



Training in Writing English Couplets Based on Structuralism for Students of SMAN 19 Surabaya

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Abstract

This article explains the report in community service of training in writing English couplets for students of SMAN 19 Surabaya in 2024. Couplets are one of English literary works, especially poems, in which two lines of verse are joined in a rhyme. Writing couplets is important to dig understanding about both indications of structures in English poems alongside students' creative imaginations. Structuralism is a perspective that underlines analysis of structures in English language, especially through English literary works. It is also known that structure in English language is meant to be universal rather than particular. Through an exploratory approach within qualitative research, this manuscript underscores structuralism as a way to identify aspects of literature regarding training of writing couplets. Couplet is a work that pays attention to pouring imaginations from the authors' mind towards a structured sense of lyrical poem. Though the ideas come from various authors' imaginations, this kind of literature and its writing process may still open to various possibilities in advance. In conclusion, the training of writing couplets is essential not only to give knowledge about patterns of poems in English literature, but also to get it in line with students' everyday experience and imaginations.

Keywords: Couplet, Structuralism, Writing

INTRODUCTION

English is taught in practically all Indonesian schools, from elementary to senior high school. Nonetheless, the comprehension of English is frequently still in the consuming stage (Baxodirovna, 2024; Kenjabaev, 2024). In actuality, learning this foreign language still has very little bearing on creating new works. It is actually possible to elevate and adapt each person's everyday life to the structure of a certain work by creating newer works. For instance, couplets are typified by rhyming poems with two stanzas. There may be six or eight stanzas in the writing. Even though many English language learners are aware of this kind of work, they are still used to feel ashamed and incapable of producing couplets or other similar works.

Community service is essential to emphasize the distribution of scholarly information to bigger audiences. English literature classes also make advantage of this idea, especially when pushing senior high school students to study couplets more. In a nutshell, this page describes the community work that Sekolah Menengah Atas Negeri (SMAN) 19 Surabaya students accomplished in 2024. The major objective of this exercise is to teach students how to use their own creative ideas to write these couplets. This is also intended to foster their creativity, especially in the area of writing literary works that draw inspiration from the difficulties they face on a daily basis.

This community service initiative represents a distinctly defined methodology through which students are afforded the opportunity to enhance their awareness and understanding of recurring themes and motifs that permeate English literary works, thereby fostering a deeper appreciation for the nuances of literary expression (Chen, 2023; Givens, 2023; Nasiri et al., 2023). Structuralism, as a theoretical framework, serves as a pivotal point of reference that enables individuals to grasp the universal characteristics of literature, particularly by examining the intricate interplay of linguistic signs and the normative conventions that are systematically imparted within educational contexts. The act of composing couplets can also signify the application of such sophisticated literary principles to the realm of imaginative writing, thereby bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and creative expression.

This practice may appear to be straightforward on the surface; it possesses a considerable depth that invites further exploration and analysis. Couplets specialize in the unique ability to intertwine elements of creative imagination with the tangible realities of everyday life, all while employing the rhythmic quality of rhyme to enhance their aesthetic appeal (Chen, 2023; Givens, 2023; Nasiri et al., 2023). By engaging in the craft of couplet writing, students can substantially elevate their proficiency in the English language—particularly in the domain of writing—by effectively integrating these two vital components. Furthermore, the practice of writing couplets not only bolsters one's writing skills but also contributes to the enhancement of various other facets of English language competency, including but not limited to vocabulary development, grammatical accuracy, and the proficient use of clauses and phrases within written discourse.

METHOD

The objective of this community service initiative is to enhance awareness of English literary couplet structures. It is specifically designed to instruct senior high school students at SMA Negeri 19 Surabaya in the art of couplet composition. Despite these students demonstrating robust cognitive skills in the English language, they exhibit a deficiency in practical application, which is reflected in their everyday experiences. This discrepancy largely arises from the perception that English holds less utility in quotidian contexts compared to its significance in formal educational environments. Consequently, this community service adopts a targeted methodology aimed at augmenting their proficiency in the English language, with a particular focus on writing. The preparatory phase of this community engagement entails a collaborative relationship with the school, facilitating students in composing couplets, as well as evaluating the finished couplets for potential future applications.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

Writing Couplets and Its Relations to Structuralism

Any writer can convey their own aim and provide significance through their writing. Literature, then, is about the author's expanded and poured imagination into writing (Baxodirovna, 2024; Kenjabaev, 2024; Wijaya et al., 2024). It is never what it seems; instead, it functions and provides details based on real-world experiences. The reason for this is that literature reflects the identities of people. Furthermore, in everyday situations, people's identities will never change from their original state. Additionally, literature is a means of connecting the real world with the imaginary one (Baxodirovna, 2024; Kenjabaev, 2024; Pasopati et al., 2024). It provides broader viewpoints for how identities manifest in relation to its ongoing actualizations of broader challenges.

In short, the structuralism approach sees poetry as similar to other written works, especially with regard to a shared vocabulary and symbolic system. It centers on the study of poetry's structure. By using this approach, each poem may be understood as interacting with other models of organized poetry, rather than as a stand-alone poem (Chen, 2023; Givens, 2023; Nasiri et al., 2023). Similarities with other poems can also be seen, for instance, in recurring and well known common sense symbols' rhyming, meter, and linguistic features. Whatever its subject, poetry always makes reference to other poems, not to the outer world, according to structuralism.

The central premise of structuralism revolves around the concept of deciphering and comprehending the intricate frameworks that underpin literary texts. This theoretical approach aims to elucidate that the recurring motifs and frameworks are articulated in a manner that transcends individual variability, illustrating universality inherent within the literary domain (Chen, 2023; Givens, 2023; Nasiri et al., 2023). Furthermore, it is posited that the structuralist perspective asserts the existence of discernible patterns that can be identified across a diverse array of literary compositions. Such patterns encompass various elements, including structural form, lexical choices, and the use of metaphorical language prevalent in poetic works, all of which play a significant role in shaping the essential architecture of the text (Hunter, 2023; Givens, 2023; Nedaei et al., 2023). Structuralism explores the construction of meaning through language signs and established rules, ignoring the author's reality or history in favor of focusing primarily on patterns in literary works. Couplet writing, which is a very conventional writing style, also reflects this structuralism viewpoint. The beauty of this kind of poetry may still be appreciated even when it has been in context for a while because it has a straightforward structure but a deep meaning (Wort, 2023; Hunter, 2023).

A couplet is defined as a pair of sequential lines of poetry that are intricately interconnected through the shared elements of rhyme and rhythmic structure, thus creating a harmonious relationship between them. The intentional incorporation of rhythm along with the use of lyrical language serves to invigorate and animate a poem, imbuing it with a dynamic quality that captivates the reader's imagination (Chen, 2023; Givens, 2023; Nasiri et al., 2023). Additionally, a couplet may also denote two successive lines of verse that collectively complete a thought or convey a cohesive idea, thereby enhancing the overall meaning of the text. These lines often adhere to a specific metrical pattern, which reflects a consistent syllabic cadence that contributes to the musicality of the verse.

While it is important to note that not every couplet adheres to a rhyming scheme, it is indeed the case that a significant majority of them do exhibit this characteristic. A couplet possesses the remarkable versatility to exist as an independent poetic form or to be integrated seamlessly into a larger poetic composition, demonstrating its flexibility and adaptability in various literary contexts (Chen, 2023; Givens, 2023; Nasiri et al., 2023). Moreover, the use of rhyme within a couplet is instrumental in crafting vivid and imaginative imagery, through which readers can discern a multitude of nuanced linguistic and literary meanings that enrich the interpretative experience.

Results of Writing Couplets Based on Structuralism

Zufaric S.A.P. Part 1
11-8/16

1st
There are soo much Lobotomy
But they're soo easy for Me

2nd
I'll take everything, INCLUDING YOUR FACE
AND ALSO YOUR IDENTITY AND YOUR FACE

3rd
I'd rather drink a wine
Than going w/Ld

4th
They ~~thought~~ thought it was DOOM
But turns out it was just a BOOM

5th
I'll keep doing it until their DEATH
And won't stop until their last BREATH

6th
It's better to ZIP
rather than DIP

7th
Hello, my name is Billy
and Facts about Me, I can be SILLY

8th
I usually felt INSECURE
but all I got was LECTURE

Talitha Khansa Putri. R.

IMMORTAL

All the creatures there feel very comfortable
All of that is absolutely impossible

Everything felt heavy, like a trapped dream
All the creatures there scream

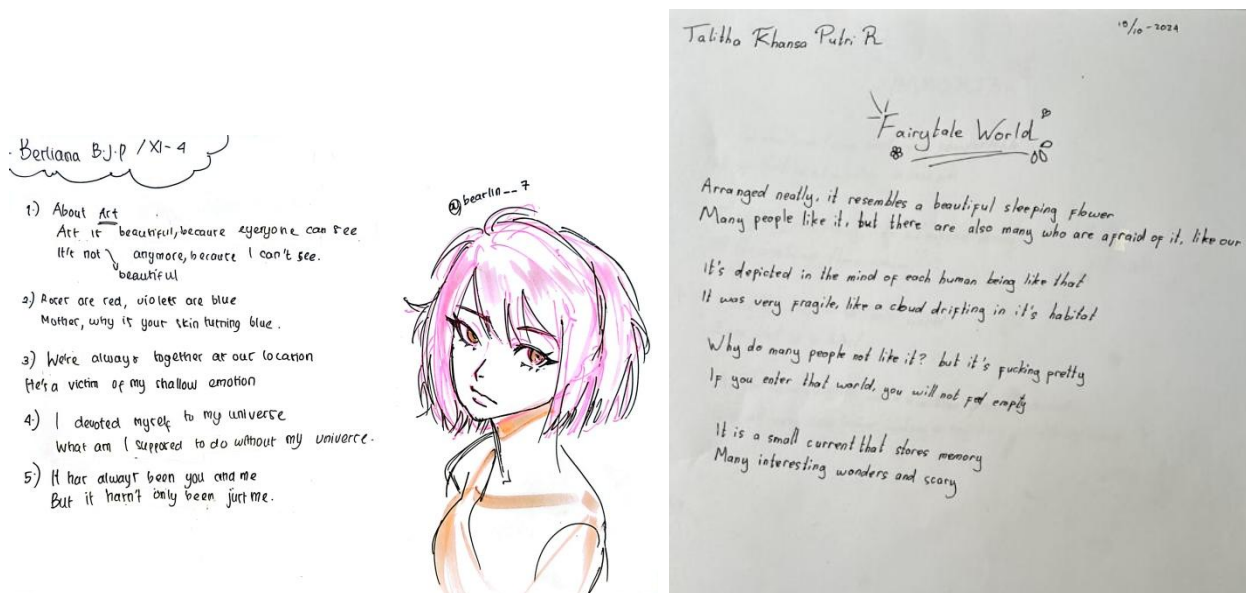
Many are trapped in their world
Even lost in a burst

As the name suggests, with a million secrets stored
It's all very monotonous, making everything interesting bored

Picture 1 and 2
Couplets entitled "Part 1" and "Immortal"

The first couplet is written by Zufaric S. A. P. it consists of various couplets in which two lines are combined for its stanzas. Those tell many things, from bitterness to darkness in life. Generally, Picture 1 tells about people who are trying to find a life partner. They keep meeting new people with different personalities, but it all feels boring. None of them seem to be what they are really looking for. Then, one day, they meet someone who feels different from everyone else and they become interested in learning more about this person. Even though approaching this person might make them seem strange, they decide to take the risk and go for it, thinking it is better to try than not to do anything. They believe that every failure has been a lesson and will help them in winning the heart of this special person. The lesson in the couplets is clear that goodness will come after struggle. People should not look only on one side, but they should always look around. By stating so, the process will create better results at the end as simple minds should never ignore complex circumstances.

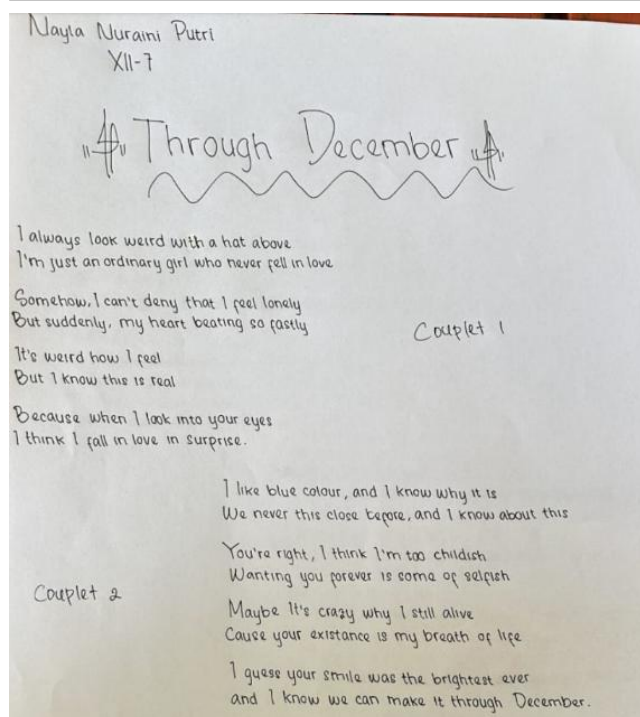
Picture 2 is about a couplet entitled *Immortal*. Written by Talitha Khansa Putri R., this writing underlines such condition where creatures feeling trapped in a situation that looks comfortable on the outside, but it is not once others look deeper. They feel stuck, unable to break free from their comfort zone, which makes them feel hopeless. These creatures are fighting in their own minds, lost in a burst of emotions and confusion. Life seems filled with secrets and complexity, but instead of being interesting, everything has become dull, boring, and empty. This poem could mean as the situations of human beings. The creatures are humans who must always struggle with their anxiety alongside various way outs to be thought about. The message is also clear that people are living creatures with freedom but still may get stuck and confused in within their complex situation. It is interesting how simple couplets may reflect such complex conditions of human beings in everyday life.



Picture 3 and 4
Couplets entitled “Thematic Art” and “Fairytale World”

Picture 3 is couplets written by Bertiana B. J. P. She speaks about various things including how simple poems may involve complex meanings. Something that benefits others does not seem to work for her. Her mother is growing weaker with age. This woman knows that the man cares for her because of their shared moments, but she does not feel the same way. She only wants to have fun, without getting emotionally attached. No matter what life brings, she stays true to her beliefs. Deep down, she feels she is not the only woman in the relationship. The couplet is about hope in distress. She wants to hope more but the reality may always forbid her. She must go on by her own feelings, while age keeps pursuing human beings to death.

Picture 4 is a couplet written by Talitha Khansa Putri R. entitled *Fairytale World*. The realm of fairy tales is characterized by its aesthetic appeal; numerous individuals appreciate its charm, yet a portion harbors trepidation regarding its underlying harsh truths. A considerable segment of the populace is familiar with this enchanting realm; however, the question arises as to why certain individuals exhibit aversion despite the inherent beauty of the fairy tale world. Should an individual venture into this domain, they are likely to encounter a remarkable multitude. Moreover, the fairy tale world encompasses a plethora of captivating marvels alongside inherent fears. The poem serves as a meditation on the dichotomy between imagination and reality. While some individuals may possess a profound affinity for imaginative constructs, others may experience anxiety regarding the concept of freedom. Remaining entrenched within the realm of imagination can, in certain respects, obscure the fundamental aspects of reality. Although imagination can provide solace, it is equally imperative to disengage from it in order to confront the complexities that lie beyond superficial appearances.



Name : Sonia Cindy Octavia

Class : XI-9

• Topic - Happiness

⊙ I was so happy knowing that you're here with me
let's walk along under the beautiful sky with me

• Topic - Friends.

⊙ I wish i was beside you
like we used to do

• Topic - Nature

⊙ I love looking up at the blue sky
so much that i wish i could fly

• Topic - Nature

⊙ Pink is my favourite colour
it reminds me of those beautiful flower.

• Topic - Highschool Crush

⊙ I remember the first time i saw you at school
and now you make me act like a fool

Picture 5 and 6

Couplets entitled "Through December" and listed by certain topics

Picture 5 is a couplet written by Nayla Nuraini Putri. Her work is entitled *through December* that including simplicity and complexity in intertwinements. It is about someone who looks different from usual. The hat above is referring to the possibility that there is a feeling of discomfort over imposed expectations. S/he is the one who has never felt falling in love with someone. Besides, he wants to trick his lonely feelings, but he cannot do it. He also thinks that it is strange for his own feeling. It is because he never felt it but it really happened to him. Falling in love is not in his plan, but after looking at the person he admires, the feeling of love suddenly appears. He knows why he likes it as the word blue symbolizes the context of feelings and/or emotions often interpreted as something sad.

Later, he thinks of himself as a selfish person who does not want the person he hopes for to be owned by someone else. He also assumes that the reason he is in this world is because half of his life's breath is in the person he hopes for. The smile of the person he hopes for is his strength and he hopes that the turn of the year will have something good in their story. The word December can be assumed to mean the end of time or the last month in 1 year and new hope for the next year. The couplet consists of meanings in structuralism yet still deep in literature. It shows that any structure cannot limit the deep points of meanings. The ideas keep being understood by the author and poured perfectly to the senses of the couplet. It is due to December means the end but also the beginning of the next January. It ends the suffering and may raise new hope in the following.

Picture 6 is some couplets written by Sonia Cindy Octavia. She divides her couplets into several topics being written. In happiness, she explains someone who meets the person s/he desires and wants to live happy days together. In topic of friends, she speaks about feelings about losing old friends who are often together. She wants to get back together with old friends to do the habits they once went through. On nature, it is about someone who loses a loved one and wants to go to meet that person. S/he must go on as someone who has a dream as high as the sky so that s/he has high spirits. Pink flower is about sweetness in which someone never wants to lose the other but the reality speaks differently. It is ended with a couplet about High School crush that colors the love at school. It is when a girl falls in love with a guy in the same school and it makes the person awkward every time they meet. Octavia's couplets may have the same topic of love in its structure. Meanwhile, her expression may be different regarding any emotion she embraces within. This is the looseness of meanings that is being kept in structure of literary works.

CONCLUSION

Structuralism, as it pertains to the composition of couplets, offers a multifaceted lens through which students at SMAN 19 Surabaya can gain a deeper understanding of the concept of literariness, thereby enriching their academic experience. Through the creative process of exploring couplets, these students have the opportunity to navigate and engage with their surrounding world by delving into the intricacies of vocabulary, the rhythmic patterns of rhymes, and the diverse array of meanings that such poetic forms can convey. The act of writing couplets not only serves as a valuable exercise for them to become acquainted with the nuances of English literary works but also facilitates their engagement with the broader landscape of literature as a whole. As they embark on this literary endeavor, they are positioned to enhance their comprehension of fundamental aspects such as grammar, pronunciation, and the overarching

skill of writing, all of which are integral components of literacy development. This community service initiative has effectively actualized the principles of structuralism, establishing it as a significant focus within the realm of English literature, particularly in the context of couplet composition.

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