

# THE RHETORICAL STRUCTURE AND LINGUISTIC FEATURES IN ISLAMIC STORIES OF PROPHETS

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## Abstract

The study discusses how this Prophet stories writing is structured and its linguistic features by using descriptive method. The writing of Prophet stories is started by an introduction, followed by body of essay and the final paragraph is the conclusion as the closing of the story. The introduction provides some general idea related to the topic discussed then the body of essay discusses the specific ideas of the topic or the sequence of events occurred in the story. The last paragraph of the story is the conclusion provides suggestions, offer and commands to the people as the readers because there are some valuable moral lessons to take based on the ideas/meaning of the stories of the Prophet. Based on the linguistic features, the stories of the Prophet mainly use some tenses. Simple Past is used to describe the past events/activities occurred in the era of the Prophet and Present tense is used to describe fact or general truth and nowadays situation. Besides, the meaning or ideas of the stories are written mostly in statement (declarative sentence) in active voice but a few sentences are written in passive voice. Some ideas are also written in interrogative sentence (questions) found in introduction and imperative sentence (command) in the conclusion paragraph.

**Keywords:** Rhetorical Structures, Linguistic Features, Islamic Prophet Stories

## INTRODUCTION

Language used by humans so they can exchange information. The ability to use language is a skill that should be studied, practiced and improved. The four skills of language from listening, speaking, reading and writing are all important skills to possess by humans. Humans need more knowledge in using these skills especially practice. The correct use of language will make our language acceptable and appreciated in society.

Writing and reading are two skills related to each other. After writing, writers must read their writing first. So the good writers must be the good readers. In writing, writers concern on the organization of idea. The idea is written down using selected diction/vocabulary and arranged into a sequence of words into phrase and sentences in the form of paragraphs. These structures of paragraphs build up a rhetorical structure of the writing/essay. The Rhetorical Structure generally consists of introduction, body and conclusion. The beginning of a story writing is started with introduction. The body discusses in detail the story/topic discussed and conclusion as the closing or ending of the writing.

In writing/reading, the linguistic features are significant elements to determine if it is grammatical and correct form of language. First realization of meaning into various units of language including declarative sentence (statement), interrogative sentence (question), imperative sentence (command), and active-passive voice. Furthermore, the use of tenses is also very significant to observe including present, past and future tense.

Islamic stories are so important for Muslim people to read. By reading the stories, people can add our knowledge, deepen our faith, get closer to God and get more rewards form Allah, so

we can preach to others. Prophet stories are very significant so we are familiar with our Prophet, understand their life stories, and we can take valuable moral lesson form their stories so we will love our Prophet and make them as our example in doing life especially to take all the positive lessons from their life stories.

## METHOD

The stories of Prophet are analyzed using descriptive method that describes the writing of the stories based on the fact of data accurately with the structures system of languaged. The language used in the story are analyzed sentence by sentence in the paragraphs and the organization of the ideas from one paragraph to another so that all the paragraphs are as a unity.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Results

The Story of Prophet Adam (AS) entitled “Always be grateful and thankful to Allah” is constructed by three rhetorical structures: introduction, body and conclusion. The Introduction tells about the importance of reading the story of Prophet Adam. The body of story describes the crucial phases of Adam creation. The conclusion contains a prohibition. Then it also uses imperative sentence. The tenses used are Past Tense to tell the past events and Present tense to describe facts and nowadays situation ideas of the story are organized most in the form of statements active voice with one passive voice. Therefore, this story has complete rhetorical structure that consists of introduction, body and conclusion. Each of the paragraphs contains statements that gives information in the past and present tense and the final paragraph is ended by a command and a statement (*Alhamdulillah*).

The story of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) entitled “Seeking Knowledge” consists of three rhetorical structures: introduction, body and conclusion. First, it introduces the first revelation to Prophet Muhammad. Secondly it describes the process Prophet Muhammad received revelation from Jibril. In conclusion, a message is written in imperative sentence. In addition, this story uses present tense in telling the ideas of the story. Besides that, most of the ideas are expressed in statement in active voice. Thus, this story completes the structure of essay and closed by a command in the conclusion as the important message for the readers to remember in order not to be arrogant with the knowledge we have.

### Discussion

The story of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) entitled “Intellectual Humility” has three rhetorical structures: introduction, body and conclusion. First it introduces us the importance of seeking and increasing knowledge. Then body of essay describes Prophet Muhammad always listen to his companions’ idea of best military strategy. The conclusion contains a moral lesson and a suggestion: “*We should aspire to model an ummah that humility in all aspects of our lives, as can be seen in his mannerisms and treatment towards other people.*” Besides the rhetorical structure, in linguistic features, this story has complete rhetorical structure from introduction, body and conclusion. The tenses used are present tense and past tense. All meanings of the story are expressed in statement mostly in active voice. Briefly, this story is written in complete rhetorical structure and closed by a suggestion in the final sentence of the conclusion paragraph in order we imitate Prophet Muhammad especially to have humility in our lives.

The story of Prophet Yunus (AS) “Being steadfast when facing hardships. First the introduction is started with interrogative sentences. Then first body of essay tells about the time when Prophet Yunus preached to the people of Nineveh. The second body of essay tells about the whale swallowed Prophet Yunus. The third body of essay describes how Prophet Yunus was saved from the whale. In conclusion, a message is written in imperative sentence: “*Never give up and trust in Almighty Allah.*” In the aspect of linguistic features, this story is written using present and past tense. Most of the sentences are written in statements in active voice. Thus, this story has complete rhetorical structure, started with questions in the introduction paragraph and ended by a message in conclusion paragraph in order we as Muslims not to give up in difficult situation we have and keep raising our faith to the Almighty Allah SWT.

The story of Prophet Ayyub (AS) “*Being patient even with the most difficult life challenge*” is constructed by some parts: Introduction, body of essay 1, body of essay 2, body of essay 3 and conclusion. The introduction tells about the challenges and hardships of life. Then it is followed by body 1 about Prophet Ayyub suffered a disease, body 2 about His patience of suffering a disease and his thankfulness to Allah, and body 3 about his recovering from the disease. In conclusion, a suggestion is given. The conclusion paragraph is closed a hope or wish “*May he always grant us patience and sabr.*” The ideas of the story is written using present and past tense. All the ideas are expressed in statements and ended with the writer’s wish May Allah always grant us patience and *sabr*.

The story of Prophet Yusuf (AS) “*Remaining patient and faithful even when facing trials after trials*” has three rhetorical structures: introduction, body and conclusion. The introduction tells about a good example of Prophet Yusuf. Then Body of essay describes about Prophet Yusuf’s life from childhood to his adulthood where he faced many problems of life. In conclusion, a moral lesson is given and a suggestion: “*We should try to continuously pick ourselves up and continue along the straight path with sabr.*” The ideas are written in present and past tense. Then the future tense is also used. The meaning of the story is written in statements mostly in active voice and ended by a suggestion in the final sentence in conclusion paragraph in order to pick ourselves up and continue along the straight path with *sabr*.

The story of Prophet Sulaiman (AS) “*Trials of Wealth and Worldly Success*” has three rhetorical structures: introduction, body and conclusion. The introduction tells about the rich Prophet Sulaiman. The body 1 of essay is about Prophet Sulaiman observed the ants. The body 2 of essay is Prophet Sulaiman did not crush the ants because he could understand their talk so he didn’t crush the ants. In conclusion, a moral lesson is written. An offer is written. Finally, a suggestion is given. This story is told using past (perfect and continuous) tense in the form of statement. The ideas are written in the form of statement in active voice with the suggestion in the end of the paragraph in order we become kinder and more compassionate.

## CONCLUSION

The Rhetorical structures of Prophet stories are built up by introduction, body and conclusion. The introduction contains a general idea related to the topic discussed, the importance/usefulness of reading the prophet story. The body contains more specific ideas/information describing in detail the prophet story. Even some stories have more than one body. Some stories have two or even three bodies of essay. The conclusion contains the moral lesson that can be taken based on the story, a suggestion, offer or imperative form of sentence asking readers to learn from the Prophet stories.

The linguistic features used in the stories of Prophet are the tenses used mostly in Simple Past tense. The ideas are written mostly in the form of statement but a few questions, commands and suggestions or offer can also be found in the introduction and especially the final paragraph of the story.

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