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Analysis of Intrinsic Elements in the Film Astérix & Obélix: L'Empire du Milieu by Guillaume Canet

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to describe the intrinsic elements of the film *Astérix & Obélix: L'Empire du Milieu* directed by Guillaume Canet and their implications for French language learning at the senior high school level. This study employed a qualitative descriptive method using observation and note-taking techniques. The data source was the film *Astérix & Obélix: L'Empire du Milieu*, while the data consisted of dialogues, scenes, and narrative elements analyzed through the stages of data reduction, classification, interpretation, and conclusion drawing. The results show that the film features the themes of struggle and friendship, a chronological plot, characters and characterization that develop through conflicts, settings in Gaul and China, an omniscient third-person point of view, and moral messages emphasizing courage, loyalty, and cooperation. The integration of these intrinsic elements creates a coherent narrative, indicating the film's potential to be utilized as a medium for French language learning, particularly in literary appreciation and the analysis of intrinsic elements at the senior high school level.
Keywords: Film, French Language Learning, Intrinsic Elements

Introduction

Film is an audiovisual literary work that conveys stories through a combination of visual and auditory elements. As a narrative work, film is constructed through intrinsic elements, including theme, characters and characterization, plot, setting, point of view, and moral message, which are interconnected in shaping the structure of the story. Analyzing intrinsic elements is important for understanding the meanings and messages

conveyed in a literary work (Nurgiyantoro, 2002). These elements also function as building blocks that establish the story as a coherent whole (Sidiqin & Ginting, 2021).

Beyond its role as a form of entertainment, film can be utilized as a learning medium because it presents material visually, making it easier for students to understand (Widiani et al., 2018). The use of film can also increase students' interest and engagement in the learning process (Mustofa & Narimo, 2023). This finding is supported by Agnesa (2024), who states that film is effective as a learning medium because it can present learning materials in a more contextual manner.

One film that is particularly interesting to examine is *Astérix & Obélix: L'Empire du Milieu*, directed by Guillaume Canet and released in 2023. This adventure comedy film is an adaptation of the *Astérix & Obélix* comic series created by René Goscinny and Albert Uderzo. The film combines French and Chinese cultural elements through its theme, characters and characterization, plot, setting, point of view, and moral message, which are interconnected to form a coherent narrative structure. The complexity of these intrinsic elements makes the film a relevant object for literary research.

Research on intrinsic elements in French literature has been widely conducted, including studies of fairy tales (Afriyanti et al., 2023; Wahyuni et al., 2019), short stories (Tifanny et al., 2020), and poetry (Kani, 2022). However, comedy films have rarely been examined as objects of literary research, despite possessing intrinsic elements that can be analyzed in depth. In addition, previous studies have generally focused on identifying intrinsic elements without examining the interrelationships among these elements in constructing a coherent narrative structure. The use of films as media for French language learning has also received limited attention, particularly in relation to foreign comedy and adventure films. Therefore, this study seeks to address this gap by analyzing the intrinsic elements of *Astérix & Obélix: L'Empire du Milieu*, directed by Guillaume Canet.

The relevance of this study is further supported by the results of a preliminary study conducted through a questionnaire distributed to students at several schools where French is taught. The questionnaire results indicate that the students had not previously learned French through film as a learning medium. Nevertheless, most students expressed interest in using films in French language learning and in studying intrinsic elements through *Astérix & Obélix: L'Empire du Milieu*. These findings suggest that film has the potential to serve as a learning medium that integrates linguistic aspects with an understanding of narrative works.

Astérix & Obélix: L'Empire du Milieu, directed by Guillaume Canet, was selected because it not only presents the use of French through dialogue and communicative situations but also contains intrinsic elements that construct the story as a whole, including theme, characters and characterization, plot, setting, point of view, and moral message. Analyzing these elements is important for understanding the structure and meaning of the story while also examining the film's potential as a medium for French language learning. Therefore, this study is expected to offer an alternative approach to utilizing film in French language learning, particularly to support language comprehension and appreciation of French-language works.

Based on the foregoing discussion, this study aims to describe the intrinsic elements, namely theme, characters and characterization, plot, setting, point of view, and moral message, in *Astérix & Obélix: L'Empire du Milieu*, directed by Guillaume Canet, as well as their implications for French language learning at the senior high school level. The

findings are expected to contribute to the study of French literature and serve as a reference for utilizing films as a medium for French language learning.

Methods

This study employed a qualitative approach with a descriptive method to describe the intrinsic elements of *Astérix & Obélix: L'Empire du Milieu*, directed by Guillaume Canet and released in 2023. The data source was the film, while the data consisted of dialogues, utterances, and scenes representing intrinsic elements, including theme, characters and characterization, plot, setting, point of view, and moral message. Data were collected using observation and note-taking techniques (Sudaryanto, 2015). The researcher watched the film repeatedly to gain a comprehensive understanding of the storyline and then transcribed the French-language dialogues into Indonesian. Relevant data were subsequently recorded and organized into a tabulation table based on the categories of intrinsic elements (Sugiyono, 2019).

Data analysis followed the Miles and Huberman model as cited in Sugiyono (2013), which consists of data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing. During the data reduction stage, the collected data were selected according to the focus of the study. Relevant data were then classified based on the categories of intrinsic elements and analyzed descriptively to reveal the interrelationships among these elements in constructing the film's narrative structure. Data validity was established through theoretical triangulation by comparing the findings with various relevant theories of intrinsic elements, thereby strengthening the validity of the research findings.

Findings and Discussion

The results of the study show that *Astérix & Obélix: L'Empire du Milieu*, directed by Guillaume Canet, is constructed through six interconnected intrinsic elements: theme, characters and characterization, plot, setting, point of view, and moral message, which together form the film's narrative structure.

The results of the study show that the main themes of *Astérix & Obélix: L'Empire du Milieu* are friendship, loyalty, courage, and cooperation in confronting the abuse of power. These themes are reflected in Astérix and Obélix's efforts to help Princess Fu Yi rescue the Queen and restore peace to the Chinese Kingdom. The events throughout the film develop from a spirit of solidarity among the characters, making the themes the foundation that connects the various elements of the story. This finding is consistent with Nurgiyantoro (2002), who states that theme is the underlying idea that forms the basis of an entire story.

The characters and characterization are conveyed through the characters' dialogue, actions, and responses to conflicts. Astérix is portrayed as a rational and caring character, Obélix as loyal and strong, Princess Fu Yi as brave and responsible, while Deng Tsin Qin serves as an ambitious and authoritarian antagonist. These contrasting character traits contribute to the development of conflicts while also reinforcing the moral values conveyed to the audience. This finding supports the studies by Afriyanti et al. (2023) and Wahyuni et al. (2019), which demonstrate that characterization plays an important role in constructing the meaning of a story.

The film employs a chronological plot that develops sequentially from the introduction of the story and the emergence of conflict to the climax and resolution. The coherent arrangement of events makes it easier for the audience to follow the causal relationships between events and understand the character development of each figure. Thus, the plot not only drives the story forward but also reinforces the delivery of its themes and moral messages, as explained by Nurgiyantoro (2002).

The settings in the film include the temporal setting of 50 BCE and the geographical settings of a village in Gaul and the Kingdom of King Du Deng. The shifts in setting function not only as locations where events take place but also portray interactions between French and Chinese cultures, which reinforce the conflicts and character development. In addition, the use of an omniscient third-person point of view allows the audience to gain a comprehensive understanding of the events and relationships among the characters, enabling the story to be conveyed as a coherent whole.

The moral messages in the film are conveyed implicitly through the characters' actions and the resolution of conflicts. The film emphasizes the importance of loyalty, courage, cooperation, compassion, and responsibility in confronting injustice regardless of cultural differences or backgrounds. These values are demonstrated through the successful cooperation between the characters from Gaul and China in overcoming the abuse of power. This finding is consistent with Handayani et al. (2021), who state that literary works convey moral values through the actions and experiences of their characters.

Overall, the findings demonstrate that theme, characters and characterization, plot, setting, point of view, and moral message are interconnected in constructing the film's narrative structure. These interrelationships create a coherent storyline while strengthening the delivery of moral messages to the audience. This finding reinforces the studies by Afriyanti et al. (2023), Wahyuni et al. (2019), and Tifanny et al. (2020) concerning the interrelationships among intrinsic elements in literary works. In addition, this study contributes to the field by examining an adventure comedy film as an object of French literary research. The findings also indicate that *Astérix & Obélix: L'Empire du Milieu* has the potential to be utilized as a medium for French language learning, particularly for teaching intrinsic elements, as its combination of dialogue, visual presentation, and conflict can help students understand intrinsic elements in a more contextualized manner.

Table 1. Intrinsic Elements in the Film Astérix & Obélix: L'Empire du Milieu

Intrinsic Elements	Analysis
Theme	Friendship, loyalty, courage, and cooperation regardless of differences in background, as well as resistance against the abuse of power
Plot	Progressive Plot
Characters	Astérix : brave, rational, and caring Obélix : loyal, honest, and strong Princess Fu Yi : brave, intelligent, responsible, and independent The Queen : wise, protective, and willing to sacrifice Den Tsin Qin : ambitious, authoritarian, and cruel

	Ri Qi Qi : intelligent and persuasive
Setting	Time : 50 BC Place : King Du Deng's Kingdom and the Village of Gaul
Point of View	Third-person omniscient point of view
Moral Message	Loyalty, courage, and moral responsibility are the main foundations of friendship and leadership regardless of differences in ethnicity, religion, race, and culture

Conclusion

The film *Astérix & Obélix: L'Empire du Milieu*, directed by Guillaume Canet, is constructed through six interconnected intrinsic elements: theme, characters and characterization, plot, setting, point of view, and moral message, which together form a coherent narrative structure. The main themes of the film include friendship, loyalty, courage, cooperation, and resistance to the abuse of power. The characters and characterization, chronological plot, setting, and omniscient third-person point of view contribute to the development of conflicts and the delivery of moral messages emphasizing the importance of compassion, responsibility, courage, and cooperation regardless of cultural differences. The findings not only enrich the study of French literature but also indicate that *Astérix & Obélix: L'Empire du Milieu* has the potential to be utilized as a medium for French language learning, particularly for teaching intrinsic elements.

Based on the findings, *Astérix & Obélix: L'Empire du Milieu* can be utilized as an alternative learning medium by French language teachers, particularly for teaching the intrinsic elements of literary works. The use of film is expected to help students understand theme, characters and characterization, plot, setting, point of view, and moral message in a more contextualized manner, thereby increasing their interest and engagement in the learning process. Furthermore, this study is expected to serve as a reference for future researchers to develop studies of French-language films using different literary theories or approaches, expand the scope of research to other film genres, or examine the use of films as learning media from more diverse perspectives, thereby contributing more broadly to the development of French literary studies and French language learning.

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