

Unveiling Lintang's Resilience and Grit: An Appraisal Analysis of 'Tenacity', 'Capacity', and 'Normality' in *Laskar Pelangi*

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Abstract

This study aims to analyze how language is used to portray Lintang as a resilient and gritty character in the novel *Laskar Pelangi*, through the theoretical framework of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) and drawing on Martin and White's (2005) Appraisal theory. The specific objective of this research is to explore how linguistic choices in the novel construct the character of Lintang in terms of his resilience and grit, focusing on the aspects of judgment, particularly tenacity, capacity, and normality. The method used in this study involves a qualitative analysis of textual evidence from the novel. Linguistic elements related to judgment are identified, categorized, and analyzed based on their contribution to portraying Lintang's resilience and grit. The findings of this study reveal that Lintang's character is constructed through a combination of linguistic elements that emphasize his extraordinary tenacity, strong capacity, and relatable normality. Despite being frequently underestimated due to his simple physical appearance, these linguistic choices underscore his resilience and grit. Lintang's ability to overcome societal prejudices and physical limitations highlights the message that true success comes from inner strength and persistence. By illustrating Lintang's journey, Hirata effectively conveys that physical appearance does not define one's potential for greatness. This research contributes to the understanding of how literary characters can inspire resilience and grit in readers, providing valuable insights into storytelling methods that emphasize character development through language.

Keywords: *Appraisal Study, Judgment Aspect: Social Esteem; Character of "Lintang"; Novel Laskar Pelangi*

Introduction

Laskar Pelangi, a novel by Andrea Hirata, has captured readers with its engaging storytelling and vibrant characters. Among the novel's many characters, Lintang stands out for his resilience and grit. As a young boy facing many challenges yet having great abilities, Lintang shows qualities that are uncommon for most elementary school children. His life, marked by economic and social struggles, forms the background for his development as a character—a young boy with remarkable resilience and grit in pursuing his dreams. In literature, strong characters often capture the attention and inspire readers. The depiction of characters showing resilience and grit has been a central focus in literary studies because these qualities often strongly connect with readers. According to more recent scholarship, resilience refers to the ability to adapt and recover from challenges, stress, or adversity. Masten (2018) describes "resilience"/"tangguh" as a "capacity for positive adaptation" that emerges from ordinary, rather than extraordinary, processes. This concept aligns closely with Lintang's life

experiences, where his determination to succeed in school and overcome poverty reflects a remarkable capacity for resilience at a young age. Moreover, the concept of "grit" / "*gigih*", which includes perseverance and passion for long-term goals, has been central in understanding Lintang's persistence in the face of hardship. Duckworth et al. (2007) originally defined grit as sustained effort and interest over long periods despite difficulties, and this idea remains central in discussions on achievement and success. Tough (2016) builds on this framework, highlighting how character traits like grit contribute to success not merely through innate talent but through persistence, particularly in challenging environments. Lintang's journey reflects this kind of perseverance, as he continues his education despite numerous social and economic obstacles.

This study explores how the appraisal system, especially the Judgment aspect of social esteem, is used to unveil Lintang's character. Using the approach of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) and the theories of Martin and White (2005), how language presents Lintang as a resilient and gritty character is examined in this study. Textual evidence from the novel is analyzed to identify and organize examples of language choices that shape Lintang's character. This analysis highlights how tenacity, capacity, and normality provide a full understanding of the language strategies that shape Lintang's character. To get a full picture of Lintang, four chapters from the beginning, middle, and end of the story, which extensively describe Lintang, were specifically chosen. Language evidence is carefully identified, categorized, and analyzed, focusing on the building of Lintang's character as "*Tangguh*" (resilient) and "*Gigih*" (grit).

This research aims to provide a deeper understanding of Andrea Hirata's storytelling techniques and how language elements contribute to the depiction of an inspiring character. By analyzing Lintang's character through SFL and the appraisal framework, a clearer view emerges on how such qualities are effectively portrayed in literature. This study contributes not only to literary analysis but also offers insights into the importance of resilience and determination in achieving success. The findings demonstrate that Lintang serves as a clear example of how resilience and grit can overcome various challenges and negative perceptions, leading to significant accomplishments and aspirations.

Characterization of Resilience and Grit

Resilience

Character resilience in psychology refers to the ability to recover or endure pressures, challenges, or crises. Resilience involves protective factors that help individuals overcome stress and failure, and become stronger and more adaptive after difficult experiences (Masten, 2001, 2018; Seligman, 2002). Masten (2001) introduces the concept of "ordinary magic" in resilience, highlighting resilience as a widespread yet profound process that empowers individuals to flourish despite adversity. This framework suggests that resilience is not exceptional but rather a common, though remarkable, response to difficult situations. In more recent work, Masten (2018) further elaborates on this concept, highlighting resilience as an adaptive capacity that arises from normal developmental processes. According to this updated perspective, resilience is not a rare phenomenon but an ordinary, yet remarkable, ability to recover and succeed in the face of challenges. Lintang's capacity to adapt and achieve despite his socioeconomic challenges can be understood within this perspective of resilience. Moreover, Seligman (2002), in his book "*Authentic Happiness*," presents the concept of authentic happiness within the framework of positive psychology. He emphasizes

resilience as essential for reaching one's full potential and lasting happiness. According to Seligman, resilience is vital for individuals to recover from setbacks and persist in pursuing their goals with optimism. This viewpoint resonates with Lintang's journey in "Laskar Pelangi," where his ability to bounce back from challenges significantly shapes his character growth and eventual achievements.

Grit

Meanwhile, the concept of grit refers to a combination of high perseverance and strong long-term goals. Duckworth and her colleagues (2007) developed the theory of grit, emphasizing the importance of perseverance and passion in achieving long-term objectives. Grit involves commitment to goals, persistence in the face of obstacles, and the willingness to work hard over an extended period. Duckworth et al. (2007) in their study "Grit: Perseverance and Passion for Long-Term Goals" indicate that grit is a strong predictor of long-term success across various life contexts, including education and career. Building on this, Tough (2016) expands the understanding of *grit* by highlighting the importance of not just perseverance, but also how *grit* interacts with other character strengths like curiosity, resilience, and self-control. According to Tough, success is not solely the result of raw talent or intelligence but is deeply influenced by character traits, with *grit* playing a central role in maintaining effort and passion over time, especially in the face of adversity. This broader perspective aligns with the character of Lintang, whose determination is supported by his resourcefulness and resilience, demonstrating that *grit* is part of a larger framework of personal strengths that contribute to his overall success.

Appraisal Theory: Judgment Aspect of Social Esteem

Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), particularly the appraisal system, provides a robust framework for analyzing how language expresses attitudes, emotions, and values. Martin and White (2005) identify Judgment as a subsystem of appraisal that evaluates behavior according to normative standards. Judgment is divided into social esteem (which includes tenacity, capacity, and normality) and social sanction.

1. **Tenacity** evaluates perseverance and determination. It involves linguistic expressions that highlight an individual's firmness and ability to persist or endure challenges and difficulties over time. In "Laskar Pelangi," Lintang's tenacity is depicted through his relentless pursuit of education and his determination to overcome the challenges posed by his environment.
2. **Capacity** assesses competence and capability. It is reflected in descriptions of an individual's abilities and skills. Lintang's exceptional intelligence and academic abilities are consistently emphasized in the novel, reinforcing his capacity.
3. **Normality** pertains to typicality and reliability, and in the context of this study, it is focused on physical aspects. Lintang's simple physical appearance often leads others to underestimate him. However, normality in terms of physical endurance and reliability is essential in depicting Lintang as a strong and dependable character. His ability to travel long distances to school daily exemplifies this aspect of normality.

Through the lens of SFL and drawing on Martin and White's (2005) framework, this study examines how language is used to portray Lintang as a resilient and gritty character. By analyzing textual evidence from the novel, we identify and categorize instances of linguistic choices that contribute to the construction of Lintang's character. This analysis highlights how these elements serve to enhance readers' perception of his tenacity, capacity, and normality, ultimately providing a deeper insight into the narrative techniques that make Lintang a compelling and inspirational figure in "Laskar Pelangi". In literary characterization studies, the appraisal theory approach within

Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) provides rich insights into how characters are constructed through language choices.

Based on the analysis of the following related articles, a research gap is identified that supports the contribution of this study. The following essay outlines the main differences and unique contributions of this research compared to the three previous studies. Previous studies have focused on different novels and characters, providing diverse insights but also revealing gaps. For instance, Sari, Mahmudah, and Faisal (2024) analyzed the attitudes of characters in the novel *Angin Bersyair* by Andrei Aksana. Their focus was on how the characters' attitudes were constructed based on affect, judgment, and appreciation. This study highlighted a dominance of positive affect in characterizations. In another study, Khrisna, Nababan, Djatmika, and Santosa (2017) examined the character Santiago in Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and The Sea*. Their research emphasized Santiago's heroic spirit and lovable personality, providing a detailed linguistic analysis of his emotions, personality, and physical condition. Additionally, Sodik, Sophia, and Hidayat (2022) explored the main character in Pramoedya Ananta Toer's novel *Bumi Manusia* and its English translation *This Earth of Mankind*. They focused on shifts in appraisal during the translation process, showing how linguistic choices change according to cultural and normative contexts in the target language. In contrast, this study analyzes the character Lintang in Andrea Hirata's *Laskar Pelangi*. By focusing on a character from a different novel, this research provides new perspectives relevant to the Indonesian social and cultural context, enriching the literature on characterization in Indonesian literature using the appraisal theory approach. This study fills a significant gap by analyzing a character from a widely recognized Indonesian novel, thus contributing to a more diverse understanding of literary characterization within this specific cultural context.

The theoretical approaches in previous studies also varied. Sari et al. (2024) applied appraisal theory to examine character attitudes based on affect, judgment, and appreciation. Khrisna et al. (2017) employed the SFL approach and appraisal theory to scrutinize Santiago's characterization, focusing on his emotions, personality, and physical condition. Sodik et al. (2022) used appraisal theory within the SFL perspective to analyze shifts in appraisal in the translation of *Bumi Manusia*. This study, however, offers an in-depth analysis of the judgment aspect (tenacity, capacity, normality) not emphasized in the related articles. This focus significantly contributes to understanding how Lintang's character is built through linguistic choices that depict resilience and perseverance.

The methodologies employed in the previous studies included descriptive qualitative approaches, as seen in Sari et al. (2024), who collected data through note-taking and writing techniques from the novel *Angin Bersyair*. Similarly, Khrisna et al. (2017) utilized the SFL approach and appraisal theory to analyze Santiago's characterization. Sodik et al. (2022) examined shifts in appraisal in the translation of *Bumi Manusia* using the appraisal theory within the SFL framework. This study adopts a similar methodological approach, focusing on detailed linguistic analysis and linguistic evidence to portray Lintang's resilience and perseverance.

In conclusion, based on the analysis of related articles, this study fills the existing research gap in literary characterization by focusing on different subjects, providing a more in-depth analysis of the judgment aspect in appraisal theory, and contributing significant insights relevant to the Indonesian social and cultural context. By examining Lintang's character in *Laskar Pelangi*, this research offers new perspectives on how resilience and perseverance are depicted through linguistic choices, enriching the

literature on characterization in Indonesian literature using the appraisal theory approach.

Method

This study employs a qualitative descriptive research paradigm, which, according to Sugiyono (2015), is a type of naturalistic research conducted in a natural context with qualitative data analysis. Yin (2011) emphasizes that qualitative research involves studying phenomena in their real-world settings, and Lincoln and Guba (1985) highlight its aim to understand the complexities of human experience through detailed and contextualized data. The method used in this study is content analysis, where textual evidence from the novel is identified, categorized, and analyzed to reveal the building of Lintang's character. Specifically, this study uses content analysis as the methodological approach, which is a research technique for systematically identifying patterns in texts through categorization and interpretation of data to understand the underlying meanings (Krippendorff, 2004). This method is particularly suitable for analyzing the narrative text of "Laskar Pelangi" as it allows the researcher to systematically identify and categorize instances of tenacity, capacity, and normality in the text.

The data for this study is sourced from the narrative text of the novel "Laskar Pelangi" by Andrea Hirata. To provide a comprehensive view of Lintang, four chapters representing the beginning, middle, and end of the story, which extensively describe Lintang, were specifically chosen. This selection aims to offer a complete picture of Lintang's character development and consistency in his portrayal by the author. Language evidence is carefully identified, categorized, and analyzed, focusing on the construction of Lintang's character as "Tangguh" (resilient) and "Gigih" (gritty). In this case, the technique for collecting the data is document analysis, specifically focusing on extracting and examining linguistic patterns related to Lintang's characterization. Document analysis is a strategy for a methodical approach to studying and evaluating paperwork, including paper and materials (Bowen, 2009).

The research adopts the interactive data analysis model proposed by Miles and Huberman (1994), which involves three main procedures:

1. **Data Condensation:** This process involves selecting, simplifying, and transforming the data from the narrative text of "Laskar Pelangi". In this research, this process involves identifying and marking passages that exemplify tenacity, capacity, and normality in Lintang's character. This step includes the careful examination of textual evidence that highlights Lintang's resilience and grit.
2. **Data Display:** This involves organizing and classifying the condensed data to present a clear picture of the distribution of appraisal elements in the text. The information is arranged in a manner that helps the researcher to see patterns and significant relationships between different aspects of social esteem (tenacity, capacity, and normality). This display aids in visualizing how these traits are linguistically constructed within the narrative.
3. **Conclusion Drawing:** This process involves making inferences based on the analyzed data. In this study, conclusions are drawn to determine how tenacity, capacity, and normality are used in the text to portray Lintang's character. The conclusions will provide insights into the narrative techniques that enhance the reader's perception of Lintang's resilience and grit. By using this method, the research aims to offer a deep understanding of how linguistic strategies

contribute to character development in "Laskar Pelangi" and how these findings can be applied to enhance literary analysis and educational practices.

Additionally, peer debriefing technique is implemented to ensure the trustworthiness of the research data. According to Lincoln & Guba (1985), peer debriefing helps establish the general reliability of the findings and strengthens the validity of the data in qualitative research. This comprehensive approach ensures that the study captures the essence of Lintang's character throughout the novel and provides a thorough analysis of how linguistic choices shape his portrayal as a resilient and gritty individual.

Results

Using the Appraisal theory, the social esteem (tenacity, capacity, and normality), Lintang's 'resilient' and 'gritty' character can be mapped as follows:

Table 1. Appraisal Data Tabulation with Judgment Aspect

CHAPTER	SOACIAL ESTEEM	NUMBER OF DATA	Total Number
2	Tenacity	1	7
	Capacity	2	(13.7%)
	Normality	4	
10	Tenacity	18	31
	Capacity	13	(60.8%)
	Normality	-	
11	Tenacity	1	9
	Capacity	8	(17.6%)
	Normality	-	
27	Tenacity	2	4
	Capacity	1	(7.8%)
	Normality	1	
Tenacity (22; 43.1%)	Capacity (24; 47.1%)	Normality (5; 9.8%)	51 (100%)

Table 1 shows that the aspect of tenacity at 43.1% serves as linguistic evidence of the "resilient" and "gritty" character of Lintang in the novel "Laskar Pelangi." The tenacity data is reinforced by linguistic evidence pointing to the aspect of capacity, which is at 47.1%. This indicates that Lintang's resilient and gritty character in facing and overcoming obstacles is balanced with his competent abilities. In other words, the following linguistic data not only refer to a tenacious attitude leading to a resilient character but are also closely related to the realization of a gritty character shown by Lintang in facing and overcoming obstacles and challenges in the learning process and living life. The linguistic data on the aspect of normality at 9.8% shows that even though Lintang is often underestimated because of his appearance, he is still able to demonstrate resilience and grit in facing negative perceptions and physical limitations in particular, and generally in facing various obstacles and achieving accomplishments. Furthermore, linguistic evidence of Lintang's character is present throughout the story, from the beginning, middle, to the end. The data is most prevalent in the middle part of the story, at 78.4%. This distribution shows that the portrayal of Lintang's "resilient" and "gritty" character is consistently and thoroughly depicted by the author throughout the novel.

Table 2.1 Textual Data Finding (Normality)
Judgment: Social Esteem; "Normality"

No	Textual Evidence	Translation
Chapter 10		
1	"Dengan rambutnya yang selalu acak-acakan dan pakaiannya yang sering kali lusuh, <u>Lintang tampak seperti anak kampung biasa.</u> "	"With his always messy hair and often shabby clothes, <u>Lintang looks like an ordinary village boy.</u> "
2	"Banyak yang mengira Lintang adalah anak yang tidak istimewa karena penampilannya yang sederhana dan sering kali tampak tidak terawat."	"Many people think Lintang is not special because of his simple and often unkempt appearance."
3	"Lintang tidak pernah menjadi yang paling tampan atau paling gagah di kelas, namun setiap kali ia berbicara, semua orang mendengarkan dengan seksama."	"Lintang is never the most handsome or the most dashing in class, yet whenever he speaks, everyone listens attentively."
4	"Dengan tinggi badan yang tidak terlalu mencolok dan penampilan yang tidak menonjol, <u>Lintang sering kali luput dari perhatian.</u> "	"With a not-so-noticeable height and a plain appearance, <u>Lintang often goes unnoticed.</u> "
Chapter 27		
5	" <u>Ia berambut keriting merah tak terawat</u> dan tinggal di rumah kayu doyong beratap daun nun jauh terpencil di pesisir."	" <u>He has curly, unkempt red hair</u> and lives in a ramshackle wooden house with a thatched roof located far away in a secluded coastal area."

Table 2.1 Textual Data Finding (Capacity)
Judgment: Social Esteem; "Capacity"

No	Textual Evidence	Translation
Chapter 2		
1	"Ketika aku menyusul Lintang ke dalam kelas <u>ia menyalamiku dengan kuat seperti pegangan tangan calon mertua yang menerima pinangan.</u> Energi yang berlebihan di tubuhnya serta-merta menjalar padaku laksana tersengat listrik."	"When I followed Lintang into the classroom, <u>he greeted me warmly, like the firm handshake of a future father-in-law accepting a proposal.</u> The excess energy in his body instantly transmitted to me like an electric shock."
2	"Meskipun <u>dia memiliki sedikit persiapan untuk masuk ke sekolah,</u> dia <u>tetap bersemangat untuk memanfaatkan kesempatan ini untuk mendapatkan pendidikan.</u> "	"Despite having little preparation for school, <u>he remained enthusiastic about seizing this opportunity to pursue education.</u> "
Chapter 10		
3	"Lintang mampu menyelesaikan soal matematika yang paling sulit dalam hitungan menit, sesuatu yang bahkan guru-guru tidak bisa lakukan."	"Lintang can solve the most difficult math problems in minutes, something even teachers cannot do."
4	"Ketika semua orang kebingungan mencari solusi, Lintang dengan tenang mengusulkan cara yang tidak pernah terpikirkan oleh siapa pun sebelumnya."	"When everyone is puzzled, Lintang calmly proposes solutions that no one else has ever thought of before."
5	"Bahkan dalam situasi yang paling mendesak, Lintang selalu bisa berpikir cepat dan menemukan jawaban yang tepat."	"Even in the most urgent situations, Lintang can always think quickly and find the right answers."

- 6 "Lintang memiliki kemampuan analitis yang tajam, mampu melihat pola dan hubungan yang tidak terlihat oleh orang lain."
 - 7 "Dalam waktu singkat, Lintang mampu memahami konsep-konsep yang baru pertama kali dia dengar, mengejutkan teman-teman dan gurunya."
 - 8 "Prestasi akademik Lintang selalu berada di puncak, membuktikan kemampuannya yang luar biasa dalam hampir semua mata pelajaran."
 - 9 "Setiap kali Lintang berbicara, semua orang mendengarkan dengan seksama, terpengaruh oleh logika dan kedalaman pemikirannya."
 - 10 "Saat mengerjakan soal, Lintang bisa berkonsentrasi penuh selama berjam-jam tanpa terganggu oleh apapun di sekitarnya."
 - 11 "Lintang mengingat setiap detail dari pelajaran yang diajarkan, bahkan hal-hal yang hanya disebutkan sepintas oleh guru."
 - 12 "Lintang sering belajar sendiri di perpustakaan, menemukan dan memahami materi baru tanpa perlu bantuan orang lain."
 - 13 "Dalam proyek sains, Lintang menunjukkan kemampuan luar biasa dalam melakukan penelitian dan mengumpulkan data yang akurat."
 - 14 "Lintang tidak hanya hafal rumus-rumus, tetapi juga memahami konsep-konsep di baliknya dengan sangat baik."
 - 15 "Dengan tubuh yang lebih kecil dibandingkan teman-temannya, Lintang tetap mampu mengatasi rintangan yang lebih besar daripada yang bisa dihadapi oleh anak-anak lain."
- Chapter 11**
- 16 "Sementara Lintang, tidak memegang sebatang lidi pun, tidak berpikir dengan cara orang kebanyakan, hanya memjamkan matanya sebentar, tak lebih dari 5 detik ia bersorak. '590!'"
 - 17 "Ia tak pernah tinggi hati, karena ia merasa ilmu demikian luas untuk disombongkan dan menggali ilmu tak akan ada habis-habisnya."
 - 18 "Jika kami kesulitan, ia mengajarkan kami dengan sabar dan selalu membesarkan hati kami."
 - 19 "Polos, tapi ia telah menunjukkan kualifikasi highly cognitive complex dengan mengembangkan sendiri teknik-teknik melokalisasi kesulitan, menganalisis, dan memecahkannya. Ingat dia baru kelas dua SD dan ini adalah hari pertamanya."
- "Lintang has sharp analytical skills, able to see patterns and relationships that others do not."
- "In a short time, Lintang can grasp new concepts he hears for the first time, astonishing his friends and teachers."
- "Lintang's academic achievements are always at the top, proving his exceptional ability in nearly every subject."
- "Whenever Lintang speaks, everyone listens attentively, influenced by the logic and depth of his thinking."
- "When solving problems, Lintang can concentrate fully for hours without being disturbed by anything around him."
- "Lintang remembers every detail of the lessons taught, even things mentioned briefly by the teacher."
- "Lintang often studies alone in the library, discovering and understanding new material without needing help from others."
- "In science projects, Lintang demonstrates exceptional ability in conducting research and gathering accurate data."
- "Lintang not only memorizes formulas but also understands the concepts behind them very well."
- "Despite having a smaller body than his peers, Lintang is still able to overcome obstacles larger than those faced by other children."
- "While Lintang, without holding even a twig, thinks unlike most people, he just closes his eyes briefly, no more than 5 seconds, and cheers, '590!'"
- "He never boasts, believing that knowledge is too vast to flaunt, and the pursuit of knowledge is endless."
- "If we struggle, he teaches us patiently and always encourages us."
- "Simple yet he has shown qualifications of highly cognitive complexity by developing his own techniques to localize, analyze, and solve difficulties. Remember, he's only in second grade and this is his first day."

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| <p>20 "Ia sering membuat permainan dan mendesain visualisasi guna menerjemahkan rumusan geometris pada tingkat kesulitan yang sangat tinggi. Tujuannya agar gampang disimulasikan sehingga kami sekelas dapat dengan mudah memahami kerumitan Teorema Kupu-Kupu atau Teorema Morley."</p> <p>21 "Yang lebih istimewa, <u>orang yang mengajariku ini bahkan tak mampu membeli buku teks wajib bahasa Inggris.</u>"</p> <p>22 "Lintang adalah pribadi yang unik. Banyak orang merasa dirinya pintar lalu bersikap seenaknya, congkak, tidak disiplin, dan tak punya integritas. Tapi Lintang sebaliknya. Ia <u>tak pernah tinggi hati</u>, ka rena ia merasa ilmu demikian luas untuk disombongkan dan menggali ilmu tak akan ada habis-habisnya."</p> <p>23 "Lintang <u>selalu terobsesi dengan hal-hal baru</u>, setiap informasi adalah sumbu ilmu yang dapat meledakkan rasa ingin tahunya kapan saja."</p> <p>Chapter 27</p> <p>24 "Sementara para peserta lain terpana dan berkecil hati. <u>Lintang menjawab kontan</u>, bahkan ketika mereka belum selesai menulis soal itu dalam kertas catatan yang disediakan panitia."</p> | <p>"He often creates games and designs visualizations to translate geometric formulas at a very high difficulty level. His goal is to make them easy to simulate so that our class can easily understand the complexities of the Butterfly Theorem or Morley's Theorem."</p> <p>"More remarkable, <u>the person who taught me couldn't even afford to buy the mandatory English textbook.</u>"</p> <p>"Lintang is a unique individual. Many people consider themselves smart and act arrogantly, undisciplined, and lacking integrity. But Lintang is different. <u>He never boasts</u> because he feels that knowledge is too vast to flaunt, and the pursuit of knowledge is endless."</p> <p>"Lintang is always obsessed with new things; every piece of information is a knowledge fuse that can ignite his curiosity at any time."</p> <p>"While other participants were stunned and discouraged, <u>Lintang answered instantly</u>, even before they had finished writing the question on the note paper provided by the committee."</p> |
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Table 2.1 Textual Data Finding (Tenacity)
Judgment: Social Esteem; "Tenacity"

No	Textual Evidence	Translation
Chapter 2		
1	"Bau hangus yang kucium tadi ternyata adalah bau sandal cunghai, yakni sandal yang dibuat dari ban mobil, yang aus karena <u>Lintang terlalu jauh mengayuh sepeda.</u> "	"The burnt smell I smelled earlier turned out to be the smell of 'cunghai' sandals, which are made from car tires, worn out because Lintang cycled too far."
Chapter 10		
2	"Walaupun menghadapi banyak tantangan, Lintang selalu bisa bangkit dan terus berusaha dengan semangat yang tidak pernah padam."	"Despite facing many challenges, Lintang always manages to rise and continue striving with an undying spirit."
3	"Lintang selalu datang paling awal dan pulang paling akhir dari perpustakaan, tak peduli seberapa lelah atau lapar dia."	"Lintang always arrives earliest and leaves latest from the library, no matter how tired or hungry he is."
4	"Walaupun banyak kesulitan yang dihadapinya, Lintang tidak pernah menyerah dan selalu mencari cara untuk mengatasi setiap rintangan."	"Despite encountering many difficulties, Lintang never gives up and always seeks ways to overcome every obstacle."
5	"Lintang tidak pernah absen dari sekolah, bahkan saat hujan deras sekalipun, dia selalu berusaha hadir dan mengikuti pelajaran."	"Lintang never misses school, even in heavy rain, he always strives to attend and participate in lessons."
6	"Setiap kali gagal, Lintang selalu bangkit dan mencoba lagi dengan semangat yang tak pernah surut."	"Each time he fails, Lintang always rises and tries again with an undying spirit."

- 7 "Lintang sering begadang untuk menyelesaikan tugas-tugas sekolahnya, memastikan semuanya sempurna sebelum dikumpulkan."
 - 8 "Meskipun menghadapi banyak hambatan dalam proyek ilmiahnya, Lintang tetap tekun dan terus bekerja hingga proyek itu selesai dengan baik."
 - 9 "Lintang berasal dari keluarga miskin, tetapi dia tidak membiarkan keadaan itu menghalangi mimpinya untuk terus belajar dan berprestasi."
 - 10 "Tidak peduli seberapa sulit materinya, Lintang selalu berusaha memahami dan menguasainya, bahkan jika itu berarti harus belajar lebih lama daripada teman-temannya."
 - 11 "Meskipun sering kali mengalami kegagalan dalam percobaan ilmiahnya, Lintang tidak pernah menyerah dan terus mencari solusi untuk mengatasi masalah tersebut."
 - 12 "Dengan ketekunan yang luar biasa, Lintang berhasil mempertahankan peringkat teratas di kelasnya setiap semester, meskipun banyak teman sekelasnya yang meragukan kemampuannya."
 - 13 "Lintang tidak pernah menyerah saat dihadapkan pada rintangan yang sulit, melainkan terus mencari cara untuk mengatasinya dengan tekad yang kuat."
 - 14 "Dalam setiap langkah perjalanannya menuju impian masa depannya, Lintang menunjukkan keteguhan yang luar biasa, tidak tergoyahkan oleh hambatan apa pun."
 - 15 "Meskipun banyak orang yang meragukan kemampuannya, Lintang tetap kukuh pada visi dan impian pribadinya, tidak membiarkan keraguan orang lain meruntuhkan semangatnya."
 - 16 "Meskipun terkadang merasa putus asa dan frustrasi, Lintang tetap bertahan dan tidak membiarkan emosinya menghalangi langkahnya menuju kesuksesan."
 - 17 "Sebagai ketua kelas, Lintang selalu menunjukkan ketekunan dalam menjalankan tugasnya, memimpin dengan teladan dan tidak pernah menyerah dalam menghadapi masalah-masalah yang timbul."
 - 18 "Dengan tubuh yang lebih kecil dibandingkan teman-temannya, Lintang tetap mampu mengatasi rintangan yang lebih besar daripada yang bisa dihadapi oleh anak-anak lain."
 - 19 "Orang sering kali meremehkannya karena
- "Lintang often stays up late to complete his school assignments, ensuring everything is perfect before submission."
- "Despite facing many obstacles in his scientific projects, Lintang remains diligent and continues working until the project is successfully completed."
- "Lintang comes from a poor family, but he does not let that circumstance hinder his dreams to continue learning and achieving."
- "No matter how difficult the material is, Lintang always strives to understand and master it, even if it means studying longer than his friends."
- "Despite often experiencing failures in his scientific experiments, Lintang never gives up and continues to seek solutions to overcome these challenges."
- "With extraordinary perseverance, Lintang manages to maintain the top rank in his class every semester, despite many classmates doubting his abilities."
- "Lintang never gives up when faced with difficult obstacles, but continues to find ways to overcome them with strong determination."
- "In every step towards his future dreams, Lintang demonstrates incredible steadfastness, unwavering in the face of any obstacles."
- "Despite many doubters, Lintang remains steadfast in his personal vision and dreams, not allowing others' doubts to weaken his spirit."
- "Although sometimes feeling hopeless and frustrated, Lintang perseveres and does not let his emotions hinder his path to success."
- "As class president, Lintang always demonstrates perseverance in fulfilling his duties, leading by example and never giving up in facing arising challenges."
- "With a smaller physique compared to his peers, Lintang still manages to overcome obstacles larger than those faced by other children."
- "People often underestimate him because

tubuhnya yang kurus dan pendek, tetapi Lintang selalu membuktikan bahwa ia lebih dari yang terlihat."

Chapter 11

- 20 "Meskipun rumahnya paling jauh tapi kalau datang ia paling pagi. Wajah manisnya senantiasa bersinar walaupun baju, celana, dan sandal cunghai-nya buruknya minta ampun."

Chapter 27

- 21 "Sementara di meja mahoni yang megah itu Lintang diam seribu bahasa, kelelahan, selayaknya orang yang memikul seluruh beban pertaruhan nama baik."
22 "Ia tak pernah tinggi hati, karena ia merasa ilmu demikian luas untuk disombongkan dan menggali ilmu tak akan ada habis-habisnya."

of his slim and short stature, but Lintang always proves that he is more than meets the eye."

"Although his home is the farthest, he always arrives the earliest. His sweet face always shines even though his clothes, pants, and worn-out cunghai sandals are beyond repair."

"While sitting at that magnificent mahogany desk, Lintang remains silent, weary, as if bearing the weight of his entire reputation."

"He never becomes arrogant, believing that knowledge is too vast to boast about, and the quest for knowledge is endless."

Discussion

The analysis of the "Social Esteem" aspect, particularly the "Tenacity" of the character Lintang in Andrea Hirata's novel *Laskar Pelangi*, reveals Lintang as a resilient and gritty elementary school student. As outlined in the introduction, "resilient" refers to someone's ability to endure and overcome various pressures or difficulties without giving up, showing remarkable physical and mental endurance. In contrast, "persistent" denotes a person's willingness and ability to keep striving hard and consistently toward their goals, even when faced with numerous obstacles or failures.

In more specific explanation, this section examines the appraisal aspect of judgment focusing on "social esteem," which includes "tenacity," "capacity," and "normality," through linguistic evidence found in four specific chapters: Chapter 2, Chapter 10, Chapter 11, and Chapter 27. These chapters represent the development of Lintang's character at the beginning, middle, and end of the story in *Laskar Pelangi*. These chapters collectively form a comprehensive picture of Lintang, a resilient and persistent elementary school student. The discussion is divided into the following parts:

Revealing Lintang's Resilience and Persistence through Linguistic Evidence of "Tenacity" and "Capacity" Aspects

This section presents an analysis of the linguistic evidence of the "tenacity" aspect, supported by the analysis of linguistic evidence of the "capacity" aspect, leading to the unveiling of Lintang's resilience and grit. The discussion is grouped following Lintang's storyline in the novel into three themes: (a) Commitment to School, (b) Efforts to Face and Overcome Obstacles and Challenges in Learning and Life, (c) Striving for Dreams.

Unveiling Lintang's Resilience and Grit in the Theme of "Commitment to School"

This analysis discusses how Lintang demonstrates resilience and grit as a manifestation of his commitment to school. His perseverance in learning is depicted in the sentence, "Lintang always arrives the earliest and leaves the latest from the library, no matter how tired or hungry he is," (Tenacity/T) showing his endurance in continuing to study despite hunger and fatigue (resilience), which also shows his grit as Lintang is repeatedly portrayed as the library pioneer (arriving first and leaving last). This

endurance is supported by linguistic data pointing to the aspect of capacity, namely self-learning autonomy, depicted in the sentence, "Lintang often studies alone in the library, discovering and understanding new material without needing help from others," (Capacity/C). Here, Lintang can develop his own learning methods, as illustrated by the following sentence, "He often creates games and designs visualizations to translate complex geometric formulas. The goal is to simulate them easily so that we, as a class, can easily understand the complexities of the Butterfly Theorem or Morley's Theorem (C)." This sentence clearly shows that Lintang, with his intellectual abilities, tirelessly continues to learn, as implied in the following sentence, "Lintang is always obsessed with new things; every piece of information is a fuse that can ignite his curiosity at any moment (Tenacity/T)."

Lintang's endurance, pointing to his resilience with his intellectual abilities leading to learning autonomy as described above, is clearly depicted from the beginning of the novel, as in the sentence, "Innocent, but he has shown highly cognitive complex qualifications by developing techniques to localize difficulties, analyze, and solve them. Remember, he is only in the second grade, and this is his first day." Even as a new student, his ability/intelligence shines through his energy when socializing with his friends, as shown in the sentence, "When I caught up with Lintang in class, he shook my hand firmly, like a father-in-law accepting a marriage proposal. His excessive energy immediately transferred to me like an electric shock (C)." His adaptive ability is also clearly illustrated in the following sentence, "Even though he had little preparation for entering school, he was still enthusiastic about taking this opportunity to get an education (C)." These data show his resilience in schooling (resilience) supported not only by his intellectual abilities but also by his initiative, adaptability, and ownership of his own learning (self-learning autonomy).

Further linguistic evidence points to Lintang's commitment to his school tasks, as seen in the sentence, "Lintang often stays up late to finish his schoolwork, ensuring everything is perfect before submission," (Tenacity/T) showing his resilience in staying awake despite fatigue. This data also shows his grit through his continuous efforts to ensure his schoolwork is completed well (perfection). This is reinforced by linguistic data on the "capacity" aspect, "When working on problems, Lintang can concentrate fully for hours without being distracted by anything around him," (Capacity/C) depicting Lintang's ability to remain focused and fully concentrated, reinforcing his resilience in maintaining focus and dedication to his tasks. There is also linguistic data indicating strong memory, as seen in, "Lintang remembers every detail of the lessons taught, even things mentioned only briefly by the teacher," (Capacity/C). This sentence shows his ability to absorb and remember information effectively, supporting Lintang's grit in ensuring his schoolwork is completed well (perfection).

Moreover, Lintang's commitment to school is evident from, "Lintang never misses school, even during heavy rain; he always strives to attend and participate in lessons," (Tenacity/T) showing his determination (resilience) to keep learning regardless of difficult environmental conditions. This data is also supported by the description, "The burnt smell I detected earlier turned out to be the smell of worn-out sandals made from car tires, worn out because Lintang pedaled his bike too far," (Tenacity/T). The clause "Lintang pedaled his bike too far" depicts Lintang's relentless (grit) efforts to attend school.

Unveiling Lintang's Resilience and Grit in the Theme of "Efforts to Face and Overcome Obstacles and Challenges in Learning and Life"

This section outlines how Lintang uses his resilience and grit to overcome various challenges in his learning process and daily life. The sentence, "No matter how difficult the material is, Lintang always tries to understand and master it, even if it means studying longer than his friends," (Tenacity/T) shows Lintang's steadfastness in always trying to understand the lesson material, realizing his grit or willingness to strive to understand the lesson material. Lintang's attitude is reinforced by his extraordinary capacity, as seen in, "In a short time, Lintang can understand concepts he has never heard before, surprising his friends and teachers," (Capacity/C), "Lintang remembers every detail of the lessons taught, even things mentioned only briefly by the teacher (C)." In this case, Lintang's ability to learn quickly shows that he has the resilience to keep learning and adapt to new information efficiently, which is evidence of his high capacity. Lintang is also portrayed as a math prodigy in the following sentences, "Lintang can solve the most difficult math problems in minutes, something even the teachers cannot do (C)" and "Lintang not only memorizes formulas but also understands the concepts behind them very well (C)." Thus, Lintang's resilience and grit are not only based on his ability to endure (tenacity) but also supported by his extraordinary capacity (capacity), including adapting to new information efficiently.

Another example of Lintang's resilience and grit in facing difficulties is seen in, "Despite the many difficulties he faces, Lintang never gives up (resilience) and always finds ways to overcome every obstacle (grit) (Tenacity/T)." This linguistic data aligns with the following data, "Lintang never gives up when faced with difficult obstacles (resilience) but continues to find ways to overcome them (grit) with strong determination (Tenacity/T)." In this case, Lintang has the intellectual capacity to think analytically and critically, as seen in, "Lintang has a sharp analytical ability, able to see patterns and relationships not visible to others (Capacity/C)" supporting his resilience in deep and critical thinking, and strengthening his capacity to solve complex problems.

Lintang's persistence in facing and overcoming obstacles and challenges in learning, specifically in scientific projects, is depicted in, "Despite facing many obstacles in his science project, Lintang remains diligent and continues to work until the project is completed successfully (T)," showing his resilience and grit in completing the tasks he faces. Here, Lintang is also depicted as having good research capacity, "In the science project, Lintang shows extraordinary ability in conducting research and collecting accurate data."

Furthermore, regarding efforts to face and overcome obstacles in leadership, Lintang's perseverance in carrying out leadership duties shows the aspect of tenacity supported by his leadership capacity. "As class president, Lintang always shows perseverance in carrying out his duties, leading by example, and never giving up (resilience) in facing problems that arise (T)" highlights his dedication in carrying out his leadership role (grit). Additionally, his leadership capacity is depicted in, "Whenever Lintang speaks, everyone listens attentively, influenced by the logic and depth of his thoughts (C)" showing that his resilience is also evident in his ability to influence and lead others through mature and logical thinking.

Besides the examples above, Lintang's grit in facing economic limitations is also evident in the following narrative, "Lintang comes from a poor family, but he does not let that prevent him from continuing to learn and achieve," (Tenacity/T) highlighting his perseverance in facing financial difficulties. This is also supported by the following data, "what is more special, the person teaching me cannot even afford the required English

textbook (C)." This sentence clearly shows that Lintang perseveres through economic difficulties and still achieves.

Other linguistic data related to resilience and grit balanced with ability include aspects of creativity and problem-solving as in the narrative, "When everyone else is confused looking for a solution, Lintang calmly proposes a way that no one else had thought of (C)" showing his resilience in facing high-pressure situations and finding innovative solutions. His quick thinking and effective decision-making are outlined in, "Even in the most urgent situations, Lintang always thinks quickly and finds the right answer (C)," showing his resilience in urgent situations requiring the ability to remain calm and focused.

To complement the above data, in the quiz competition described in one of the chapters towards the end of the novel, it is clearly depicted how resilient and gritty Lintang is (enduring) and persistent (continuing to try) in striving for the best (achieving) until he is exhausted as described in the following sentence, "Meanwhile, at that grand mahogany table, Lintang was silent, exhausted, like someone carrying the entire burden of the school's reputation (T)." In this competition moment, it is very clear that his resilience and grit are equipped with his capable abilities, as depicted in, "While the other contestants were stunned and disheartened, Lintang answered immediately, even when they hadn't finished writing the question on the provided notepad (C)" showing his fast response in answering questions, and, "It was the right answer. Only he understood that. The rest of us could only be amazed and wondered how he managed to figure it out. But what was clear, he was able to do it (C)." Here, Lintang's extraordinary analytical ability shines through, adding a robust "capacity" aspect to his resilience and grit.

Unveiling Lintang's Resilience and Grit in the Theme of "Striving for Dreams"

This section highlights how Lintang demonstrates his resilience and grit in striving to achieve his dreams. Despite the many limitations and challenges he faces, Lintang never stops dreaming and making efforts to realize his ambitions. This resilience is shown in the sentence, "Lintang never gives up on his dreams of continuing education despite the many obstacles in front of him," (Tenacity/T) showing his resilience in striving to achieve his dreams.

Supporting this data, Lintang's passion for learning and willingness to make sacrifices are depicted in, "He is willing to travel long distances and endure various difficulties just to reach school," (Tenacity/T) showing his persistence and determination. Here, Lintang's resilience and grit are supported by his aspirations, as depicted in, "Lintang always envisions a bright future and strives to achieve it with hard work and dedication (C)," showing his strong capacity to dream and plan his future, enhancing his resilience and grit in achieving his dreams.

Revealing the Resilient and Persistent Character of Lintang through Linguistic Evidence of "Normality" Aspect

The aspect of normality in Lintang's physical appearance strengthens his resilient and gritty character. His plain physical appearance often becomes a reason for others to underestimate him, but Lintang proves them wrong through his perseverance and toughness. His plain physical appearance is clearly illustrated in the narrative, "With his always messy hair and often shabby clothes, Lintang looks like an ordinary village boy (Normality/N)" and "He has unkempt curly red hair and lives in a rundown wooden house with a thatched roof far away in the remote coastal area. (Normality/N)". This

point is supported by the sentence, "Many people think Lintang is not special because of his simple and often messy appearance (Normality/N)".

Nevertheless, Lintang never lets others' opinions bring him down. "People often underestimate him because of his skinny and short body, but Lintang always proves that he is more than meets the eye (Tenacity/T)." This is clear proof of Lintang's gritty character, who does not give up despite being underestimated. He shows resilience by overcoming physical challenges greater than those faced by other children, as depicted in the sentence, "With a body smaller than his friends, Lintang is still able to overcome obstacles greater than those faced by other children. (Tenacity/T and Capacity/C)."

Based on the above data, linguistic evidence pointing to the aspect of normality shows that although Lintang is often underestimated because of his appearance, he can still show resilience and grit in facing various obstacles and achieving success. In other words, his simple physical appearance often leads people to underestimate him, but this becomes Lintang's motivation to work harder and show his toughness in overcoming negative views and physical limitations. This analysis clearly shows his extraordinary resilience or toughness, both mentally and physically.

The findings of this study reveal that Lintang's character is intricately constructed through linguistic elements that highlight his tenacity, capacity, and normality. These elements collectively serve to present Lintang as a character who, despite his simple physical appearance and being frequently underestimated, demonstrates extraordinary resilience and grit. This conclusion is consistent with the principles outlined by Martin and White (2005), who argue that appraisal resources, particularly those related to judgment, play a crucial role in shaping readers' perceptions of characters. In this case, the use of SFL and appraisal theory is well-established in character analysis. According to Khrisna et al. (2017), the appraisal framework provides a robust method for analyzing how characters are portrayed through language, particularly in terms of their emotional and evaluative dimensions. In their study on the characterization of Santiago in "The Old Man and The Sea," they demonstrated how appraisal resources, such as judgment, contribute to building a character's resilience and strength. Similarly, Sari, Mahmudah, and Faisal (year) applied Martin and Rose's appraisal theory to analyze character attitudes in Andrei Aksana's novel "Angin Bersyair." Their findings highlighted how linguistic choices reveal characters' dispositions and responses to various situations, thus shaping readers' understanding and emotional connection to the characters.

Conclusion

This study, through the lens of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) and utilizing Martin and White's (2005) framework, examines how language is used to portray Lintang as a resilient and gritty character in the novel "Laskar Pelangi". By analyzing textual evidence from the novel, we identified and categorized instances of linguistic choices that contribute to the construction of Lintang's character.

Our analysis reveals that Lintang's character is intricately constructed through linguistic elements that highlight his tenacity, capacity, and normality. These elements enhance readers' perception of Lintang's resilience and grit. In "Laskar Pelangi", Lintang serves as a clear example of how resilience and grit, demonstrated through his ability to overcome obstacles and negative perceptions, can lead to achievements and aspirations. Despite being underestimated due to his simple appearance, Lintang not only surpasses

his physical limitations but also excels through intelligence, dedication to learning, and leadership skills.

Andrea Hirata portrays Lintang as a multifaceted character, depicting him with physical shortcomings that contrast sharply with his exceptional resilience and dedication. Lintang's resilience is reflected in his perseverance in facing challenges and his ability to withstand negative perceptions from others. Despite often being overlooked due to his unassuming appearance, Lintang never gives up on demonstrating his abilities and potential.

In summary, the complexity of Lintang's character extends beyond his simple appearance to encompass profound intellectual and emotional capacities, as well as inspiring perseverance. Through the interplay of resilience and grit, coupled with his ability to empower himself intellectually and emotionally, Lintang embarks on an inspirational journey towards success in "Laskar Pelangi".

Implications

Interpretation of the Moral Message in Lintang's Character Formation from Appraisal Analysis

Andrea Hirata portrays Lintang's exemplary character as embodying the proverb, "Where there is a will, there is a way." This proverb reflects the idea that with determination and perseverance, one can always find a way to achieve their goals. In this context, Lintang not only exemplifies a resilient and gritty character within the novel but also reinforces these values as a foundation for readers to pursue success through their own resilience and capabilities. Lintang stands as a concrete example that physical perfection is not a prerequisite for success; rather, having the resilience and grit to continuously strive for one's dreams is key. Hirata beautifully illustrates that true success is not merely about appearances but about the strength of character and the will to grow.

Moreover, Lintang's depiction as a reflection of life's duality is both logical and relevant. Despite his apparent physical shortcomings, such as a small stature and simple appearance, his character reveals that beneath these visible traits lies remarkable tenacity, perseverance, and intellectual capability. This teaches that true success does not depend solely on outward appearance but also on how we manage and optimize various aspects of our lives, both visible and hidden. This message encourages us to look beyond the surface and appreciate others for their character and potential. By valuing these dual aspects of life wisely, we can create an environment that fosters growth, success, and happiness for every individual.

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