

**THE MAIN CHARACTER'S FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS OF HUMAN
EXISTENCE DESCRIBED IN DAN BROWN'S ORIGIN: STRUCTURAL
ANALYSIS**

THESIS

By:

Fatimatus Zahro

NIM 220302110138



**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LITERATURE
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI MAULANA MALIK IBRAHIM
MALANG
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THESIS

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In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Sarjana Sastra (S.S)

By:

Fatimatus Zahro

NIM 220302110138

Advisor:

Dr. Siti Masitoh, M. Hum.

NIP 196810202003122001



DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LITERATURE

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI MAULANA MALIK IBRAHIM

MALANG

2026

STATEMENT OF AUTHORSHIP

I state that the thesis entitled **“The Main Character’s Fundamental Questions of Human Existence Described in Dan Brown’s *Origin*: Structural Analysis”** is my original work. Moreover, I do not include any previously written or published materials, except those cited as references and written in the bibliography. As a result of this research, if there is any objection or claim, I am the only person who is responsible for that.

Malang, May 16, 2026

The Researcher



Fatimatus Zahro

NIM 220302110138

APPROVAL SHEET

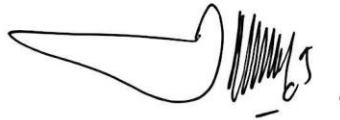
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Malang, May 03th, 2026

Acknowledge by

Advisor,

Head of English Literature,



Dr. Siti Masitoh, M. Hum.
NIP 196810202003122001



Dr. Agwin Degaf, M. A.
NIP 198805232015031004

Approved by
Dean of Humanities Faculty



Prof. Dr. M. Faisol, M. Ag.
NIP 195007411012003121003

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LEGITIMATION SHEET

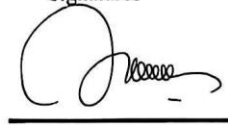
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Malang, June 18th, 2026

Board of Examiners

Signatures

1. Dr. Hj. Istiadah, M. A.
NIP. 196703131992032002



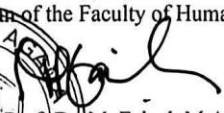
2. Dr. Siti Masitoh, M. Hum.
NIP. 196810202003122001



3. Dr. Ahmad Khozi, M.A.
NIP. 19830214201608011034



Approved by
Dean of the Faculty of Humanities



Prof. Dr. M. Faisol, M.Ag.
NIP. 197411012003121003



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MOTTO

فَإِنَّ مَعَ الْعُسْرِ يُسْرًا ﴿٥﴾

“For indeed, with hardship will be ease.”

(QS. Al-Insyrah: 5)

فَاصْبِرْ إِنَّ وَعْدَ اللَّهِ حَقٌّ

"And be patient, verily Allah's promise is true"

*“I risked my mother's life to be born into this world, so I can't possibly be
worthless.”*

(Author's reminder)

DEDICATION

I proudly dedicate this thesis to:

My beloved mother, Siti Rohanik, for her loving support and sincere prayers at all times.

My beloved father, Asyhari, for all the tireless struggles for my future, as well as the support of sincere prayers at all times.

Last but not least, I want to thank myself for not giving up all the times

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10. Finally, I accept all the criticisms and suggestion from the readers for the betterment of my research. Hopefully, this thesis will give benefit for everyone in general or for researchers in particular.

Malang, May 16, 2026
The Researcher

Fatimatus Zahro
NIM 2203021101

ABSTRAK

Zahro, Fatimatus (2026). The main character's fundamental questions about human existence are described in the novel *Origin: Structural Analysis*. Department of English Literature, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Maulana Malik Ibrahim State Islamic University, Malang.
Advisor: Dr. Siti Masitoh, M. Hum.

Keywords: Structural Analysis, Fundamental Questions, Human Existence, Intrinsic Elements

The fundamental questions about human existence are philosophical questions related to the origin and ultimate purpose of human life. In literary works, these questions are often represented through characters, conflicts, and theme development to illustrate man's search for the meaning of his existence. This study analyzes the fundamental questions about human existence posed by the main character in Dan Brown's novel *Origin* using Jonathan Culler's structuralist approach. This research aims to identify the fundamental questions posed by Edmond Kirsch as well as analyze how these questions are responded to by other characters in the novel. The research data consists of words, phrases, sentences, dialogues, and narratives that represent fundamental questions about human existence in novels. The results of the study show that Edmond Kirsch asked two fundamental questions, namely "Where do we come from?" and "Where are we going?". The first question represents the search for the origin of human life, while the second question represents the search for the future and ultimate purpose of humanity. Both questions are built through their relationship with the intrinsic elements of the novel, namely, characters, plot, setting, conflict, and theme. In addition, the responses of other figures show different points of view on the relationship between science and religion. Robert Langdon viewed science and religion as two ways in which human existence could be understood, while Bishop Valdespino rejected Edmond's discovery as a threat to religious beliefs. Thus, this study shows that fundamental questions about human existence are central to the narrative structure that establishes themes and develops the main conflicts between science and religion in the novel.

ABSTRAK

Zahro, Fatimatus (2026). Pertanyaan-pertanyaan mendasar tokoh utama tentang keberadaan manusia yang dijelaskan dalam novel *Origin: analisis struktural*. Jurusan Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Ilmu Budaya, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang.
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Kata Kunci: Analisis Struktural, Pertanyaan-pertanyaan Mendasar, Keberadaan Manusia, Unsur Intrinsik

Pertanyaan-pertanyaan mendasar tentang eksistensi manusia merupakan pertanyaan filosofis yang berkaitan dengan asal-usul dan tujuan akhir kehidupan manusia. Dalam karya sastra, pertanyaan-pertanyaan tersebut sering direpresentasikan melalui tokoh, konflik, dan pengembangan tema untuk menggambarkan pencarian manusia terhadap makna keberadaannya. Penelitian ini menganalisis pertanyaan-pertanyaan mendasar tentang eksistensi manusia yang diajukan oleh tokoh utama dalam novel *Origin* karya Dan Brown menggunakan pendekatan strukturalisme dari Jonathan Culler. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi pertanyaan-pertanyaan mendasar yang diajukan oleh Edmond Kirsch serta menganalisis bagaimana pertanyaan-pertanyaan tersebut direspons oleh tokoh-tokoh lain dalam novel. Data penelitian terdiri atas kata, frasa, kalimat, dialog, dan narasi yang merepresentasikan pertanyaan-pertanyaan mendasar tentang eksistensi manusia dalam novel. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa Edmond Kirsch mengajukan dua pertanyaan mendasar, yaitu “Where do we come from?” dan “Where are we going?”. Pertanyaan pertama merepresentasikan pencarian mengenai asal-usul kehidupan manusia, sedangkan pertanyaan kedua merepresentasikan pencarian mengenai masa depan dan tujuan akhir umat manusia. Kedua pertanyaan tersebut dibangun melalui keterkaitannya dengan unsur-unsur intrinsik novel, yaitu karakter, alur, latar, konflik, dan tema. Selain itu, respons tokoh-tokoh lain menunjukkan sudut pandang yang berbeda terhadap hubungan antara sains dan agama. Robert Langdon memandang sains dan agama sebagai dua cara yang dapat digunakan untuk memahami eksistensi manusia, sedangkan Bishop Valdespino menolak penemuan Edmond karena dianggap mengancam keyakinan keagamaan. Dengan demikian, penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa pertanyaan-pertanyaan mendasar tentang eksistensi manusia menjadi pusat struktur naratif yang membangun tema serta mengembangkan konflik utama antara sains dan agama dalam novel.

البحث مستخلص

الزهره، فاطمة، (2026). تشرح الأسئلة الأساسية للشخصية الرئيسية حول وجود الإنسان في رواية "الأصل: التحليل البنيوي". قسم الأدب الإنجليزي، كلية العلوم الثقافية، جامعة مولانا مالك إبراهيم الإسلامية، مالانغ.
المستشار: الدكتورة سيتي ماسيتو، م. هم.

الأسئلة الأساسية حول وجود الإنسان هي أسئلة فلسفية تتعلق بأصل وهدف الحياة البشرية النهائي. في الأعمال الأدبية، غالبا ما تمثل هذه الأسئلة من خلال الشخصيات والصراعات وتطور الموضوع لتوضيح بحث الإنسان عن معنى وجوده. تحلل هذه الدراسة الأسئلة الأساسية حول الوجود البشري التي طرحها الشخصية الرئيسية في رواية دان براون "الأصل" باستخدام نهج البنيوية. يهدف هذا البحث إلى تحديد الأسئلة الأساسية التي طرحها إدmond كيرش وكذلك تحليل كيفية استجابة الشخصيات الأخرى في الرواية لهذه الأسئلة. تتكون بيانات البحث من كلمات وعبارات وجمل وحوارات وسرديات تمثل أسئلة أساسية حول الوجود البشري في الروايات. تظهر نتائج الدراسة أن إدmond كيرش طرح سؤالين أساسيين، وهما "من أين نأتي؟" و"إلى أين نحن ذاهبون؟". السؤال الأول يمثل البحث عن أصل الحياة البشرية، بينما يمثل السؤال الثاني البحث عن مستقبل الإنسانية والهدف النهائي لها. كلا السؤالين يبينان من خلال علاقتهما بالعناصر الجوهرية للرواية، وهي الشخصيات، والحبكة، والمكان، والصراع، والموضوع. بالإضافة إلى ذلك، تظهر ردود شخصيات أخرى وجهات نظر مختلفة حول العلاقة بين العلم والدين. كان روبرت لانغدون يرى العلم والدين كطريقتين يمكن من خلالها فهم الوجود البشري، بينما رفض الأسقف فالديسينو اكتشاف إدmond باعتباره تهديدا للمعتقدات الدينية. لذا، تظهر هذه الدراسة أن الأسئلة الأساسية حول الوجود البشري هي جوهرية في البنية السردية التي تضع المواضيع وتطور الصراعات الرئيسية بين العلم والدين في الرواية.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains a background as an introduction overall. So that, this chapter covers the background of the study, problem of the study, research objective, scope and limitation, and the definition of key terms in this chapters to give easiness to learn another chapter further.

A. Background of the Study

Literature is a form of artistic expression that reflects human experiences, thoughts, and values through language. It allows readers to explore complex ideas and emotions, as well as to understand the world from different perspectives(Aquino & Salvador, 2024). Through literary works, authors convey messages that are often implicit and require interpretation. Therefore, analyzing literary texts becomes essential in order to uncover the deeper meanings within them.

One of the important elements in literary analysis is the exploration of human existence. Through literary works, authors are able to explore complex issues related to belief, life, and existence. Literature not only entertains but also invites readers to question fundamental aspects of human life, including the purpose and destiny of human beings. Human existence is defined through individual experience and choice which taking thoughts from Jean Paul Sartre. In literature, these existential importance and often represented through narrative structures, conflicts, and characters(Mart, 2012).

In addition, the main character plays a central role in expressing the core ideas of the story. The main character is not only involved in the plot but also reflects deeper intellectual and philosophical concerns. While the experiences, thoughts, and conflicts faced by the main character, the readers want to understand how the narrative constructs the meaning (Danesi, 2004). Therefore, the analysis of the main character becomes essential to identify how fundamental questions of human existence are presented in literary work.

The intrinsic elements in literary works are interconnected to create meaning. Other element also contributes to the overall structure of the text, and none can be fully understood they are all interrelated(Purves & Alan, 1968). These elements, which consist of symbols, are also an important part of literary works because they allow some writers to convey abstract, complex, and philosophical meanings. Symbols serve to represent ideas indirectly, giving deep meaning to each narrative while maintaining the beauty of the literary work (Innis, 2007).

This research focuses on the novel *Origin* written by Dan Brown, which is known for its complex narrative and intellectual themes. The novel combines elements of science, religion, and technology, presenting the main character's fundamental questions of human existence, as described in Dan Brown's *Origin*. Within the story, the fundamental questions of human existence are used to represent ideas, making it an interesting object for literary analysis.

The use of the fundamental question of human existence described in *Origin* reflects contemporary issues in society, in the tension between

traditional beliefs and modern scientific developments. These symbols are not only used as narrative devices but also serve to convey deeper philosophical questions about human existence, belief systems, and the future of humanity. As a result, understanding these fundamental questions is essential to understanding the overall theme of the novel.

Previous studies on Dan Brown's *Origin* have examined the novel from various perspectives. Joy and Nair (2020) analyzed *Origin* from a post-humanist perspective, highlighting the collaboration between humans and technology in addressing ethical questions. Muhammadi (2021) investigated religious hatred depicted in the novel, focusing on conflicts between religious and non-religious characters. (Tresiany et al., 2020) examined metaphor translation strategies in the Indonesian version of *Origin*, revealing several translation techniques used to transfer metaphorical expressions from the source language into the target language. Singh, (2024) analyzed symbolic codes and their interpretation in *Origin*, demonstrating Robert Langdon's role as an interpreter of historical and scientific symbols. The study also highlighted the integration of technology, symbolism, and linguistics in constructing narrative conflicts. In addition, Shafran, (2024) applied a sociological approach to identify direct, structural, and cultural violence portrayed in the story. These studies demonstrate that *Origin* has been widely analyzed through linguistic, social, religious, technological, and symbolic perspectives.

In addition to studies focusing on *Origin*, several researchers have applied structuralist approaches to analyze literary works. Syarifah and

Agussalim (2022) explored structuralism in cross-cultural narratives, emphasizing variations and consistencies in plot and character development. Karina (2021) investigated character development and the interaction of intrinsic elements in contemporary novels. Similarly, Diko (2023) applied structuralism to Xhosa short stories and demonstrated that binary oppositions, such as life-death and good-evil, play an important role in revealing implicit meanings in literary texts. Salsabila and Nurhasan (2025) analyzed the intrinsic elements of the novel *Kotak Waktu* using Robert Stanton's structuralist approach and found that theme, character, plot, setting, point of view, and message are interconnected in constructing the overall meaning of the story. In addition, Tang, (2025) employed Lucien Goldmann's genetic structuralism to analyze the film *From the Ashes*, revealing the relationship between individual experiences, social facts, and the broader social structure reflected in the narrative. These studies indicate that structuralist approaches are effective in examining narrative structures, intrinsic elements, and the relationship between literary works and their social contexts.

Based on the previous studies above, research on *Origin* has mainly focused on post-humanism, translation studies, symbolism, religion, technology, and sociological issues. Meanwhile, studies employing structuralist approaches have primarily examined intrinsic elements, narrative structures, and the relationship between literary works and social realities in various texts. However, research that specifically applies a structuralist approach to analyze the intrinsic elements of Dan Brown's *Origin* remains limited. Therefore, this

study aims to fill the gap by examining how the intrinsic elements of the novel, including plot, character, setting, conflict, and theme, interact to construct the overall meaning of the story.

B. Research Questions

In this research, the problems are specifically designed to explore the main character's fundamental question of human existence, as described in the novel.

Based on the background of the research, the problems of the research are:

1. What are the main character's fundamental questions of human existence described in Dan Brown's *Origin*?
2. How is Edmond Kirsch fundamental questions of human existence responded by other characters in the novel?

C. Significance of the Study

This research is expected to provide both theoretical and practical contributions to the study of literature, particularly in the analysis of the main character's fundamental question of human existence within a structuralist framework.

Theoretically, this study is expected to enrich literary studies by providing a deeper understanding of how the main character's fundamental question of human function as intrinsic elements in revealing the theme of a literary work. By applying the structuralism approach, this research contributes to the development of literary analysis that focuses on the internal structure of the text. Therefore, this study can serve as a reference

for future researchers who are interested in analyzing the main character's fundamental questions of human existence.

Practically, this research is expected to help readers gain a better understanding of the novel *Origin* by Dan Brown, particularly in interpreting the deeper meaning behind the main character's fundamental questions of human existence described in the story. It also aims to help students and researchers in developing their analytical skills in literary studies, especially in identifying and interpreting fundamental questions within the text.

D. Scope and Limitation

This research focuses on the analysis of the main character's fundamental question of human existence described found in the novel *Origin* written by Dan Brown. The discussion is limited to the main character's fundamental questions of human existence described in the novel. The analysis is conducted using a structuralism approach by Ferdinand de Saussure, which emphasizes the internal elements of the literary work.

Furthermore, this research only examines intrinsic elements, particularly the main character's fundamental question of human existence, without discussing extrinsic aspects such as the historical background, author's biography or social context. This limitation is applied to ensure that the analysis remains focused and in line with the chosen approach.

E. Definition of Key Terms

To ensure conceptual clarity and avoid different in interpretation, several key terms used in this study are defined as follows:

1. Main Character

The main character plays a significant role in building the storyline in a literary work, significantly influencing the development of the plot and conveying the story's core ideas. In this study, the main focus is on the main character, Edmond Kirsch, in Dan Brown's *Origin*, who plays a key role in raising and exploring fundamental questions about human existence.

2. Fundamental Questions of Human Existence

Fundamental questions about human existence relate to the important philosophical inquiries into the Origins, purpose, and ultimate future of human life. These questions relate to the main character's discoveries, such as "where do we come from? And "where are we going?" in this study, these questions are expressed and developed through the main character in the novel.

3. Structuralism

Structuralism is an approach in literary analysis that focuses on the internal structure of a text and the relationship between its elements. According to Ferdinand de Saussure, meaning in a text is constructed through the relationship between signs within a system. In this research, structuralism is used to analyze how the main character's fundamental

question of human existence described in the novel within the structure to reveal its theme.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter presents the theoretical foundation and previous studies that support this research in analyzing the main character's fundamental questions about human existence and their role in revealing the central theme of Dan Brown's *Origin*. It discusses the structuralist approach as the main analytical framework and examines the intrinsic elements of prose, including character, plot, setting, and theme, as essential tools for interpreting narrative meaning and understanding how the novel conveys complex ideas.

A. Structuralism

Structuralism is a literary approach that focuses on the underlying structure of a text rather than its surface content (Culler, 2002, p. 45). According to Culler, texts are composed of a system of signs and conventions, which can be analyzed through the relationships among intrinsic elements, such as plot, character, conflict, and theme. This idea supports the view that the literary analysis should focus on the text itself. The structuralist approach looks at the literary text on the basis of its internal features such as character, plot, theme, setting, and conflict. The elements are not considered independently since they are evaluated based on their functions as part of the entire structure of the work.

However, structuralism also has certain limitations. Some critics argue that this approach tends to ignore external factors such as historical background, cultural context, and the author's intention. For example, criticizes structuralism for focusing too much on internal structures and ignoring the influence of

ideology and social context. Structuralism remains relevant for analyzing intrinsic elements of literary works. Structuralism is an important approach in literary studies that focuses on how meaning is constructed through the internal structure of a text. According to Jonathan Culler, the main goal of structuralism is not merely to interpret the meaning of a literary work, but to explain how that meaning is produced through the relationships among its elements. Culler emphasizes that literary texts should be understood as systems of signs that operate based on certain rules and conventions, similar to language. In this perspective, meaning does not come from individual elements standing independently, but from the network of relationships that connect those elements into a structured whole. For example, a character cannot be fully understood without considering its relation to conflict, plot, and other characters.

This shows that meaning emerges from the interaction among elements rather than from a single component. Furthermore, Culler introduces the concept of poetics, which becomes the central focus of structuralist analysis. Poetics is concerned with identifying the underlying rules, patterns, and conventions that make literary meaning possible. Instead of asking “what does the text mean?”, structuralism asks “what structures and conventions enable the text to produce meaning?”. This shift in focus allows literary analysis to become more systematic and objective by examining how meaning is constructed rather than simply interpreting it. This idea is supported by Barry (2009), who states that structuralism seeks to uncover the underlying system that governs literary

texts, including patterns and conventions that shape meaning. Similarly, Selden, Widdowson, and Brooker (2005) argue that literary works should be seen as structured systems in which each element only gains meaning through its relation to other elements. These perspectives strengthen Culler's argument that literature is not a collection of separate parts, but a unified structure.

In addition, Culler proposes the concept of literary competence, which refers to the reader's implicit understanding of literary conventions. Readers are able to recognize narrative patterns, interpret symbols, and understand thematic development because they have internalized certain rules of literature. This idea suggests that meaning is not produced by the text alone, but also through the interaction between the structured text and the reader's competence. Tyson (2015) supports this view by explaining that readers interpret texts based on shared systems of knowledge and conventions, which guide their understanding of meaning.

Another important principle in Culler's structuralism is that meaning is produced through difference and relation. Elements in a literary text gain significance not because of their inherent qualities, but because of how they differ from and relate to other elements. For instance, oppositions such as science versus religion, belief versus doubt, or tradition versus modernity can function as structural patterns that organize meaning within the text. Hawkes (2003) also explains that structuralism aims to identify these patterns and oppositions as the basis for understanding how meaning is constructed in literature. In relation to this research, Culler's structuralist perspective is highly

relevant to analyze the main character's fundamental questions of human existence and the responses given by other characters. These questions such as "Where do we come from?" and "Where are we going?" are not simply philosophical ideas, but function as key elements within the structure of the narrative. They are closely connected to intrinsic elements such as character, plot, conflict, and theme.

The main character, Edmond Kirsch, plays a central role in introducing and developing these questions, while the responses of other characters contribute to the development of conflict and thematic meaning. Through the interaction between these elements, the meaning of human existence is gradually constructed within the narrative. This shows that meaning in the novel is not presented directly, but is produced through the relationships among its structural components. Therefore, structuralism, as proposed by Culler, provides an appropriate framework for this research because it allows a deeper understanding of how meaning is built through structure. By focusing on the relationships among intrinsic elements, this approach helps reveal how the main character's fundamental questions and the responses of other characters work together to construct the overall meaning of the novel.

Based on these explanations, the structuralist approach is considered appropriate for this research because it focuses on analyzing the main character's fundamental question of human existence, described as intrinsic elements, and on understanding their role in revealing the novel's theme. Through this approach, this research aims to provide a deeper understanding of

how meaning is constructed within the text through the setting, character, plot, conflict, and theme Culler, (1975). Structuralism is a literary approach that focuses on the underlying structure of a text rather than its surface content (Culler, 2002, p. 45). According to Culler, texts are composed of a system of signs and conventions, which can be analyzed through the relationships among intrinsic elements, such as plot, character, conflict, and theme.

Therefore, in literary studies, structuralism was further developed by theorists such as Roland Barthes, who emphasized that a text is a theorist's meaning that can be interpreted through its internal structure. He argued that the meaning is produced through the interaction of various elements within the text, and not through the author's intention. This idea supports the view that the literary analysis should focus on the text itself. The structuralist approach looks at the literary text based on its internal features such as character, plot, theme, setting, and conflict. The elements are not considered independently since they are evaluated based on their functions as part of the entire structure of the work.

However, structuralism also has certain limitations. Some critics argue that this approach tends to ignore external factors such as historical background, cultural context, and the author's intention. For example, Aryatama, (2023) Critics of structuralism for focusing too much on internal structures and ignoring the influence of ideology and social context. Structuralism remains relevant for analyzing intrinsic elements of literary works. Based on these explanations, the structuralist approach is considered appropriate for this research because it focuses on analyzing the main character's fundamental

question of human existence, described as intrinsic elements, and on understanding their role in revealing the novel's theme. Through this approach, this research aims to provide a deeper understanding of how meaning is constructed within the text through the setting, character, plot, conflict, and theme.

B. Intrinsic Elements of Prose

Intrinsic elements are the essential components of a literary work that shape meaning and engage readers. These intrinsic elements work synergistically under the guidance of structuralist principles, producing a cohesive narrative that both entertains and provokes critical reflection. This comprehensive analysis underscores the importance of examining how plot, character, setting, and literary devices interrelate to reveal the underlying messages in *Origin*. Intrinsic elements are the core components that build a literary work from within the text itself. These elements generally include character, plot, setting, conflict, and theme, all of which work together to form a complete and meaningful narrative. (M. H. Abrams, 1999), intrinsic elements are not just separate parts of a story, but interconnected components that contribute to the unity of a literary work. From a structuralist point of view, as Jonathan Culler emphasizes, these elements should be understood as part of a system in which meaning is produced through their relationships. In other words, a literary text becomes meaningful not because of a single element, but because of how all elements interact within the structure.

Character is one of the most important elements in a literary work because it is through characters that the story unfolds. Characters are the individuals presented in the narrative, and they are revealed through their actions, dialogue, and relationships with other characters. (M. H. Abrams, 1999) explains that characters are not only defined by what they say or do, but also by how they interact within the story. In structural analysis, characters are not simply viewed as individuals, but as functional parts of the narrative system. Their roles are closely connected to other elements, especially plot and conflict, which help shape the overall meaning of the text.

Plot refers to the sequence of events that make up the story, but it is more than just a series of actions arranged in time. A plot is structured in a way that shows the relationship between events, where each event influences the next. (Bennett & Royle, 2004) explains that from a structuralist perspective, plot can be seen as a pattern of interconnected events that work together to produce meaning. This means that events in a story are not random; they are organized in a structured way that helps readers understand the development of the narrative.

Setting is the element that provides the background of the story, including the time, place, and environment in which the events occur. However, a setting is not only about physical location. (M. H. Abrams, 1999) states that setting also includes the social and cultural context that influences the characters and events. In structural analysis, setting plays an important role because it helps shape the situation in which the story develops. It also supports

other elements, such as character and conflict, by creating the conditions in which they interact.

Conflict is the driving force of a narrative because it creates tension and keeps the story moving. It refers to the struggle between opposing forces, which can occur between characters, within a character, or between a character and a larger system such as society or belief. From a structuralist perspective, conflict often reflects deeper patterns of opposition, such as science versus religion, belief versus doubt, or tradition versus modernity. These oppositions are important because they help organize the structure of the story and contribute to the way meaning is constructed.

The theme is the central idea or underlying message of a literary work. Unlike other elements, theme is usually not stated directly, but is gradually revealed through the interaction of character, plot, setting, and conflict. (Bennett & Royle, 2004) explain that the theme emerges from patterns and relationships within the text, rather than from a single element. This idea is closely related to Culler's view that meaning is produced through structure. In this sense, the theme can be understood as the result of how all intrinsic elements work together within the narrative.

So that, intrinsic elements of prose are not independent components, but parts of a structured system that work together to create meaning. Character, plot, setting, conflict, and theme are interconnected, and each element contributes to the overall structure of the literary work. This perspective supports Jonathan Culler's structuralist theory, which emphasizes that meaning

in literature is not found in isolated parts but is constructed through the relationships among elements within the text.

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHOD

This chapter explains the methodology used in this research, including the research design, data source, data collection, and data analysis. It aims to provide a clear and systematic description of how the research is conducted in order to answer the research problems. In line with the objectives of the research, this chapter emphasizes the use of a structuralist approach to analyze the main character's fundamental question of human existence described in the novel *Origin*, written by Dan Brown.

A. Research Design

The research design used with a literary criticism approach. Qualitative research is appropriate for this research because it focuses on interpreting and analyzing textual data rather than numerical data. The qualitative research is used to explore and understand the meaning that individuals or groups ascribe to a social or human problem. In the context of literary studies, qualitative research allows the researcher to interpret meanings in a literary text.

This research applies literary criticism as the main method of analysis because the object of the research is a literary work. Literary criticism is used to analyze, interpret, and evaluate literary texts in order to uncover their meanings. Literary criticism involves the interpretation of texts by focusing on their language, structure, and meaning. Therefore, this method is relevant to analyzing symbols and themes in the novel.

Furthermore, this research employs a structuralism approach as the theoretical framework. Structuralism focuses on analyzing the internal structure of a literary work and the relationships between its elements. According to Jonathan Culler, meaning is constructed through the relationships between signs within a system. In literary analysis, this means that elements such as symbols, plot, and theme must be analyzed as interconnected components within the text. This is in line with the principle of structuralism, which emphasizes that meaning is derived from the internal structure of the text.

Therefore, this research is designed to analyze the main character's fundamental question of human existence described in the novel. The researcher conducts a close reading of the text to identify symbolic elements and interpret their meanings based on their relationship with other intrinsic elements

B. Data Source

This data source is an important component in conducting research because it provides the material to be analyzed. In this research, the data source is taken from a literary work in the form of a novel. The primary data source of this research is the novel *Origin* written by Dan Brown, which was published in 2017. Consists of 105 chapters and 520 pages.

The data used in this research are in the form of words, phrases, sentences, and paragraphs taken from the narrative and dialogues in the novel. These data are specifically selected based on the main character's fundamental question of human existence. Therefore, only data that are related to symbolic elements are included in the analysis, while irrelevant data are excluded.

Furthermore, this research also uses supporting data from books, journals, and other academic sources related to structuralism. These sources are used to strengthen the theoretical framework and support the interpretation of the data. The data sources in qualitative research can include both primary data and secondary data to support the analysis (Muzakki, 2020).

C. Data Collection

Data collection is an essential step in literary criticism research because it determines the quality and relevance of the data used in the analysis. In this research, the data are collected from the novel *Origin* written by Dan Brown, focusing on the main character's fundamental question of human existence.

The data collection technique used in this research is documentation and close reading. The documentation is a method of collecting data by analyzing written documents, such as books, texts, and other recorded materials. In literary research, documentation involves selecting and recording relevant textual data from the literary work

The first step in collecting the data is reading the novel carefully and repeatedly in order to gain a comprehensive understanding of the story. This process is important to identify narrative patterns, characters, and events that potentially contain symbolic meanings. The researcher conducts a close reading of the text to focus on details that indicate the presence of the main character's fundamental question of human existence.

The second step is identifying and marking parts of the text that contain potential symbols. These include words, phrases, sentences, or paragraphs that

represent the main character's. The identification is based on certain characteristics of symbols, such as recurrence, emphasis, and their connection to important elements of the story.

The third step is classifying the collected data into categories based on the main character's fundamental question of human existence, as described in *Origin*. In this research, the main character is the main actor. This classification helps to organize the data and makes the analysis more focused. In addition, the researcher also collects supporting theoretical references from books and academic journals related to structuralism and the intrinsic elements of prose to strengthen the analysis.

D. Data Analysis

After data collection, the data were analyzed to address the main focus of the research. The researcher identified and classified textual evidence related to the intrinsic elements of the novel, including character, plot, setting, conflict, and theme. These elements were examined using Jonathan Culler's structuralist theory to reveal how they contribute to the overall meaning of the narrative. To strengthen the analytical framework, the researcher also consulted books and theoretical sources related to structuralism. After organizing the data, the researcher analyzed the novel using a structuralist approach.

Furthermore, the researcher explained how the main character's fundamental questions of human existence were portrayed in the novel by examining the character's role in the narrative. The interpretation was based on textual evidence, ensuring that the analysis remained objective and consistent

with the structuralist approach. Finally, the researcher presented the main findings and provided answers to the research problems. This step ensured that the research achieved its objectives and contributed to a deeper understanding of the main character's fundamental questions of human existence as described in the novel.

CHAPTER IV

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

This chapter presents the findings and discussion based on the research problems of the study. The analysis focuses on the main character's fundamental questions of human existence described in Dan Brown's *Origin*. In this chapter, the researcher applies structuralism as the main approach by examining the correlation among intrinsic elements, especially character, plot, setting, conflict, and theme. The discussion is divided into two parts.

The first part explains Edmond Kirsch as the main character and analyzes how his characteristics, actions, and scientific discovery lead to the emergence of the fundamental questions of human existence. The second part discusses how Edmond Kirsch's fundamental questions are responded to by other characters in the novel. Through this analysis, the researcher shows that the questions of human origin and human destiny are not presented separately, but are constructed through the relationship among the elements within the narrative structure.

A. The Main Character's Fundamental Question of Human Existence

Before discussing the fundamental questions of human existence, the researcher needs to explain Edmond Kirsch as the character who brings those questions in the story. In *Origin*, Edmond is not only described as a scientist, but also as a person whose ideas influence the whole plot. His discovery becomes the reason why the conflict in the novel begins. Therefore, Edmond's character should be discussed first before analyzing the two questions, "Where do we come from?" and "Where are we going?".

In structural analysis, a character is not separated from other elements of fiction. Character, setting, plot, conflict, and theme work together to build the meaning of the story. In this novel, Edmond's character is closely related to the plot because his discovery causes the main events. His character is also related to conflict because his scientific idea challenges religious belief. Besides that, his character is connected to theme because the questions he raises are about human origin and human destiny. Therefore, Edmond's fundamental questions are not only seen as his personal questions, but as part of the structure of the novel.

1. Edmond Kirsch as the Main Character

Edmond Kirsch is an important character in Dan Brown's *Origin* because the main problem of the story begins from him. Although Robert Langdon appears more often in the novel, Edmond's idea becomes the center of the story. He is the one who creates the scientific discovery, invites people to his presentation, and causes the conflict between science and religion. Because of that, Edmond can be seen as the character who moves the plot.

Edmond is introduced through Robert Langdon's memory when Langdon comes to the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao. Langdon remembers Edmond as his former student at Harvard University. However, Edmond is no longer only a student. He has become a famous scientist and futurist. It can be seen in the following quotation:

"Today, Edmond Kirsch was a world-renowned maverick—a billionaire computer scientist, futurist, inventor, and entrepreneur." (Brown, 2017, p. 22)

The quotation above appears when Robert Langdon arrives at the Guggenheim Museum to attend Edmond's event. At this moment, the guests do not know yet what Edmond will announce. However, from Langdon's description, the reader can already see that Edmond is not an ordinary person. He is called a "world-renowned maverick," which means he is famous, different, and brave enough to go against common ways of thinking. He is also described as a billionaire computer scientist, futurist, inventor, and entrepreneur. This description shows that Edmond's life is strongly connected with science, technology, and the future.

This characterization is important because Edmond's questions about human existence come from his scientific background. He does not ask about human origin and destiny from a religious point of view. He asks those questions as a scientist who believes that science can explain the mystery of life. Therefore, Edmond's character is related to the theme of the novel, especially the theme of human existence.

Besides that, Edmond is also described as a person who has created many advanced technologies. He is not only known for one discovery, but for many works in science and technology. The narrator explains this in the following quotation:

"The forty-year-old had fathered an astounding array of advanced technologies that represented major leaps forward in fields as diverse as robotics, brain science, artificial intelligence, and nanotechnology." (Brown, 2017, p. 22)

This quotation still appears in Langdon's description of Edmond before the presentation begins. The quotation explains that Edmond has

made many important contributions in modern technology, such as robotics, brain science, artificial intelligence, and nanotechnology. From this description, Edmond is shown as a modern figure who understands the development of science deeply.

The setting also supports Edmond's characterization. Edmond chooses the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao as the place for his public presentation. The museum is described as modern, unusual, and futuristic. This place is suitable for Edmond because he is also a futuristic person. The setting is not only a background, but also supports the image of Edmond as a man of modern science. In this part, the correlation between character and setting can be seen clearly. Edmond's modern character is strengthened by the modern setting of the Guggenheim Museum.

Edmond's role as the main character can also be seen from the effect of his actions on other characters. Langdon comes to Bilbao because Edmond invites him. Ambra Vidal becomes involved because she helps Edmond prepare the event. Bishop Valdespino, Rabbi Köves, and Syed al-Fadl become worried because they have seen Edmond's discovery before the public announcement. Admiral Ávila also enters the museum because of the mission related to Edmond. All of these events show that Edmond's action influences the movement of the story.

Thus, Edmond is not only important because he appears in the story, but because his idea controls the story. His discovery becomes the center of the plot. His death also becomes the reason why Langdon and Ambra

continue the journey to reveal his presentation. Based on this explanation, Edmond's character is related to plot, conflict, and theme. This is why Edmond needs to be explained first before discussing his fundamental questions of human existence.

2. Edmond Kirsch as a Scientist and Futurist

Edmond Kirsch is also characterized as a scientist and futurist. This characteristic is important because the two fundamental questions of human existence are developed from his scientific way of thinking. Edmond does not only think about the present condition of human beings, but also about the future of humanity. As a futurist, he is interested in prediction. As a scientist, he tries to prove his ideas through data, technology, and scientific methods.

Edmond's profession is explained directly when he meets Bishop Valdespino at Montserrat. Before meeting the three religious leaders, Valdespino asks Edmond about his work. Edmond answers by explaining his field. It can be seen in the following quotation:

"I specialize in game theory and computer modeling." (Brown, 2017, p. 14)

The quotation above happens in Montserrat, Catalonia, Spain. The characters involved in this event are Edmond Kirsch and Bishop Antonio Valdespino. Edmond comes to Montserrat because he wants to meet three religious leaders: Bishop Valdespino, Rabbi Yehuda Köves, and Allamah Syed al-Fadl. In this scene, Edmond explains that he works in game theory and computer modeling. Game theory and computer modeling are connected

with patterns, calculations, and predictions. This shows that Edmond's way of thinking is based on science and logic.

The setting of this event is important. Montserrat is a religious place, while Edmond is a scientist. The meeting between Edmond and Valdespino creates a contrast between science and religion. Edmond brings modern scientific knowledge, while Valdespino represents religious authority. This contrast becomes the beginning of the main conflict in the novel. Therefore, the setting, character, and conflict are connected in this event. Edmond also explains that game theory is not about computer games, but about studying patterns and predicting the future. It can be seen in the following quotation:

"No, sir, actually game theory is a field of mathematics that studies patterns in order to make predictions about the future." (Brown, 2017, p. 14).

The quotation shows that Edmond's work is closely related to the future. This is important because one of the fundamental questions he raises is "Where are we going?" This question is about human destiny and the future direction of human life. Since Edmond is a futurist, it is logical that he tries to answer this question. His profession supports the theme of the novel because the novel discusses not only where humans come from, but also where humans are going.

Bishop Valdespino also mentions Edmond's previous prediction about a European monetary crisis. This shows that Edmond is known as someone who can predict future events. The quotation is as follows:

"I believe I read that you predicted a European monetary crisis some years ago?" (Brown, 2017, p. 14).

This quotation is spoken by Bishop Valdespino to Edmond. It shows that Edmond's reputation is already known by other characters. Edmond is not only described by the narrator, but also recognized by another character. This makes his characterization stronger. Valdespino knows Edmond as a scientist who has made accurate predictions. Therefore, when Edmond later claims that he has answered the future of humanity, the reader already understands why he has the confidence to make such a claim.

In this part, the correlation between character and plot can be seen. Edmond's identity as a scientist and futurist becomes the reason why he can create the discovery. His discovery then becomes the cause of the main events in the novel. Without his scientific background, his claim about human origin and human destiny would not be convincing. Therefore, Edmond's characterization as a scientist supports the plot and prepares the reader to understand the importance of his two questions.

3. Edmond Kirsch as an Atheist

Another important characteristic of Edmond Kirsch is his identity as an atheist. This characteristic is very important because it influences the way Edmond sees human existence. He does not believe that religion should be the final answer to human origin and human destiny. Instead, he believes that science can give better answers. Because of this belief, Edmond's discovery becomes a challenge for religious leaders.

Edmond's atheism is mentioned when Langdon remembers his conversation with Edmond in Boston. Edmond asks Langdon about the

creation stories in many religions. Langdon feels surprised because Edmond is known as an atheist. It can be seen in the following quotation:

“Why is a futurist so interested in the past? Does this mean our famous atheist has finally found God?” (Brown, 2017, p. 23)

The quotation above happens in Langdon’s memory about his meeting with Edmond in Boston. In that meeting, Edmond asks Langdon about the core beliefs of different religions, especially their creation stories. Langdon explains several creation stories, such as the Genesis story in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, and also stories from Hinduism and other traditions. Edmond’s interest in creation stories is related to the first fundamental question, “Where do we come from?”

However, Edmond does not study those stories because he wants to become religious. He studies them because he wants to compare religious explanations with his scientific discovery. This can be seen from Edmond’s answer to Langdon:

“I’m just sizing up my competition, Robert.” (Brown, 2017, p. 23)

This quotation shows that Edmond sees religion as his “competition.” He does not see religion as something that works together with science. He sees it as something that competes with science in explaining human life. This statement is important because it shows the conflict between science and religion from Edmond’s point of view.

The event also shows the relationship between character and conflict. Edmond’s identity as an atheist creates conflict because his scientific answers challenge religious explanations. He does not simply ask

the questions of human existence. He wants to prove that science can answer those questions better than religion. Therefore, his atheism becomes one of the causes of the conflict in the novel.

Edmond's strong view against religion is also shown when he talks to Langdon before the presentation. He says that he has found the purpose of his life, which is to use science against religion. It can be seen in the following quotation:

"I also told you that I had found the purpose of my life to employ the truth of science to eradicate the myth of religion." (Brown, 2017, p. 65)

The quotation above happens when Edmond and Langdon meet privately inside the spiral sculpture at the Guggenheim Museum. Edmond explains to Langdon that his discovery will have a big impact on religion. This quotation shows that Edmond not only believes in science, but also wants science to replace religious myth. His statement is strong and direct. He sees religion as myth, while he sees science as truth.

This quotation is important in structural analysis because it connects character, conflict, and theme. Edmond's character as an atheist creates conflict with religious figures. That conflict then brings the theme of human existence, because both science and religion try to answer the same questions: where humans come from and where humans are going. In this way, Edmond's atheism is not only a personal belief but also a part of the story structure.

4. Edmond Kirsch as an Ambitious and Confident Character

Edmond Kirsch is also shown as an ambitious and confident character. He believes that his discovery will change the world. His confidence can be seen from the way he prepares a large public presentation and invites many important guests. He does not want his discovery to remain private. He wants the whole world to know it.

Edmond's confidence is shown in his conversation with Langdon before the presentation. He tells Langdon that his discovery is very important. It can be seen in the following quotation:

"It will usher in a major paradigm shift." (Brown, 2017, p. 64)

The quotation above happens inside Richard Serra's spiral sculpture at the Guggenheim Museum. The characters involved are Edmond Kirsch and Robert Langdon. Edmond tells Langdon that he has worked on a major project and that his discovery will bring a major paradigm shift. This means that Edmond believes his discovery will change the way people understand life.

Edmond also compares the impact of his discovery to the Copernican revolution. It can be seen in the following quotation:

"I am not exaggerating when I tell you that my discovery will have repercussions on the scale of the Copernican revolution." (Brown, 2017, p. 64)

This quotation shows Edmond's high confidence. The Copernican revolution changed the way people understood the universe. By comparing his discovery to Copernicus's, Edmond believes that his discovery will also change human understanding in a very big way. Langdon even feels that Edmond's claim is almost too bold, but Edmond remains serious.

The event is important because it shows the relation between Edmond's character and the plot. Edmond's ambition pushes him to announce the discovery to the public. His confidence also makes the conflict stronger because the discovery is not only shared with a small group of people, but with the whole world. This action creates fear among religious leaders and becomes the reason why the story develops into a conflict.

Edmond's ambitious character is also shown through the event at the Guggenheim Museum. He prepares the presentation in a dramatic way. The event is attended by many guests and watched by millions of online viewers. This shows that Edmond wants his discovery to have a global impact. He not only wants to present scientific data, but also wants to change public belief. Therefore, his ambition connects the plot with the theme of human existence.

5. Edmond Kirsch as the Creator of Scientific Discovery

The most important thing Edmond does in the novel is create a scientific discovery. This discovery becomes the center of the story. It causes the meeting with religious leaders, the public presentation at the Guggenheim Museum, Edmond's murder, and Langdon's effort to reveal the hidden presentation. Because of that, Edmond's discovery is closely related to the plot.

Edmond first explains his discovery to the three religious leaders in Montserrat. He says that he has pursued the discovery for many years and that it answers two fundamental questions. It can be seen in the following quotation:

"I am here today," Kirsch began, "because I have made a scientific discovery I believe you will find startling. It is something I have pursued for many years,

hoping to provide answers to two of the most fundamental questions of our human experience.”(Brown, 2017, p. 18)

The quotation above happens in the library of Montserrat. The characters involved are Edmond Kirsch, Bishop Antonio Valdespino, Rabbi Yehuda Köves, and Allamah Syed al-Fadl. Edmond asks them to keep the information secret before showing them his presentation. This event happens before Edmond’s public announcement at the Guggenheim Museum.

The setting of this event is very important. The meeting happens in a religious library filled with ancient religious texts. Edmond comes into that place with a modern scientific discovery and a smartphone. This contrast shows the opposition between old religious tradition and modern science. The setting supports the conflict because Edmond’s discovery is placed directly in front of religious authorities.

Edmond also says that his discovery will affect religious people. It can be seen in the following quotation:

“I believe this information will affect the world’s faithful in a profound way, quite possibly causing a shift that can only be described as, shall we say, disruptive.”(Brown, 2017, p. 18)

The quotation shows that Edmond already knows the impact of his discovery. He understands that his scientific answer will disturb religious beliefs. This is because the questions of human origin and human destiny are usually answered by religion. If science gives another answer, religious teachings may be questioned.

Based on the quotation, Edmond’s discovery is connected with conflict and theme. The conflict appears because his discovery challenges the beliefs of

religious leaders. The theme appears because the discovery talks about human existence. Therefore, Edmond's action as the creator of the discovery becomes the bridge between character, plot, conflict, and theme.

The reaction of the religious leaders also shows that Edmond's discovery has a strong effect. Rabbi Köves becomes disturbed after seeing the presentation. He studies Genesis and other religious texts again because Edmond's discovery makes him rethink religious explanations of creation. This shows that Edmond's discovery not only moves the plot, but also affects other characters emotionally and intellectually.

6. Edmond Kirsch's First Fundamental Question: "Where Do We Come From?"

After explaining Edmond's character, the first fundamental question can be discussed. The first question is "Where do we come from?" This question refers to human origin. In the novel, this question is important because it is usually answered by religion through creation stories. However, Edmond wants to answer it through science.

The question appears clearly when Edmond talks to Langdon before the presentation. It can be seen in the following quotation:

*"What are the two fundamental questions that have been asked by the human race throughout our entire history?"
 "Well, the questions would have to be: 'How did it all begin? Where do we come from?'" (Brown, 2017, p. 65)*

The quotation above happens inside the spiral sculpture at the Guggenheim Museum. The characters involved are Edmond Kirsch and Robert Langdon. Edmond asks Langdon to mention the two fundamental questions

that humans have always asked. Langdon answers by mentioning the question of origin: “Where do we come from?” Edmond confirms that answer.

This event is important because Edmond finally states the focus of his discovery. The question is not only about science, but also about the meaning of human life. In religious belief, the origin of human beings is often explained by God’s creation. However, Edmond believes that science can give another explanation. This is why the question creates conflict between science and religion.

The setting also supports the meaning of the question. The conversation happens in the Guggenheim Museum, a modern place filled with art and technology. Earlier, Edmond discussed his discovery in Montserrat, a religious place. This movement from Montserrat to the Guggenheim shows the movement from religious explanation to scientific explanation. Therefore, the setting is related to the theme.

Later in his presentation, Edmond gives his scientific answer to the question of origin. He explains that life comes from the laws of physics. It can be seen in the following quotation:

“Where do we come from?” he asked. “The truth is we come from nowhere...and from everywhere. We come from the same laws of physics that create life across the cosmos.” (Brown, 2017, p. 446)

This quotation appears when Edmond’s video presentation is finally broadcast. In this part, Edmond answers the first fundamental question. He explains that human life does not come from a special divine creation, but from the same physical laws that create life in the universe. This answer is very different from religious explanations.

The quotation shows the relation between Edmond's character and the theme. Edmond as a scientist answers the question of origin through physics and evolution. His answer creates conflict because it rejects the idea that human beings are special creations of God. Therefore, the first question is not only about the beginning of life, but also about the struggle between religious and scientific explanations.

This question also affects other characters. Valdespino sees Edmond's answer as dangerous because it removes God from the explanation of human origin. Langdon also feels uncertain because he understands the possible impact of Edmond's statement. Ambra also reacts with wonder and hesitation. These reactions show that Edmond's first question is connected with other characters and with the conflict of the novel.

7. Edmond Kirsch's Second Fundamental Question: "Where Are We Going?"

The second fundamental question is "Where are we going?" This question refers to human destiny and the future of human civilization. This question is closely related to Edmond's identity as a futurist. Since Edmond is known as a person who predicts the future, the question of human destiny becomes part of his character.

The question appears in Edmond's conversation with Langdon. It can be seen in the following quotation:

"And the second question is simply the ancillary to that. Not 'where do we come from'...but..."
" 'Where are we going?' ". (Brown, 2017, p. 65)

The quotation above happens in the same private conversation between Edmond and Langdon at the Guggenheim Museum. After discussing the first question about origin, Edmond directs Langdon to the second question about destiny. This question is about the future direction of humanity.

Edmond then explains that the two questions represent human creation and human destiny. It can be seen in the following quotation:

“Where do we come from? Where are we going? Human creation and human destiny. They are the universal mysteries.”

This quotation is important because Edmond directly explains the meaning of the two questions. The first question is about human creation, while the second question is about human destiny. He calls them “universal mysteries” because all human beings, from different cultures and religions, have asked these questions.

The second question is connected with technology and the future. In the novel, Edmond is not only a scientist but also a creator of artificial intelligence, Winston. Winston shows that technology has an important role in Edmond’s view of the future. Through Winston, the novel presents the possibility that human destiny will be shaped by artificial intelligence and scientific development. Therefore, the question “Where are we going?” is related to Edmond’s futuristic character.

Edmond also says that where humans are going is more surprising than where humans come from. It can be seen in the following quotation:

“Where we come from...is not nearly as startling as where we are going.”(Brown, 2017, p. 446)

The quotation appears after Edmond explains his answer to the question of human origin. He says that the answer about the future is even more surprising. This statement shows that the second question is very important in the novel. Edmond does not only want to explain the past, but also wants to reveal the future of humanity.

The second question also creates conflict because religion usually gives answers about human destiny, such as the afterlife, salvation, or divine purpose. Edmond's scientific prediction challenges those religious answers. This can be seen when Edmond tells Langdon that his discovery puts him in conflict with religious teachings:

“By answering these questions, I have placed myself in direct conflict with centuries of established spiritual teachings.” . (Brown, 2017, p. 65)

The quotation above shows that Edmond understands the consequences of his discovery. He realizes that the questions about human creation and destiny have been dominant in religion for centuries. While answering them through science, Edmond challenges religious authority. This is why religious leaders feel disturbed by his discovery.

From this explanation, the second fundamental question is related to character, conflict, and theme. Edmond's character as a futurist makes him interested in the future. His scientific answer creates conflict with religion. The theme of human destiny appears through this conflict. Therefore, the question “Where are we going?” is not only a question about the future, but also a structural element that connects many parts of the novel.

8. The Correlation between Edmond's Character and the Fundamental Questions of Human Existence

Based on the explanation above, Edmond Kirsch's fundamental questions of human existence cannot be separated from his character. His identity as a scientist, futurist, atheist, ambitious thinker, and creator of scientific discovery becomes the reason why he raises the questions "Where do we come from?" and "Where are we going?" These questions appear because of who Edmond is and what he does in the story.

Edmond's character is related to the plot because his discovery moves the story. The plot begins with his secret meeting with religious leaders at Montserrat. It continues with his public presentation at the Guggenheim Museum. After Edmond is killed, the plot continues through Langdon and Ambra's effort to reveal his presentation.

His character is also related to the setting. Montserrat represents religion, tradition, and sacred authority. The Guggenheim Museum represents modernity, technology, and innovation. Edmond appears in both places. In Montserrat, he confronts religious leaders. In the Guggenheim Museum, he prepares to speak to the world. The contrast between these two settings strengthens the conflict between religion and science.

Edmond's character is also related to conflict. His discovery challenges religious teachings because it answers the fundamental questions that have usually been answered by religion.

The conflict is not only between Edmond and religious leaders, but also between two understanding of human existence: faith and science. Edmond believes that science can give universal answers, while religious leaders fear that his discovery will disturb people's faith.

Finally, Edmond's character is related to the theme. The theme of human existence appears through the questions of origin and destiny. The first question, "Where do we come from?", discusses the beginning of human life. The second fundamental question, "Where are we going?", discusses the next of our future humanity. Through Edmond's character, the novel presents these several questions as the central theme of the story in the novel *Origin*.

Therefore, Edmond's Kirsch's fundamental questions do not stand alone. They are built through the relationship between plot, setting, character, conflict and theme. Edmond as the main character produces the questions. His discovery moves the plot. The settings of Montserrat and the Guggenheim Museum strengthen the contrast among religion and science. The conflict with religious leaders gives the meaning to the whole narrative. Through this correlation, Origin described Edmond Kirsch as a character who questions human existence and challenges traditional explanations about life.

B. The Way How His Fundamental questions responded by Other Character's

Moreover, after explain Edmond Kirsh's fundamental questions of human existence, this part discusses how other characters respond to those fundamental questions. While in the novel, Edmond's questions do not only belong to himself. The questions also influence other characters and also creat

different respond. Other characters responds with curiosity, rejection, fear, and others support. These responses are important because they show how Edmond's questions function in the structure of the story

Therefore, the responses from other characters show the connection between character, conflict, and theme. Through these responses, the novel develops the conflict between science and religion, and also shows how the theme of human existence is understood from different points of view.

1. Robert Langdon's Response to Edmond Kirsch's Fundamental Questions

Robert Langdon is one of the first characters to respond to Edmond Kirsch's fundamental questions directly. As Edmond's former professor and friend, Langdon has a special position in the story. He understands Edmond's intellectual ability, but he also understands the importance of religion and symbols in human life. Because of that, Langdon's response is not extreme. He does not fully reject Edmond's scientific view, but he also does not agree that religion should be destroyed by science.

Langdon's balanced response can be seen when Edmond asks him about religious creation stories. Edmond sees religion as his competition, but Langdon gives a different view. It can be seen in the following quotation:

"science and religion are not competitors, they're two different languages trying to tell the same story." (Brown, 2017, p. 24)

The quotation above happens in Langdon's memory of his conversation with Edmond in Boston. In this event, Edmond asks Langdon about the core beliefs of world religions, especially their creation stories. Langdon explains

several stories of creation from different religions, such as Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and other traditions. When Edmond says that he is “sizing up” his competition, Langdon responds by saying that science and religion are not enemies.

This response shows that Langdon sees the questions of human existence differently from Edmond. Edmond sees the questions as problems that must be answered by science. Meanwhile, Langdon sees science and religion as two different ways to understand the same mystery. This means that Langdon does not reject science, but he also does not want religion to be treated as useless.

The context of the event is important because it happens before Edmond makes his discovery public. At this moment, Langdon still thinks that science and religion can exist together. His response becomes a contrast to Edmond’s view. Edmond believes that scientific truth will destroy religious myth, while Langdon believes that religion still has a function in human life.

The response of Langdon is also related to the conflict in the novel. As a professor of religious symbology, Langdon becomes a character who stands between science and religion. He is not a religious leader like Valdespino, Köves, or al-Fadl, but he also does not have Edmond’s hatred toward religion. Because of that, Langdon’s response helps the reader see the conflict in a more balanced way.

Langdon also responds with surprise when Edmond tells him that his discovery answers the two fundamental questions. This can be seen in the following quotation:

"I'm...not sure what to say." (Brown, 2017, p. 65)

The quotation above happens inside the spiral sculpture at the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao. The characters involved are Edmond Kirsch and Robert Langdon. Edmond tells Langdon that his discovery clearly answers the questions "Where do we come from?" and "Where are we going?" Langdon is shocked because he understands how the big impact. He knows that these questions are not simple scientific questions, but questions that have been asked by human beings for centuries.

This response shows that Langdon takes Edmond's discovery seriously. He does not immediately accuse Edmond of being wrong. However, he also does not directly accept Edmond's claim. His hesitation shows that the discovery is too large and sensitive. Through Langdon's response, the novel shows that Edmond's fundamental questions create uncertainty, even for an educated character like Langdon.

Langdon's response is connected with the plot because after Edmond is killed, Langdon becomes the character who continues Edmond's mission. While he tries to find the password and reveal Edmond's presentation to the world. This means that Langdon's response changes from confusion into action. At first, he only listens to Edmond. Moreover, he becomes involved in revealing the answers to Edmond's questions.

Therefore, Langdon's response is important in structural analysis. His response connects Edmond's character with the continuation of the plot. Edmond creates the questions, but Langdon helps the story move after

Edmond's death. Langdon's position also connects the conflict between science and religion because he understands both sides. Through Langdon, the novel not only shows rejection or support, but also shows a thoughtful response to Edmond's questions.

2. Bishop Valdespino's Response to Edmond Kirsch's Fundamental Questions

Bishop Antonio Valdespino gives one of the strongest responses to Edmond Kirsch's fundamental questions. As a Catholic leader, Valdespino sees Edmond's discovery as a serious threat to religion. His response is filled with fear, suspicion, and rejection. He understands that Edmond's questions about human origin and human destiny are dangerous for religious belief because they challenge the traditional explanation of creation and divine purpose.

Valdespino's response can be seen during the private meeting at Montserrat. After Edmond explains that his discovery will affect the world's faithful, Valdespino realizes that Edmond's announcement may shake religious foundations. It can be seen in the following quotation:

"whatever you are about to show us will shake the foundations of the world's religions." (Brown, 2017, p. 19)

The quotation above happens in the library of Montserrat. The characters involved are Edmond Kirsch, Bishop Valdespino, Rabbi Köves, and Allamah Syed al-Fadl. Edmond has just explained that he has made a scientific discovery that answers two fundamental questions of human experience. Valdespino responds by saying that Edmond speaks as if his discovery will shake the foundations of world religions.

This response shows that Valdespino immediately understands the possible effect of Edmond's discovery. He does not treat the discovery as an ordinary scientific finding. He connects it with religion and faith. This means that Valdespino's response is based on his role as a religious figure. He sees Edmond's questions not only as intellectual questions, but as a threat to religious authority.

The setting strengthens this response. The event happens in Montserrat, a sacred religious place filled with ancient texts. Edmond brings a modern scientific discovery into this religious space. Because of that, Valdespino's response becomes part of the conflict between science and religion. The setting, character, and conflict work together in this scene.

Valdespino's rejection becomes clearer when he talks with Köves and al-Fadl by phone. He says that Edmond's discovery may need to be discredited before it reaches the public. It can be seen in the following quotation:

"the only viable approach will be to cast doubt on his discovery." (Brown, 2017, p. 44)

This quotation happens after the three religious leaders have watched Edmond's presentation. They communicate by phone because they are worried about what Edmond will do. Therefore in this conversation, Valdespino suggests that if they cannot present Edmond's discovery in a safe way, they should cast doubt on it. His response shows fear and resistance. He does not know how to make Edmond's discovery harmless, so he thinks about discrediting it.

This response is important because it moves the conflict forward. Valdespino does not only disagree with Edmond's question. He considers taking action to stop or weaken the effect of Edmond's announcement. His response creates tension because Edmond's discovery is no longer just a scientific matter. It becomes a religious and social problem.

Valdespino also says that he wishes Edmond's fundamental questions had never been made the discovery. It can be seen in the following quotation:

wish Edmond Kirsch had not made this discovery.”(Brown, 2017, p. 44)

This quotation shows Valdespino's emotional response. He does not respond with curiosity like Langdon. He responds with regret and fear. He feels that religious people are not ready to face Edmond's findings. His response reveals the conflict between his faith and Edmond's science.

In structuralism, Valdespino's response is related to conflict and character. As a Bishop, he represents religious authority. His rejection of Edmond's discovery strengthens the conflict between religious belief and scientific explanation. The theme of human existence becomes more serious because the questions do not only affect Edmond and Langdon, but also disturb religious leaders. Therefore, Valdespino's response helps develop the central conflict of the novel.

3. Rabbi Yehuda Koves's Response to Edmond Kirsch's Fundamental Questions

Rabbi Yehuda Köves responds to Edmond's fundamental questions with anxiety and deep confusion. As a Jewish religious scholar, Köves is used to

studying the religious texts and complex theological ideas. However, Edmond's presentation disturbs him because it gives a scientific explanation that seems simple and persuasive. His response is not aggressive like Valdespino's, but more reflective and troubled.

Koves's response can be seen after he returns from the meeting with Edmond. He studies Genesis and other religious texts again because Edmond's discovery makes him think about the traditional explanation of creation. It can be seen in the following quotation:

"Köves had started with the Torah—the Genesis story shared by Jews and Christians alike." (Brown, 2017, p. 42)

The quotation above happens in Budapest, in Rabbi Koves's private study. After watching Edmond's presentation at Montserrat, Köves cannot stop thinking about the discovery. He opens the Torah, the Talmud, the Midrash, and the Zohar. This event shows that Edmond's question about human origin affects Köves deeply. He tries to return to religious texts to understand or defend the creation story.

The setting of this event is also essential. Köves is in his private religious study, surrounded by sacred texts. This setting represents faith, tradition, and religious knowledge. However, even in this place, Koves still feels disturbed by Edmond's scientific discovery. This shows that Edmond's questions have entered the religious world and created inner conflict in a religious character.

Koves finally admits that Edmond's work may have serious consequences for religious people. It can be seen in the following quotation:

"Kirsch's work would indeed have devastating repercussions for the faithful souls of this world."

This quotation shows that Köves view Edmond's discovery as something dangerous for many people of faith. He does not simply reject it without thinking. Instead, he recognizes that the discovery is powerful and persuasive. He worries because it can affect the beliefs of many people. This response is different from Valdespino's direct rejection. Köves's response is more internal and intellectual.

Koves also thinks that Edmond's discovery contradicts almost every established religious doctrine. It can be seen in the following quotation:

"The scientist's revelation boldly contradicted almost every established religious doctrine." (Brown, 2017, p. 43)

This quotation shows the reason for Köves's anxiety. Edmond's discovery touches the foundation of religious belief. The questions "Where do we come from?" and "Where are we going?" are usually answered through religious doctrine. When Edmond gives a scientific answer, those doctrines seem challenged.

In structural analysis, Köves's response is related to the theme of human origin. His action of reading the fundamental questions shows that Edmond's first question directly touches religious creation stories. The conflict here is not physical, but intellectual and spiritual. Köves's response shows that Edmond's questions disturb the religious system from within. Koves also functions as a character who tries to calm the situation. When Valdespino and al-Fadl debate what to do, Koves suggests that they should not rush their decision. It can be seen in the following quotation:

"Our decision need not be rushed." (Brown, 2017, p. 45)

The quotation shows that Köves responds more carefully than the others. He does not immediately suggest attacking Edmond or discrediting him. He believes they should reflect first. This response shows his role as a mediator among religious figures.

Therefore, Rabbi Köves's response is important because it shows the inner effect of Edmond's questions on religious thought. His response connects Edmond's discovery with religious texts, especially Genesis. His anxiety also strengthens the conflict between science and religion. Through Köves, the novel shows that Edmond's fundamental questions do not only create public controversy, but also disturb the private faith of religious scholars.

4. Allamah Syed al-Fadl's Response to Edmond Kirsch's Fundamental Questions

Allamah Syed al-Fadl responds to Edmond's fundamental questions in a more active and urgent way. As an Islamic scholar, he believes that Edmond's discovery can damage the future of faith. Unlike Köves, who thinks carefully and slowly, al-Fadl feels that religious leaders must act immediately. His response shows fear, but also responsibility toward religious communities.

Al-Fadl's response can be seen in the phone conversation with Valdespino and Köves. He says that they cannot remain silent after seeing Edmond's presentation. It can be seen in the following quotation:

"We cannot sit idly by. We need to take control of this situation."(Brown, 2017, p. 43)

The quotation above happens after the three religious leaders watch Edmond's presentation. The characters involved are Bishop Valdespino, Rabbi Köves, and Allamah Syed al-Fadl. The conversation happens by phone because they are trying to decide what to do with Edmond's discovery. Al-Fadl's statement shows that he wants immediate action.

This response shows that al-Fadl sees Edmond's discovery as a threat that must be controlled. He is worried that Edmond will frame the discovery in a way that damages religion. Therefore, he suggests that religious leaders should announce the discovery first and explain it in a less threatening way. This can be seen in the following quotation:

"We must announce his discovery ourselves. Immediately."
(Brown, 2017, p. 43)

The quotation shows that al-Fadl does not want Edmond to control the meaning of his own discovery. He wants religious leaders to take control of the narrative. This response is important because it shows how Edmond's fundamental questions become a struggle over interpretation. Edmond wants science to answer the questions. Al-Fadl wants religion to protect the faithful from the shock of those answers.

Al-Fadl also says that all religions are under attack. It can be seen in the following quotation:

"We are all under attack—Muslims, Jews, Christians, Hindus, all religions alike." (Brown, 2017, p. 44)

This quotation shows that al-Fadl sees Edmond's questions as a threat not only to Islam but to all religions. His response expands the conflict from

one religion to the whole religious world. This is important because Edmond's questions are universal. They do not only question one doctrine, but also the general religious explanation of human origin and destiny.

In structural analysis, al-Fadl's response is related to conflict and theme. His reaction shows that Edmond's fundamental questions create collective fear among religious leaders. The conflict becomes wider because it involves many religions. The theme of human existence is also strengthened because the questions affect all human beings, not only one group.

Al-Fadl also recognizes the power of Edmond's presentation. He says that Edmond is a brilliant scientist and that his presentation is persuasive. It can be seen in the following quotation:

"His presentation was persuasive." (Brown, 2017, p. 44)

This response is important because al-Fadl does not deny Edmond's intelligence. He understands that Edmond's discovery may be accepted by many people because it is presented clearly and logically. This makes his fear stronger. If Edmond's discovery were weak, religious leaders would not be worried. However, because it is persuasive, they feel that it can influence the faithful.

Therefore, al-Fadl's response shows an active religious reaction to Edmond's fundamental questions. He wants to act before Edmond's discovery spreads. His response supports the plot because it creates urgency and tension. It also supports the conflict because it shows the fear of religious leaders toward scientific explanation. Through al-Fadl, the novel shows that

Edmond's questions are not only intellectual questions, but also questions that may change the belief of society.

5. Ambra Vidal's Response to Edmond Kirsch's Fundamental Questions

Ambra Vidal responds to Edmond's questions in a different way from the religious leaders. She is not a religious scholar, and she does not directly debate Edmond's ideas. However, she becomes one of the characters who helps Edmond's discovery reach the public. As the director of the Guggenheim Museum, Ambra helps prepare Edmond's presentation. After Edmond is killed, she helps Langdon continue the mission to reveal the presentation.

At first, Ambra believes that Edmond's event is a scientific program. However, when she sees the presentation, she feels uncomfortable because Edmond's message seems hostile toward religion. It can be seen in the following quotation:

"Edmond told me this was a scientific program." (Brown, 2017, p. 107)

The quotation above happens during Edmond's presentation at the Guggenheim Museum. Ambra stands in the auditorium and watches the program. She begins to realize that the presentation is not only about science, but also contains strong criticism of religion. This moment shows that Ambra's response is surprise and discomfort.

Ambra's discomfort is also shown when the narration states that she did not expect Edmond's presentation to be so hostile. It can be seen in the following quotation:

“Ambra had never imagined tonight’s presentation would display such hostility.” (Brown, 2017, p. 107)

This quotation shows that Ambra does not fully know the tone of Edmond’s presentation before the event. She supports Edmond as a friend and as a museum director, but she is surprised by how strongly Edmond attacks religion. Her response is important because it shows that even a character close to Edmond can feel uncertain about the way he presents his discovery.

In structural analysis, Ambra’s response is related to plot and conflict. Her role connects the museum setting with Edmond’s scientific announcement. The Guggenheim Museum becomes the place where Edmond’s questions are brought to the public, and Ambra is the character who helps make the event happen. However, her discomfort also shows that Edmond’s discovery creates moral and emotional tension.

After Edmond’s assassination, Ambra’s response changes. She becomes more active. She helps Langdon escape, searches for the password, and tries to reveal Edmond’s presentation. This shows that Ambra responds to Edmond’s questions through action. She may not fully agree with Edmond’s hostility toward religion, but she believes that Edmond’s discovery should be revealed because it belongs to the public.

Ambra’s response is important because it helps the plot continue after Edmond’s death. Without Ambra, Langdon would have more difficulty finding the way to reveal Edmond’s message. Therefore, Ambra functions as

a supporting character who carries Edmond's mission. Her response connects Edmond's questions with the development of the plot.

Through Ambra, the novel shows a response that is not purely religious or scientific. She is more concerned with truth, responsibility, and Edmond's final wish. Her response gives balance to the story because she helps reveal the discovery but also.

6. The Public and Media's Response to Edmond Kirsch's Fundamental Questions

Besides individual characters, Edmond's fundamental questions are also responded to by the public and the media. This response is important because Edmond's questions are not private questions. He wants to announce them to the world. After Edmond is assassinated, the media repeatedly discuss his discovery and the two questions. This shows that Edmond's questions become public issues.

The media response can be seen after Edmond's death. News channels discuss his assassination and the nature of his discovery. It can be seen in the following quotation:

"Where do we come from? Where are we going? Two fascinating questions." Brown, (2017)

The question above appears in a news broadcast after Edmond's death. The media discusses Edmond's fundamental questions and invites experts from different perspectives to respond. This shows that Edmond's questions are no longer limited to Langdon or the religious leaders. They become questions discussed by the wider society.

The media response is essential because it expands the conflict. The conflict is no longer only between Edmond and religious leaders, but also between different public opinions. While other people may support Edmond's scientific view, others may defend religious belief. The media becomes a space where these different responses appear. The public response also showed that Edmond succeeds in making his questions universal. The question "where do we come from?" And "where are we going?" is simple, but they affect many people as they relate to human identity and future. By showing the media response, the novel emphasizes that Edmond's questions belong to everyone, not only to scientists or religious figures.

In structural analysis, the public and media response is related to plot and setting. The plot expands because Edmond's death makes the discovery more famous, and the setting expands from private spaces, such as Montserrat and the Guggenheim Museum, to the global public sphere through television and online media. The plot also expands because Edmond's death makes the discovery more famous. Therefore, the result the theme of human existence becomes a global discussion.

7. The Relationship between Other Characters' Responses and the Structure of the Novel

Based on the explanation above, all the character responds different ways to Edmond Kirsch's fundamental questions. Robert Langdon his responses are curious and balanced. He does not reject Edmond's science,

but he believes that religion still has meaning. Bishop Valdespino responds to rejection and fear because Edmond's discovery threatens religious authority. Rabbi Köves responds with reflection and anxiety because Edmond's discovery makes him question traditional religious texts. Syed al-Fadl responds with urgency because he feels that religious leaders must protect their communities. Ambra Vidal responds with surprise and later with her action. Winston responds through technological support and becomes a symbol of the human future. The media and public respond by turning Edmond's questions into a global discussion.

These different responses show that Edmond's fundamental questions are not isolated from the story. They influence to create conflict, move the plot, and characters. In structuralism, this proves that the meaning of the questions is built through their relationship as other elements. Edmond's fundamental questions become essential because other characters respond to them. Without those responses, the questions would only be personal ideas. Through the responses of other characters, the questions become the center of the novel's conflict. The responses also show the connection between character and conflict. Religious characters such as Köves, Valdespino, and al-Fald feels threatened because Edmond's questions challenge Edmond's fundamental questions challenge religious explanations of human origin and destiny. Non-religious or more neutral characters such as Langdon and Ambra responds doubt, and curiosity. Winston, as artificial intelligence, show the technological side of the future.

These responses create a complete structure where science, humanity, religion, and technology are connected.

The setting also supports these responses. Montserrat becomes the place where religious leaders first respond to Edmond's discovery. The Guggenheim Museum becomes the place where the discovery is presented to the media and public. The media becomes the larger space where society responds to Edmond's questions. These settings show the movement of Edmond's fundamental questions from private religious discussion to public global debate.

Therefore, the responses of other characters help reveal the theme of the novel. The theme of human existence is not only shown through Edmond's questions, but also through how other characters understand and react to them. The different responses show that questions about human origin and human destiny are complex. They can be answered by science, defended by religion, questioned by intellectuals, and spread by media. Through this structure, *Origin* presents Edmond Kirsch's fundamental questions as the main force that connects character, plot, setting, conflict, and theme.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

After analyzing the novel by Dan Brown entitled *Origin* using structural analysis, the researcher presents a conclusion stage from the study's results. In this chapter, the researcher wants to provide some conclusions on the overall analysis in the previous chapter. While the researcher also presents suggestions for the next researcher or readers who will analyze the same literary work or use the same object and approach to analyze other literary works.

A. Conclusion

The result of this study can be concluded based on the analysis above, entitled The Main Character's Fundamental Questions of Human Existence Described in Dan Brown's *Origin: Structural Analysis. Origin*, which tells about the main character's that found the fundamental question of human existence. The questions are where do we come from, and where are we going, which tells about Krisch, who found the answer between the two questions. Krisch is a futurist, scientist, and atheist who has a brave and persistent personality in announcing his findings.

Therefore, at the end of Edmond Krisch fundamental questions of human existence responded by other character's novel, several religious leaders respond to Krisch's findings, namely Bishop Valdespino, Syed Al-Fadl, and Rabbi Yehuda Koves. Religious leaders are very worried about Krisch's findings, because the

findings can be considered to shake the beliefs of all mankind. Which will be announced live on TV and at the Guggenheim Museum.

Based on the results and through this research, the researcher concluded that the main character, Edmond Krisch, in the novel *Origin*, has relevance to Jonathan Culler's structuralist theory. Because the stages and factors in this research are proven by the existence of the fundamental questions of humans in the novel *Origin*. While this research is done systematically according to the stages in the structural analysis.

B. Suggestion

To improve the literary criticism of Dan Brown's novel *Origin*, the researcher would like to suggest further criticism using other disciplines relevant to the novel's content. The various aspects include character, theme, setting, plot, and point of view. The researcher suggests analyzing this novel with several approaches, such as an objective approach or the author's background, because no previous research has been found with this approach. Because of the many approaches that may be applied to the novel *Origin*, the researcher prefers to suggest applying an approach that is mastered by the next researchers.

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CURRICULUM VITAE



Fatimatus Zahro was born in Situbondo on October 25, 2003. She graduated from MA Darul Lughah Wal Karomah Kraksaan Probolinggo in 2021. She began her higher education in 2022 in the English Literature Department, Maulana Malik Ibrahim State Islamic University of Malang, and graduated in 2026. She has HMPS (English Literature Program Student Association) Organization and Community Service at Al Ma'arif Singosari High School, Malang.