philosophical ideas in order to achieve literary value (Endraswara: 2012.vii).

When people hear the word philosophy, they usually feel dizzy, complicated, logical and logical. Likewise, when people hear the word literature, they always conclude that it is a world of imagination, fantasy, and ideas.

In fact, the real world that we are living everyday is never separated from the world of philosophy and the world of literature such as the world of films, soap operas, stories, chats, readings,

novels, news & information both in social media & mass media always use philosophical and literary principles or in other words, all of them are rooted in the study of philosophy and literature.

Philosophy itself by definition can be summarized; Philo means 'love' and Shopia means 'wisdom' so Philosophia means; love of wisdom.

Literature, on the other hand, is a tool (vehicle) to teach the wisdom of life, which is nothing but the truth. Literature is a phenomenon that uses a unique language, to convey a truth. The problem is that every truth in literature and philosophy is often wrapped in beautiful words, so the truth often becomes closed and hidden.

At the same time, people still refer to 'literary works' as 'works of philosophy', because literature is often seen as a form of philosophy or as a thought wrapped in a special form. This is inevitable because it is through literature that philosophical ideas are realized in beautiful and meaningful literary works.

So, Philosophy of Literature is a new study that combines logic with literary works, which if so far literary works tend to have an understanding as something imaginative, but by reading a work of literature means reading literature at the same time as living a philosophy of life. So, philosophy and literature are essentially not much different because both are scientific phenomena that are talking about the wisdom of life, because both are trying to make life wiser.

According to Edraswara (2012: v) Philosophy and Literature are an inseparable unity, because literature and thinking are always side by side. In other words, literature stimulates humans to think or philosophize, it could be that without literature, philosophy is still in the form of values, rules, rules of logic, a collection of thoughts of pure philosophers alone. But with the birth of literary works, philosophical values, philosophical rules, logical rules, and schools of thought from philosophers become unraveled with the narratives of writers, poets, essayists, novelists, tennis players, poets, and other practitioners of the literary world who never run out of story ideas about life.

## **METHODS**

The author employs the study of literary philosophy as a methodology. A method is a research strategy or step to be undertaken (Endraswara, 2012: 29). In this context, the method involves using philosophy as an analytical tool. Literature can serve as both the product and method of a work, just as philosophy can be both a work of thought and a method for producing thought.

Researchers, writers, or authors often rely on philosophical values when crafting their literary works. It can be challenging to write without incorporating philosophical aspects, even though there are no strict rules governing this practice. In the past five years, the philosophy of literature has significantly contributed to the world, particularly in enlightening people's views, building aesthetics, critiquing, interpreting, and reinforcing the philosophical dimensions of literature (Garry L. Hagberg & Bard College, 2023: 47).

Every writer uses language as a primary tool, akin to how A. Teeuw (2013: 75) compares language to paint. Just as colors in paint acquire meaning through human interpretation—green for Islam, red for communism, or traffic signals—language in literature conveys various meanings. The author emphasizes that, in addition to language, writers often use philosophical thought to deepen the meaning of their work. Even if a writer does not explicitly use philosophical content, employing philosophical thought can add significant depth and meaning to literary ideas.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Results

The encounter between philosophy and literature is undeniable, especially since written and oral literary works increasingly show an intense encounter between the two so that now people call it the study of literary philosophy. Some people call philosophy of literature an acronym, but it is valid to say that philosophy of literature is a new discipline like philosophy of language, psychology of literature, philosophy of culture, anthropology of literature, and others. The reason for this is because nowadays the development is getting closer between one field and another, which previously tended to stand alone, now intersect with each other, such as aspects of philosophy and aspects of literature. This is evidenced by the many literary works that are able to wrap the beauty of this life in a literary work, literary stories, literary dramas, philosophical films and even literary ones that are realized because of the combination of philosophy as a method or as a value of thought in parsing literary ideas in a work so that it can be enjoyed by many people across generations for a long time in the form of novels, films, essays, short stories, poems, rhymes, rhymes, and others.

In the future, through this encounter between philosophy and literature, or philosophy of literature, it can become a new perspective in analyzing or methods of a literary work because it has several features that are not possessed by other fields of science.

### Discussion

#### Debate; Philosophy of Literature

Philosophy and literature are two terms that have often been kept apart but are also often connected, due to differences in perspective, so that often the relationship between philosophy and literature is always dilemmatic, even in tension. However, theoretically and empirically, idealistically and practically, this indicates that the discussion of literature is never separated from the discussion of philosophy. Philosophy and literature seem to be a topic or object that is shunned but others look forward to the realization of a permanent relationship between the two. There are at least two relationships; First, a coordinative or parallel relationship between philosophy and literature, both interacting, influencing each other, and attracting each other in an equal and balanced manner. Both can influence and contribute to each other because both are subjects. Second, the subordinative relationship between philosophy and literature. Here one becomes the subject and the other becomes the object (Djoko Saryono.2023).

In terms of linguistic definitions and terms, literary philosophy as defined by Endraswara (2012.vii) is a philosophical study that makes literature a beautiful wrapping of the world and life with extraordinary beauty. Meanwhile, the task of literary philosophy researchers is to organize thoughts that often use big philosophical ideas in order to achieve literary value. Especially when a novel or other literary text brings the two together; philosophy and literature in one space and one time.

Literature invites people to think about themselves, others, the world, and the natural world so that literature is considered capable of encapsulating not only beauty, but also various fragments and dramas of human life in this universe.

As for the relationship between literature and philosophy, there is no need to doubt because both establish a linear relationship that supports each other. It is possible that literary works are born due to the insistence of philosophical values that disturb the writers so that they need to express in a literary work (Endraswara.2012: 15).

Without further confirmation, most literary works have philosophical content, whether in methodology, values, rules, ideas or other things that have a voice in philosophy, so that without mentioning the philosophy of literature or the study of literary philosophy, literature has always been closely related to philosophy. How could a writer put aside the study of philosophy that not only meets but literature has been united with philosophy for a long time.

Some people liken literature to a complete human body, while philosophy is often likened to a human brain (logic). So if we use the definition of 'literary philosophy', then a literary work is able to build a dual scientific image; philosophy and literature. In other words, a person engaged in the field of literary philosophy is able to use his mind or logic during his literary work, and can use various schools of thought in the world of philosophy in his literary work.

It is proven that literary works that are legendary or at least in demand by many people are usually because the work does not only contain imaginative literature but also contains many

philosophical values. So that various values such as educational, literary, and philosophical meanings are coveted by many people.

**The Meeting of Philosophy and Literature Poses a Role (Literature and Philosophy of Literature)**

**The Three Major Roles of Literature in the Realm of Ideas and Reality;**

**First**, spreading and maintaining culture. Through literary works, a writer indirectly guides people to realize the treasures of culture or brings them into the experience of other nations in history and culture, exploring the thoughts of other nations, so as to enrich the wisdom and wisdom in their lives.

**Second**, as a social controller. Through his literary works, a writer tries to make readers aware of humanitarian problems or social inequality that shackles humans in order to test human conscience (readers), whether his conscience is still sensitive to various problems that ensnare humans or not.

**Third**, Influencing social change. A writer through his literary works offers certain values as an alternative for change through his literary works such as short stories, poems, novels, films, dramas, and others.

**The Role of Philosophy of Literature**

In the future, **literary philosophy** can be a **new perspective** in analyzing or methods of a literary work because it has several features that the field does not have. other sciences.

Specifically in relation to **philosophy and literature**, it can be said here that it is not chaotic. Instead, it becomes a harmony and can even strengthen the argumentation of a writer when he is able to insert philosophical values or great ideas of philosophers into his literary works. Even though some of the thoughts of his writing are fictional (imaginative), it does not rule out the possibility that they can be synergized with logical philosophical thoughts. Even if in the end the storyline that is written lies (in the sense; hiding behind his words or writing) as mentioned above because it does not match the reality of real life for example, but the storyline actually carries a moral message as often called for by philosophers.

Literature is neutral. It transcends political boundaries, religion, nationality, ethnicity, race, gender, and even generational differences. Literature becomes a tool to convey thoughts, feelings, images, or criticism on the social conditions of society. Literature delves into the hearts and ideals of society. According to Mohamad Sobari; *literature is present to free the nation from hypocrisy, expand the character and taste of the nation to prepare a just and civilized human character.*

However, good literature is literature that speaks a logical (philosophical) truth. Literary works that educate are literary works that emphasize values that are full of human reasoning and logic. Visionary literary works are literary works that fulfill the demands of a realistic future in accordance with the consideration of human logic.

In other words, if a **futurologist Alvin Toffler** at the beginning of the 21st century once assumed that; The future world belongs to people who dare to take risks. But now in the era of digitalization and the era of *disruption* that is all uncertain, the expression as mentioned above seems to shift to, that; The future world is a logical world even though the future itself is not an imagination as often theorized by philosophers and writers but the world still needs the presence of ideas and works of writers and philosophers to balance the right brain, left brain, and human midbrain.

The role of philosophy of literature in bringing philosophy and literature together can be more clearly seen in the table below;

**Table I: Philosophy's Encounter with Literature**

No.	PHILOSOPHY	SASTRA
1.	Philosophy always uses logical reasoning, and does not use imagination, feelings, or emotions.	Often literature uses considerations of logic, imagination, taste
2.	Philosophy always seeks the nature of truth	Literature is always looking for alternative truths
3.	Philosophy is often used by experts/researchers/writers to explore various aspects of its study.	Literature is one of the users of philosophical methods in achieving its ultimate goal.

4.	The end result of philosophy; the truth of something.	The end result of a literary work; an alternative to other truths, such as beauty.
5.	The result of philosophical work/thought; logical in nature.	Literary works; imaginative, logical, non-logical.
6.	Philosophy has always been used to teach people about; the nature of truth.	Literature is often used to teach people about the nature of truth, logic, ideology, religion, customs, culture, local wisdom, and more.
7.	Philosophy always thinks about the nature of things.	Literature is always thinking about what is behind the nature of things.
8.	Philosophy is more often about: man, nature, and divinity.	Literature is often about: people and their lives.

As the role of literary philosophy is more apparent in the fundamental differences that occur between philosophy and literature in this table:

**Table II: Fundamental differences between philosophy and literature;**

<b>Philosophy</b>	The result of human brain thinking that is not influenced by other elements.
<b>Literature</b>	The result of a human brain's thoughts and expressions but always flavored.

While the role of literary philosophy which can also emphasize the benefits between the two things (Philosophy and Literature) in the table below;

**Table III: Axiological (usefulness) between philosophy and literature;**

<b>Literature</b>	<b>Philosophy</b>
To be the harmonizer of life, the antidote to life, and the glue of life.	Everything becomes logical (makes sense)

The question then is how far are the effects of the meeting of philosophy and literature on the real world, the virtual world and the social world in this era? It can be said here that literary works both written and oral are now more progressive and dynamic. While modern society today is more likely to look for alternative solutions that are instantaneous but logical. Like the daily phenomenon of modern humans today, getting information, data, knowledge, and so on is now done quickly and instantly without the need to go through the stages of a search process that takes a long time, for example.

Another trend of the phenomenon of modern human social life today is its dependence on social media. News and information that used to be known only in narrative language such as in the form of monotonous news reports, now news information whether delivered through social media or mass media is literary, namely in the form of stories, stories, dialogues, and the like.

Thus, information narratives are no longer linguistic narratives but tend to be storytelling, stories, or dialogues such as the increasingly widespread podcasts, which are literary in nature. So that the role of literature and logical language becomes absolute. The literary philosophy approach due to the increasingly intense meeting between philosophy and literature will be a new approach that is needed in the digital world in the future, because after all ontologically (the nature of something), epistemologically (the things that surround it), and axiologically (its usefulness), literary philosophy will be able to reveal which news is true and which news is hoax, which information is valid and which information is cheap information that is just looking for sensation and which is really looking for the truth.

At the same time, the phenomenon of modern human anxiety is increasingly felt because the impact of materialism and hedonism is increasingly prominent so that people need more reading intake, spectacle shows that are not only educative but also 'philosophical literature', namely quality literary

works that are entertaining but make sense according to the common sense of a human being who does not lie, intimidate one party, claim to be the most correct without facts and data that can be accounted for.

Because after all, a physically and spiritually healthy human being, in addition to needing food and drink that is vitaminized with protein, also needs the brain intake of the human soul in the form of science, reading, watching, and information that is correct, educating, and argumentative.

The great struggle for the source of knowledge that supports the progress of science in the modern era of the western version, historically starts from Rationalism of *Rene Descartes*, Empiricism of *John Locke*, and Criticalism of *Immanuel Kant* which culminates in the thought of *August Comte* with his Positivism flow. The 19th century was a time when the role of philosophy had become practical for human behavior, so it no longer saw the importance of thinking abstractly.

The phenomenon of modern human life is increasingly diverse, nowadays artificial intelligence such as AI (*Artificial Intelligence*), robots and computers. This can be said to be a form of *dehumanization* (dehumanizing) that always haunts human life, as an effect of technological sophistication. This situation has led to an emerging antithesis, namely *Society 5.0*, where the role of humans has been replaced by technology made by humans themselves such as robots and artificial intelligence in the Industrial Revolution 4.0, so the term *Society was* born as a form of concern for human existence.

Based on the phenomenon of modern man and his life as mentioned above, philosophy plays a role as a method of critical and independent thinking. the relevance of the relationship between philosophy and science in the current era of the Industrial Revolution 4.0 and Society 5.0 or known as the era of disruption, people must remain vigilant about the times, because there will be many problems that arise in postmodern society by the massive development of science and technology itself.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the aspects of intersection as mentioned above, the author concludes that these two fields (philosophy and literature) not only occur at the meeting between philosophy and literature, but if they are fused into a philosophy of literature in one study, they can give birth to various forms of oral and written literary works; novels, poems, essays, rhymes, news coverage and information, films, or poetry that are far more qualified. Although some others still say that the literary aspect is not the philosophical aspect and there is no connection between the two.

The debate on the philosophy of literature has only recently emerged but the relationship between philosophy and literature has actually been going on for a long time along with the birth of literary works in this world, because both philosophers and writers have used the tools of these two aspects themselves (philosophical aspects and literary aspects) in their works. It's hard to argue with those who say there is no interaction between these two fields, but it would be an exaggeration to say that all literary works, both oral and written, have used philosophical studies as a method or part of it. However, some literary works are also proven to have used philosophical methods or thoughts to unravel the ideas of the writers so that great literary works are born that are philosophical or at least partly philosophical.

As for other literary works that tend to use language as a form of word play such as in poetry, rhymes, rhymes, essays, but philosophy is able to provide meaning in these literary works as well, so it is difficult to say if it only contains the beauty of words but also contains the beauty of meaning because it is loaded with philosophical values behind the words.

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