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by Eva Dewi

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The Narrative Structure of *Ashab al-Kahf* Story

Muhammad Afif Amrulloh¹, Syihabuddin Qalyubi², Eva Dewi³, Dwi Noviatul Zahra⁴, Rahadian Kurniawan⁵

Universitas Islam Negeri Raden Intan Lampung¹,

Universitas Islam Negeri Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta²,

Universitas Islam Negeri Fatmawati Sukarno Bengkulu³,

Institut Agama Islam Negeri Curup⁵

afif.amrulloh@radenintan.ac.id¹, syihabuddin.qalyubi@uin-suka.ac.id²,

evadewi1975@iainbengkulu.ac.id³, rahadian@iaincurup.ac.id

Abstract

This paper examined the narrative structure, language style, and chronology of *Ashāb al-Kahfī* story in Al-Qur'an. The research data were obtained from al-Qur'ān. The Qur'anic verses which told about *Ashāb al-Kahf* were collected in Surah al-Kahf (18) verses 9-26. The results showed that the narrative structure of this story consists of orientation I, sequence of events I, coda I, complication, orientation II, sequence of events II, orientation III, coda II, orientation IV, and resolution. These structures are interrelated and form a logical, holistic, and beautiful story unit that fulfil all elements of Mark Anderson's and Kathryn Anderson's narrative-structure concepts. Meanwhile, the dialogue style dominates in the presentation of stories that are in accordance with the journey of the Prophet's *da'wa*. The dialogue style used in the presentation of the story is calm and acceptable. This style is intended to defend the call of the prophet's *da'wa* and refute people's rejection in the middle Meccan period through the theme of monotheism value and the mention of Allah's powers. This study contributes to putting the theory of stylistics and narratology in the reading of story verses. Hence, this paper suggests a further study of the story verse covering the narrative structure's meaning and function as well as aspects of the beauty of pronunciation and story verse meanings.

Keywords: Complications; dialogue; monotheism; middle Mecca periode

Abstrak

Tulisan ini mengkaji tentang struktur narasi cerita, gaya bahasa, dan kronologi cerita *Ashāb al-Kahfī* dalam Al-Qur'an. Data penelitian

diperoleh dari al-Qur'an. Ayat-ayat al-Qur'an yang menceritakan tentang Aṣḥāb al-Kahfi dikumpulkan dalam Surat Al-Kahfi (18) ayat 9-26. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa struktur naratif cerita ini terdiri dari orientasi I, urutan kejadian I, koda I, komplikasi, orientasi II, urutan kejadian II, orientasi III, koda II, orientasi IV, dan resolusi. Struktur-struktur tersebut saling berkaitan dan membentuk satu kesatuan cerita yang logis, holistik, dan indah yang memenuhi semua elemen struktur naratif konsep Mark Anderson dan Kathryn Anderson. Sementara itu, gaya dialog yang mendominasi dalam penyajian cerita sesuai dengan perjalanan dakwah Nabi. Gaya dialog yang digunakan dalam penyajian cerita adalah tenang dan dapat diterima. Gaya ini dimaksudkan untuk membela panggilan dakwah nabi dan menolak penolakan umat di pertengahan periode Mekah melalui tema nilai tauhid dan penyebutan kekuasaan Allah. Kajian ini berkontribusi dalam meletakkan teori stilistika dan naratologi dalam pembacaan syair cerita. Oleh karena itu, tulisan ini menyarankan untuk mengkaji lebih jauh tentang syair cerita yang meliputi makna dan fungsi struktur naratif serta aspek keindahan pelafalan dan makna syair cerita.

Kata Kunci: Komplikasi; Dialog; Monoteisme; Periode Mekah Tengah

Introduction

The construction of the appearance of the story verse in the Qur'an uses a distinctive and varied form of language and structure^{1,2,3}. Likewise, the narrative structure of the story used also varies^{4,5}. The narrative of this story is one of the distinctive stylistic features of the Qur'an⁶. This is certainly related to the

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¹ Mustansir Mir, "Dialogue in the Qur'an," *Religion & Literature* 24, no. 1 (1992): 1–22.

² Mursalin, "Gaya Bahasa Pengulangan Kisah Nabi Musa as Dalam Al-Qur'an: Suatu Kajian Stilistika," *LENTERA* 1, no. 01 (2017): 83-106.

³ Moh Rozi, "Kisah Nabi Musa as Dalam Perspektif Studi Stilistika al Qur'an," *PbD Diss., IAIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya*, 2010.

⁴ Moh.Wakhid Hidayat, "Struktur Narasi Dalam Qasas Al-Qur'an (Tinjauan Analisa Strukturalisme Naratif)," *Tesis, Program Magister Pascasarjana UIN Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta*, 2007.

⁵ Muhammad Ridhwan, "Studi Perbandingan Pemikiran Muhammad Ahmad Khalafullah Dan Muhammad 'ABid Al-JaBiri Tentang Kisah Dalam Al Qur'An," *Master's Thesis*, 2018.

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⁶ Mohd Imran Khan, "Stylistic Dimensions in Translations of The Holy Quran into English with Special Reference of Sūrah Al-Fatiha," *Journal of Education, Society and Behavioural Science*, 2016, 1–9.

situation and conditions faced when the verse was revealed⁷. Therefore, understanding the story verse must be done around the text level, also related to the context⁸, and then a comprehensive understanding of the values to be conveyed will be obtained. In presenting the story verses; *Aṣḥāb al-Kahf* is based on chronology, so it needs to be researched. According to Theodor Nöldeke-Schwally⁹, the verse chronology of this story verse was included in the middle Meccan period¹⁰. The language style of the story was related to the historical social context of Arab society when the verse was revealed¹¹. The language style of this story was widely used in dialogue style¹², so that it came to terms with the situation faced by the Prophet. The dialogue style can present the psychology of the audience as if they are participating in the story so that it is easy to understand¹³. Thus, this dialogue style is important in a story as what was conveyed by Muhammad 'Abd Allāh 'Abduh¹⁴.

Several previous studies written by scholars related to this phenomenon were presented³ with their respective problems. First, Mutahar Qassim's study of the translation of stylistic variations in the Al-Qur'an discourse into English using a stylistic and exegetical approach¹⁵. Second, Umar Sidik's study was about transformation analysis to compare the script of *Aḥlu al-Kahf* with the text of the verse of *Aṣḥāb al-Kahf*¹⁶. It is also different from the study by Mehwish Noor who interpreted Surah al-Kahf using various traditional literary approaches, such as historical, biographical, moral, and philosophical approaches which are

⁷ Akhmad Muzakki, "Dialektika Gaya Bahasa Al-Quran Dan Budaya Arab Pra-Islam: Sebuah Kajian Sosiologi Bahasa," *ISLAMICA: Jurnal Studi Keislaman* 2, no. 1 (2007): 55–70.

⁸ Wardatun Nadhiroh, "Memahami Narasi Kisah Al-Qur'an Dengan Narrative Criticism: Studi Atas Kajian AH John," *Ilmu Ushuludin* 12, no. 2 (2013): 213–38.

⁹ Munirul Ikhwan, "Tafsir Alquran Dan Perkembangan Zaman: Merekonstruksi Konteks Dan Menemukan Makna," *Nun* 2, no. 1 (2016): 1–23.

¹⁰ Taufik Adnan Amal, *Rekonstruksi Sejarah Al-Qur'an* (Jakarta: Yayasan Abad Demokrasi, 2011).

¹¹ Munirul Ikhwan Muhammad Afif Amrulloh, "Stylistic of The Qur'an: Reading the Story of Sulaiman," *Arabiyat: Jurnal Pendidikan Bahasa Arab Dan Kebahasaaraban* 8, no. 1 (2021): 17–31.

¹² Man Baker and Mohamed Abouzeid, "كيف حاور القرآن: دراسة في الأنواع والضوابط والأهداف," Dialogue in the Quran: Types, Controls and Objectives," *Ma'ālim Al-Qur'ān Wa al-Sunnah* 16, no. 2 (2020): 141–62.

¹³ Muhammad Faisal, "Interpretasi Kisah Nabi Musa Perspektif Naratologi Al-Qur'an," *ISLAMICA: Jurnal Studi Keislaman* 11, no. 2 (2017): 334–61.

¹⁴ Muhammad 'Abd Allāh 'Abduh, *Usus Binā' al-Qissab Li al-Qur'ān* (Kairo: Jāmi'at al-Azhar, 1996).

¹⁵ Mutahar Qassem, "Translations of Stylistic Variations in the Noble Qur'an into English: Stylistic and Exegetical Perspectives," *Journal of Intercultural Communication Research*, 2021, 1–9.

¹⁶ Umar Sidik, "Transformation Story Ashabul Kahfi In Ahlul Kahfi By Taufiq Al-Hakim," *Widyaparwa* 44, no. 2 (2016): 110-123.

interrelated¹⁷. Furthermore, the study of stylistics by M.Ircham which was based on an exploratory study of the values of the Qur'an which still dwells on the substance of the verse, so he sought to reveal the educational values of the Al-Qur'an based on the style of language¹⁸. The study by Muzammir bin Anas¹⁹ et al, both discuss the story of *Aṣḥāb al-Kahf*, but more on the narrative elements and structural rhetoric and the correlation between the two²⁰. Based on the search results, no studies have been found that discussed the issue of narrative structure and language style of story verses based on chronology. This paper examined the narrative structure and language style of the verse of the story of *Aṣḥāb al-Kahf* based on the chronology of Theodor Nöldeke-Schwally.

Based on these problems, this paper responded to solve the problem by applying the narrative structure theory of Mark Anderson and Kathryn Anderson and the stylistic theory of Syihabuddin Qalyubi to the story verse. As for looking at the chronological aspect of the verse, Theodor Nöldeke-Schwally theory was used. The verses that told about the story of *Aṣḥāb al-Kahf* in Surah al-Kahf (18) verses 9 to 26 were analyzed using the theory of Mark Anderson and Kathryn Anderson to find the narrative structure of the story. This analysis is carried out by dividing the narrative structure into five parts, which include orientation, complication, sequence of events, resolution, and coda²¹. Meanwhile, in reading the language style of *Aṣḥāb al-Kahf*'s story, it is done by using the stylistic theory of Syihabuddin Qalyubi which is devoted to the aspect of dialogue style²². This research used qualitative research and descriptive methods. This research also includes library research. Based on the explanation of the method used in this study, this study has a specific goal to be achieved by the researcher, namely to find the narrative structure of the verse of the story of *Aṣḥāb al-Kahf* and the language style used in presenting the story based on the chronology of Theodor Nöldeke-Schwally²³.

¹⁷ Mehwish Noor and Mangrio Riaz Ahmed, "Surah al Kahf: A Multiple Literary Approaches Reading," *Pesbawar Islamicus* 9, no. 1 (2018): 11–22.

¹⁸ M Ircham, "Educational Values in The Arabic Imperatives (A Stylistic Analysis of the Qur'an)," *ALSINATUNA* 4, no. 2 (2019): 229–46.

¹⁹ Muzammir A2as et al., "The Narrative Structure and Rhetorical Elements in The Companions of Cave," *International Journal of Applied Linguistics and English Literature* 5, no. 5 (2016): 70-75.

²⁰ Muzammir Bin Anas, Zulazhan Bin Ab Halim, and Badri Najib Bin Zubir., "The Correlation Between the Narrative Structure and the Rhetorical Elements in the Story of Ashab Al-Kahf," *Linguistics and Language* 2 (2015): 159.

²¹ Mark Anderson and Kathryn Anderson, *Text Types in English* (Sydney: Macmillan Education 5tralia, 1997).

²² Qalyubi Syihabuddin, *Ilm Uslub: Stilistika Bahasa Dan Sastra Arab* (Yogyakarta: Idea Press, 2017).

²³ Theodor Nöldeke, *The History of The Qur'ān. W.H. Bebn Ed. & Terj.*, 2013.

Finally, the argument that the researchers wanted in realizing the purpose of this paper is that he hopes that through the study of narratology and stylistics of the Qur'an, especially the story of *Aṣḥāb Al-Kahf*, surah al-Kahf (18) verses 9 to 26. It can provide a comprehensive understanding of the explanation. The stories contained in the story of the Qur'an. An understanding that is not only limited to the level of style or language style but also includes the narrative structure of the story based on the chronology of the verses. This is a study that is expected to contribute to the theory of narratology and stylistics for the reading of stories in the Qur'an. The story shown in the Qur'an is in line with the prophet's career journey in preaching against the Quraysh infidels. The prophet's preaching did not always go well, but there were various attempts by the people to reject the preaching. Thus, the appearance of the story certainly provides a variety of values or religious messages to be conveyed to the readers or audience.^{24,25} The story in the Qur'an is full of messages contained in it²⁶.

Results and Discussion

Narrative Structure and Style of the Story of *Aṣḥāb al-Kahfī*

The narrative structure of the story verse about *Aṣḥāb Al-Kahf* in Surah Al-Kahf (18): 9-26 can be described in the following table:

Table.1 Narrative Structure of *Aṣḥāb al-Kahf*

No	Narrative Structure	Explanation/ Verse
1	Orientation I	Surah al-Kahf (18): 9 The characters involved in the narrative of this story were the people who inhabit the cave as the main character. The place is in the cave.
2	Sequence of events I	Surah al-Kahf (18): 10-12 The men took refuge in the cave and prayed for mercy from Allah. Allah closed their ears in the cave, then Allah woke them up again to let them know the exact time they spent in the cave.
3	Coda I	Surah al-Kahf (18): 13 The story of <i>Aṣḥāb al-Kahf</i> was addressed to the prophet by telling it actually as the first message of a lesson on the

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²⁴ Mariyatul Norhidayati Rahmah, "Model Komunikasi Interpersonal Dalam Kisah Nabi Yusuf *Al-Hiwar: Jurnal Ilmu Dan Teknik Dakwah* 4, no. 6 (2017): 1–12.

²⁵ Abdul Mustaqim, "Kisah Al-Qur'an: Hakekat, Makna, Dan Nilai-Nilai Pendidikannya," *Ulumuna* 15, no. 2 (2011): 265–90.

²⁶ Fatkhul Hadi, "A Literature Approach of The Story in the Qur'an (Study About Muhammad Ahmad Khalafullah's Interpretation on the Story of Ashab Al-Kahf)," *Journal Intellectual Sufism Research (JISR)* 3, no. 2 (2021): 34–44.

		faith of the men in their God so that Allah strengthened their faith and Allah guided them.
4	Complication	Surah al-Kahf (18): 14-16 Allah strengthened their hearts when they stood in front of their people who insisted to betray Allah. They refused and declared their determination that their God was the Lord of the heavens and the earth. Their people make other gods besides Allah. Instead, another character appears; His servants have made the other gods. Then, Allah ordered them to take refuge in a cave.
5	Orientation II	Surah al-Kahf (18): 15 Another figure emerged. They were the people who worshiped other gods besides Allah as their gods.
6	Sequence of events II	Surah al-Kahf (18): 17-21 Furthermore, they explained their condition while sleeping in the cave. Allah protects and protects His obedient and guided servants, namely the cave dwellers. Then, Allah also turned their bodies to the right and the left. After they woke up, they asked each other about how long they stayed in the cave. Then a difference of opinion arose between them, so one of them said that Allah knows best. Then because they were hungry, one of them went to the city to buy food by being gentle and not telling about their hiding place. Allah brought the people of the land together with the men to know the truth of Allah's promise. The people of the country disagreed about who the young men were, and how long they slept in the cave, so they agreed to build a house of worship above the cave to be enshrined.
7	Orientation III	Surah al-Kahf (18): 21 There are other people who were the residents of the country and the rulers of the residents of the country.
8	Coda II	Surah al-Kahf (18): 22-24 The second message of this story was addressed to the prophet and there would be differences of opinion of the people who come later about the cave dwellers. Allah commanded the prophet to say that He knew the best and there was no promise that no one knew for sure what would happen.
9	Orientation IV	Surah al-Kahf (18): 25 It said that they lived in the cave for three hundred years and nine years.

10	Resolution	<p>Surah al-Kahf (18): 26</p> <p>At the end of the last story, the narrative of this story ended with an affirmation that Allah is the God who knows best how long they stayed in the cave. God owns all that is hidden in the heavens and on the earth. His eyesight is clear, His hearing is sharp, and there is no protector for them but Allah. He is not assisted by anyone in making decisions.</p>
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Based on table A.1, the narrative structure of the verse *qasas* al-Kahf (18): 9-26 which narrates the story of *Ashāb al-Kahf* is fully described. The narrative structure of *qasas* verse is presented in accordance with the concept of the narrative structure of Mark Anderson and Kathryn Anderson covering five aspects, namely orientation, complication, sequence of events, resolution, and coda. This *qasas* verse begins with a verse (al-Kahf (18):9) which contains the question of whether the stories of the people who inhabit the cave are signs of Allah's power. This verse describes who is involved in this story and the place where the incident took place. In the concept of Mark Anderson and Kathryn Anderson named the element orientation. In the context of this verse, the actors who appear are the cave dwellers with the location of the incident in the cave as orientation I. The next presentation contains elements of orientation II, orientation III, and orientation IV.

The next section after orientation should be a complication. This stage describes how the incident started. The context of this *qasas* verse is precisely this element whose position is paused after the sequence of events and coda elements. These two elements are also found twice, so there are elements of sequences of events I, II and coda I, II. The sequence of events element contains the stages of events, while the coda is related to the message as the closing of the story. The context of this *qasas* verse, sequence of events I (al-Kahf (18): 10-12) describes about the men taking refuge in a cave, then they pray for Allah's mercy. Allah closed their ears in the cave, then Allah woke them up again. Next is shown coda I (al-Kahf (18): 10-13) which describes the message of lessons on the men's faith in their God with true faith so that Allah strengthens faith and Allah adds guidance to them.

The next section presented a complication (al-Kahf (18): 14-16) which described how the incident started when they stand before their people who insist on associating partners with Allah. They refused and declared their determination that their God was the God of the heavens and the earth. Their people created other gods besides Allah. Indirectly, this section also displays orientation II, namely that the people created other gods than Allah. Then this *qasas* verse is continued with the elements of the sequence of events II (al-Kahf (18): 17-21). Previously, the sequence of events I described was the men

taking refuge in a cave. Then, they prayed for Allah's mercy. Allah closed their ears in the cave, then Allah woke them up again. In this sequence of events II, the conditions when they slept in the cave are described, and after they wake up. They asked each other about how long they had stayed in the cave. Then a difference of opinion arose between them, so one of them said that Allah knows best. Then because they were hungry, one of them went to town to buy some food. Allah brought the people of the land together with the men to know the truth of Allah's promise. The people of the country debated about who the men were, so they agreed to build a house of worship above the cave.

Before the narrative structure of the *qasas* verse is closed with a resolution, interspersed with the appearance of elements of orientation III (al-Kahf (18): 21), coda II (al-Kahf (18): 22-24) and orientation IV (al-Kahf (18): 25). Previously in the orientation I, the characters of the cave dwellers were mentioned in the cave, then in orientation II it was mentioned other characterizations, namely people who worship other Gods but Allah. As for the orientation III elements, other actors appeared, they were the residents of the country and the rulers of the residents of the country. Meanwhile, orientation IV brought up the time aspect of dwelling in the cave which was three hundred years and nine years. This element of coda II showed the message of the final conclusion of the story addressed to the prophet that there would be differences of opinion from people who came later about the cave dwellers. Allah commanded the prophet to say that He knew the best and there was no promise that no one knew for sure what would happen. Previously, coda had a part which described the educational value of the men's faith in God.

Finally, as a closing of the narrative structure of the *qasas* verse of al-Kahf (18): 9-26 which narrated the story of *Aṣḥāb al-Kahf*, the element of resolution II (al-Kahf (18): 26) describes the end of the story. Previously, the resolution I element was also displayed in the form of Allah showing signs of His greatness, while the resolution II element also described the ending of the story with an affirmation that Allah is the God who owns all that is hidden in the heavens and on the earth. His eyesight is clear, His hearing is sharp, and there is no protector for them but Allah. He does not take anyone to be His partner in making decisions. The narrative structure of the story about *Aṣḥāb al-Kahf* in Surah al-Kahf (18): 9-26 is presented at the end in the form of a message

related to faith in Allah.²⁷ There are life lessons²⁸ and divine messages from each fragment of the story of *Aṣḥāb al-Kahf* in the Qur'an.²⁹

Based on the study of the story verse about *Aṣḥāb al-Kahf*, it can be seen that the narrative structure of the story used in presenting the story consists of several parts, namely orientation I, sequence of events I, coda I, complication, orientation II, sequence of events II, orientation III, coda II, orientation IV and resolution. The narrative structure that is built is interrelated and forms a logical, complete, and beautiful story unit that fulfills all elements of the narrative structure of the concepts of Mark Anderson and Kathryn Anderson. In addition, the narrative structure of the verse of the story of the Qur'an also shows the dimension of the narratological miracle (*al-i'jāz al-sardiyy*) of the Qur'an as the narrative of the story of Moses.³⁰ Then it was conveyed that the story of *Aṣḥāb al-Kahf* had its storyline which started from the summary of the story and continued with the details of the events in it.³¹

The next aspect of the analysis is seen based on the style of language used. The story of *Aṣḥāb al-Kahf* in Surah al-Kahf (18): 9-26 is mostly shown by using the dominance of the dialogue style. This can be seen from the use of several enunciations in the verse of this story which shows the context of the dialogue such as *qālu>*, *qāla*, *sayaqu>lu>n*, *yaqu>lu>n*, *qul*, and *taqu>lanna*. These words are found in several verses and they varied. The distribution of the use of dialogue enunciations is described as follows:

²⁷ M Faisol, "Struktur Naratif Cerita Nabi Khidir Dalam Al-Qur'an," *Adabiyāt: Jurnal Bahasa Dan Sastra* 10, no. 2 (2011): 233–58.

²⁸ Muhamad Rafiqi Hehsan, "The Concept Of Repositioning As Preventive Measure For Pressure Injury In Critical Care: An Analysis Of A Verse Of 18th From Al-Kahfi," *Al-Qanātir: International Journal of Islamic Studies* 21, no. 1 (2021): 27-31.

²⁹ Hilmah Latif, "Melacak Alur Pemaparan Dan Fragmen Kisah Ashab Al-Kahfi Dalam al-Qur'an," *Tafsire* 4, no. 2 (2016): 206–27.

³⁰ Nurul Azizah, "Mukjizat Naratologis: Studi Andragogi Atas Kisah Musa-Khidir Dalam Surah Al-Kahfi 60-82," *Jurnal Ilmiah Ilmu Ushuluddin* 18, no. 1 (2019): 88–100.

³¹ Muhammad Sadik Sabry, "Memaknai Kisah Ashab Al-Kahfi Dalam Al-Qur'an," *Tafsire* 1, no. 1 (2013): 99–116.

Table.2 Dialog Enunciation in the Story of *Aṣḥāb al-Kahf*

No	Surah	Enunciation	Verse
1	al-Kahfi (18): 10	<i>qālu></i>	إِذْ أَوَى الْفِتْيَةُ إِلَى الْكَهْفِ فَقَالُوا رَبَّنَا إِنَّا مِنْ لَدُنْكَ رَحْمَةً وَهَيِّئْ لَنَا مِنْ أَمْرِنَا رَشَدًا
2	al-Kahfi (18): 14	<i>qālu></i>	وَوَرَّطْنَا عَلَىٰ قُلُوبِهِمْ إِذْ قَامُوا فَقَالُوا رَبُّنَا رَبُّ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ لَن نُّعْمُوا مِنْ دُونِهِ إِنَّا لَقَدْ قُلْنَا إِذَا سَطَطْنَا
3	al-Kahfi (18): 19	<i>qālu></i>	قَالُوا لَيْتَنَا يَوْمًا أَوْ بَعْضَ يَوْمٍ قَالُوا رَبُّكُمْ أَعْلَمُ بِمَا لَيْتُمْ فَأَبْعَثُوا أَحَدَكُمْ بِوَرِقِكُمْ هَذِهِ إِلَى الْمَدِينَةِ فَلْيَنْظُرْ أَيُّهَا أَزْكَى طَعَامًا فَلْيَأْتِكُمْ بِهَا قِي مَنَّهُ وَلْيَتَلَطَّفْ وَلَا يُشْعِرَنَّ بِكُمْ أَحَدًا
4	al-Kahfi (18): 21	<i>qālu></i>	وَكَذَلِكَ أَغْرَيْنَا عَلَيْهِمْ لِيَعْلَمُوا أَن وَعْدَ اللَّهِ حَقٌّ وَأَنَّ السَّاعَةَ لَا رَيْبَ فِيهَا إِذْ يَتَنَزَّعُونَ مِنْهُمْ أَمْرَهُمْ فَقَالُوا ابْنُوا عَلَيْهِم بُنْيَانًا رَبُّهُمْ أَعْلَمُ بِهِمْ
5	al-Kahfi (18): 19	<i>qāla</i>	وَكَذَلِكَ بَعَثْنَاهُمْ لِيَتَسَاءَلُوا بَيْنَهُمْ قَالَ قَائِلٌ مِنْهُمْ كَمْ لَبِئْتُمْ.....
6	al-Kahfi (18): 21	<i>qāla</i>	قَالَ الَّذِينَ غَلَبُوا عَلَىٰ أَمْرِهِمْ لَنَتَّخِذَنَّ عَلَيْهِمْ مَسْجِدًا
7	al-Kahfi (18): 22	<i>sayaqu>lu>n</i>	سَيَقُولُونَ ثَلَاثَةٌ رَابِعُهُمْ كَاثِمَةٌ
8	al-Kahfi (18): 22	<i>yaqu>lu>n</i>	وَيَقُولُونَ خَمْسَةٌ سَادِسُهُمْ كَاثِمٌ رَجُلًا بِالْغَيْبِ وَيَقُولُونَ سَبْعَةٌ وَنَامَهُمْ كَاثِمٌ
9	al-Kahfi (18): 22	<i>qul</i>	قُلْ رَبِّي أَعْلَمُ بِعَدَّتِهِمْ مَا يَعْلَمُهُمْ إِلَّا قَلِيلٌ ۗ فَلَا تُمَارِ فِيهِمْ إِلَّا مِرَاءً ظَاهِرًا وَلَا تَسْتَفْتِ فِيهِمْ مِنْهُمْ أَحَدًا
10	al-Kahfi (18): 24	<i>qul</i>	إِلَّا أَنْ يَشَاءَ اللَّهُ وَادْكُرْ رَبَّكَ إِذَا نَسِيتَ وَقُلْ عَسَىٰ أَنْ يَهْدِيَنَا رَبِّي لِأَقْرَبَ مِنْ هَذَا
11	al-Kahfi (18): 26	<i>qul</i>	قُلِ اللَّهُ أَعْلَمُ بِمَا لَبِئُوا ۗ لَهُ غَيْبُ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ ۗ أَنْصُرْ بِهِ وَأَسْمِعْ ۗ مَا لَهُمْ مِنْ دُونِهِ مِنْ وَلِيٍّ وَلَا يُشْرِكُ فِي حُكْمِهِ أَحَدًا
12	al-Kahfi (18): 23	<i>taqu>lanna</i> وَا	

Based on the presentation of table 2, it can be understood that the story of *Aṣḥāb al-Kahf* emphasizes more on one element of the story, which is the element of dialogue. The dialogues in this story have their own themes. The dialogue in the 1st chapter (al-Kahf (18): 10) contains the theme of monotheism which the men prayed to Allah for His mercy and His guidance. Likewise, in the 10th chapter, it is also related to the theme of monotheism due to permission to be guided by Allah. The theme of monotheism is also found in the dialogue of the 2nd chapter (al-Kahf (18): 14), namely when they face King Dikyanus by saying that their God is the God of the heavens and the earth. There is no other God but Him.

The theme of the dialogue in chapter 3 (al-Kahf (18): 19) is about the power of Allah who knew how long they slept in the cave. There is a controversy about the time. Likewise, the fourth chapter (al-Kahf (18): 21) also contains the theme of the power of Allah who knew more about them. The theme of Allah's power is also presented in the 11th dialogue (al-Kahf (18): 26), that Allah knew best how long they stayed in the cave. God owns all that is hidden in the heavens and on the earth. His eyesight is clear, His hearing is sharp, and there is no protector for them but Allah. He is not assisted by anyone in making decisions. The theme of the 5th chapter of the dialogue (al-Kahf (18): 19) is about how long they slept in the cave. Then, the 6th surah (al-Kahf (18): 21) contains the theme of the plan to build a house of worship above the cave.

The dialogue theme regarding the number of people in the cave is shown in the 7th, 8th, and 9th surah (al-Kahf (18): 22). In addition to the diversity in terms of the theme or content of the message conveyed, the form of dialogue that occurs in this story is also not monotonous from the side of interlocutors. The givers and recipients of the message were the men to Allah, the men to King Decius, among the men themselves, between those people who have power over their affairs, between the people of the book and between Allah and the prophet.

The verses in the dialogue form about *Aṣḥāb al-Kahf*, based on the chronology of the revelation of the verse according to Theodor Nöldeke-Schwally, it is known that the verses were revealed in the middle Meccan period, a period which was full of rejection from Quraysh. The realities and circumstances were not easy for the prophet and his followers to face. The presentation of the style of the story verse in each period follows the journey of the prophet's *da'wa*. The style of language in this period indicated a transition from the form of the early Meccan period which tends to have high enthusiasm towards the middle Meccan period which tends to be calmer and more acceptable through the style of the dialogue. *Da'wa* through dialogue with all its variations is in harmony with all segments of interlocutor and various conditions.³² Dialogue is a medium that connects communication between creatures and their Creator and among creatures.

Moreover, the use of one element of the story in the verse is in line with the development of Islamic *da'wa*. According to Khalafullah, the emphasis on this aspect of dialogue style is intended to maintain Islamic *da'wa* by the prophet in the era of rejection and as the rebuttal.³³ It was the rebuttal of the Meccan polytheists on the truth of the prophet as the messenger of God and the truth

³² Mohammad Bashri Asyari, "Fiqh Dakwah Dalam Kisah-Kisah Surat Al-Kahfi," *El-Umdah* 2, no. 42 (2019): 188–202.

³³ Muhammad Ahmad Khalafullah, *Al-Fann al-Qasas Fi al-Qur'an al-Karim* (Kairo: Maktabah al-Nahdah al-Mishriyyah, 1951).

of his teachings.³⁴ Thus, the appearance of the dominance of the dialogue style in the story about *Aṣḥāb al-Kahf* in Surah al-Kahf (18): 9-26 is in harmony with the chronology of the revelation of the verse in the middle Meccan period. Various rejections of the prophet's *da'wa*, made the dialogue style in the story of *Aṣḥāb al-Kahf* an effort to defend the prophet's *da'wa* and refute the rejection of the people. The dialogue style contains the theme of monotheism (*tawhid*) and God's power³⁵ so that it also contains theological meaning.^{36,37}

Conclusion

The most important finding in this research was the narrative structure of *Aṣḥāb al-Kahf*'s story which consists of orientation I, sequence of events I, coda I, complication, orientation II, sequence of events II, orientation III, coda II, orientation IV and resolution. These structures are interrelated and form a logical, holistic, beautiful story unit that fulfills all elements of the narrative structure of the concepts of Mark Anderson and Kathryn Anderson. Then, the appearance of the dialogue style dominates the presentation of the story of *Aṣḥāb al-Kahf*. The style of language is in accordance with the prophet's journey. Thus, the theory used in this study can reveal the problem of story texts that are read from the perspective of narratology and stylistics. The drawback of this study is that the speakers are new at the level of narrative structure and dialogue style. Therefore, the researcher provides suggestions for further research in the form of studies that include the meaning and function of the narrative structure as well as the aspects of the beauty of enunciation and the beauty of the meaning of the story verse of *Aṣḥāb al-Kahf*.

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³⁴ Hadi, "A Literature Approach of The Story in the Qur'an (Study About Muhammad Ahmad Khalafullah's Interpretation on the Story of Ashab Al-Kahf)."

³⁵ Muhammad Al-Hafizh, "Pertolongan Tuhan Terhadap Manusia Pilihan Dalam Tiga Karya Sastra The Story Of Little Bird, Ashabul Kahfi Dan The Smoke Of Fuji Yama: Sebuah Analisis Sastra Bandingan," *Komposisi: Jurnal Pendidikan Bahasa, Sastra, Dan Seni* 12, no. 1 (2011): 91–103.

³⁶ Akrimi Matswah, "Mustansir Mir and a Contemporary Literary Approach to the Qaṣaṣ Al-Qur'ān: Study of Qur'anic Story of Joseph," *Ulumuna* 21, no. 2 (2017): 391–411.

³⁷ Ian Richard Netton and إيان ريتشارد نيتون, "Towards a Modern Tafsīr of Sūrat Al-Kahf: Structure and Semiotics/سورة الكهف: البنية والرموز," *Journal of Qur'anic Studies* 2, no. 1 (2000): 67–87.

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