

**Analyzing the Characteristics and Humorous Elements of  
Limerick Poetry: Limericks Created by Sixth Semester Students  
at Sriwijaya University**

**A Thesis By  
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LANGUAGE AND ARTS EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**



**FACULTY OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION  
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2024**

# APPROVAL

**ANALYZING THE CHARACTERISTICS AND HUMOROUS  
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BY SIXTH-SEMESTER STUDENTS AT SRIWIJAYA  
UNIVERSITY**

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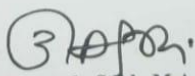
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# DECLARATION

## DECLARATION

I, the undersigned,

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Certify that the thesis entitled "Analyzing the Characteristics and Humorous Elements of Limerick Poetry: Limericks Created by Sixth Semester Students at Sriwijaya University" is my own work and I did not do any plagiarism or inappropriate quotation against the ethics and rules commended by the Ministry of Education of Republic of Indonesia Number 17, 2010 regarding plagiarism in higher education. Therefore, I deserve to face court if I am found to have plagiarized this work.

Indralaya, May 2024

The Undersigned



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## **THESIS DEDICATION**

This thesis is dedicated to:

My father, my mother, my little brother, and my best friends who are always giving support.

## **MOTTO**

*"Through patience and prayer, one can conquer mountains."*

- Abu Bakr

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06011182025004

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Indralaya, 21 May 2024  
The Writer



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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>APPROVAL</b> .....	<b>ii</b>
<b>COMMITTEE APPROVAL</b> .....	<b>iii</b>
<b>DECLARATION</b> .....	<b>iv</b>
<b>THESIS DEDICATION</b> .....	<b>v</b>
<b>MOTTO</b> .....	<b>vi</b>
<b>ACKNOWLEDGMENT</b> .....	<b>vii</b>
<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b> .....	<b>ix</b>
<b>LIST OF TABLES</b> .....	<b>xi</b>
<b>LIST OF APPENDICES</b> .....	<b>xii</b>
<b>ABSTRACT</b> .....	<b>xiii</b>
<b>CHAPTER I</b> .....	<b>1</b>
1.1 Background of the Study.....	1
1.2 The problems of the study.....	3
1.3 The objective of the study .....	3
1.4 The Significance of the Study .....	3
<b>CHAPTER II</b> .....	<b>5</b>
2.1 Poetry.....	5
2.1.1 Characteristics of Poetry .....	7
2.1.2 Element of Poetry.....	7
2.1.3 Forms of Poems .....	8
2.2 Limerick .....	10
2.3 Humour.....	11
2.3.1 The Function of Humour.....	12
2.3.2 Elements of Humour in Limerick .....	13
2.4 Previous Related Study .....	14
<b>CHAPTER III</b> .....	<b>16</b>
3.1 Research Design .....	16
3.2 Operational Definition.....	23
3.3 Site and Participants of the Study.....	23
3.4 The Technique of Collecting the Data .....	24
3.5 The Technique of Analyzing the Data.....	24
3.6 Provide the conclusion .....	26

<b>CHAPTER IV</b> .....	<b>28</b>
4.1    Research Findings .....	28
4.1.1    The Result of Documentation .....	28
4.1.2    The Result of Analyze Limerick Poetry.....	28
4.2    Discussion .....	62
<b>CHAPTER V</b> .....	<b>69</b>
5.1    Conclusion.....	69
5.2    Suggestion .....	69
<b>REFERENCES</b> .....	<b>71</b>
<b>APPENDICES</b> .....	<b>75</b>

## LIST OF TABLES

### CHAPTER II

<i>Table 3.1 Indicator Development Matrix to Assessment Aspect.....</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Table 3.2 Assessment Rubric for Characteristics of Limerick Poetry.....</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Table 3.3 Assessment Rubric for Elements of Humour in Limerick Poetry.....</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>Table 3.4 Description of Scoring for Characteristics of Limerick Poetry.....</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>Table 3.5 Description of Scoring for Elements of Humour in Limerick Poetry ...</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>Table 3.6 Description of Scores.....</i>	<i>27</i>

### CHAPTER IV

<i>Table 4.1 Description of Scores.....</i>	<i>29</i>
<i>Table 4.2 Description of Scoring for Characteristics of Limerick Poetry.....</i>	<i>30</i>
<i>Table 4.3 Description of Scoring for Characteristics of Limerick Poetry.....</i>	<i>31</i>
<i>Table 4.4 Description of Scoring for Characteristics of Limerick Poetry.....</i>	<i>32</i>
<i>Table 4.5 Description of Scoring for Characteristics of Limerick Poetry.....</i>	<i>33</i>
<i>Table 4.6 Description of Scoring for Characteristics of Limerick Poetry.....</i>	<i>34</i>
<i>Table 4.7 Description of Scoring for Characteristics of Limerick Poetry.....</i>	<i>35</i>
<i>Table 4.8 Description of Scoring for Characteristics of Limerick Poetry.....</i>	<i>37</i>
<i>Table 4.9 Description of Scoring for Characteristics of Limerick Poetry.....</i>	<i>38</i>
<i>Table 4.10 Description of Scoring for Characteristics of Limerick Poetry.....</i>	<i>39</i>
<i>Table 4.11 Description of Scoring for Characteristics of Limerick Poetry.....</i>	<i>40</i>
<i>Table 4.12 Description of Scoring for Characteristics of Limerick Poetry.....</i>	<i>41</i>
<i>Table 4.13 Description of Scoring for Characteristics of Limerick Poetry.....</i>	<i>42</i>
<i>Table 4.14 Description of Scoring for Characteristics of Limerick Poetry.....</i>	<i>42</i>
<i>Table 4.15 Description of Scoring for Characteristics of Limerick Poetry.....</i>	<i>43</i>
<i>Table 4.16 Description of Scoring for Characteristics of Limerick Poetry.....</i>	<i>44</i>
<i>Table 4.17 Description of Scoring for Characteristics of Limerick Poetry.....</i>	<i>46</i>
<i>Table 4.18 Description of Scoring for Elements of Humour in Limerick Poetry ..</i>	<i>47</i>
<i>Table 4.19 Description of Scoring for Elements of Humour in Limerick Poetry..</i>	<i>48</i>
<i>Table 4. 20 Description of Scoring for Elements of Humour in Limerick Poetry..</i>	<i>49</i>
<i>Table 4.21 Description of Scoring for Elements of Humour in Limerick Poetry..</i>	<i>50</i>
<i>Table 4.22 Description of Scoring for Elements of Humour in Limerick Poetry..</i>	<i>51</i>
<i>Table 4.23 Description of Scoring for Elements of Humour in Limerick Poetry..</i>	<i>52</i>
<i>Table 4.24 Description of Scoring for Elements of Humour in Limerick Poetry..</i>	<i>53</i>
<i>Table 4.25 Description of Scoring for Elements of Humour in Limerick Poetry..</i>	<i>53</i>
<i>Table 4.26 Description of Scoring for Elements of Humour in Limerick Poetry..</i>	<i>54</i>
<i>Table 4.27 Description of Scoring for Elements of Humour in Limerick Poetry..</i>	<i>55</i>
<i>Table 4.28 Description of Scoring for Elements of Humour in Limerick Poetry..</i>	<i>56</i>
<i>Table 4.29 Description of Scoring for Elements of Humour in Limerick Poetry..</i>	<i>57</i>
<i>Table 4.30 Description of Scoring for Elements of Humour in Limerick Poetry..</i>	<i>58</i>
<i>Table 4.31 Description of Scoring for Elements of Humour in Limerick Poetry..</i>	<i>59</i>
<i>Table 4.32 Description of Scoring for Elements of Humour in Limerick Poetry..</i>	<i>60</i>
<i>Table 4.33 Description of Scoring for Elements of Humour in Limerick Poetry..</i>	<i>60</i>
<i>Table 4.34 Description of Scoring for Elements of Humour in Limerick Poetry..</i>	<i>61</i>

## **LIST OF APPENDICES**

APPENDIX A Usul Judul Skripsi .....	76
APPENDIX B Surat Keterangan Pembimbing .....	77
APPENDIX C Surat Keterangan Izin Penelitian .....	79
APPENDIX D Thesis Consultation Card .....	80

## ABSTRACT

This study explores the characteristics and humorous elements (specifically jokes and anecdotes) in limerick poems created by Sriwijaya University's sixth-semester students. Employing a descriptive qualitative approach with content analysis within a case study design, the research leverages poetry assessment rubrics. The rubrics assess the characteristics and humour elements of jokes and anecdotes within the limericks. Content analysis is then used to examine these same elements. Stylistic analysis provides a deeper understanding of the poems' language use. The study involved 17 student-generated limericks. The findings revealed a consistent adherence to the traditional AABBA rhyme scheme and utilization of concise language for storytelling (often through anecdotes). The subject matter displayed a wide range. Interestingly, while the students demonstrated a grasp of limerick structure, the study suggests a need for more targeted instruction on crafting humour. Specifically, focusing on message development, originality, and wordplay could significantly enhance their limerick writing abilities.

**Keywords:** *Characteristics, Humour Element, Limerick Poetry*

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Poetry is a form of literary art that consists of a series of words carefully chosen to express feelings, ideas, or experiences with a particular style and rhythm. Poetry is a distinctive literary form with beautiful and meaningful word choices. Poetry is literature that evokes a concentrated imaginative awareness of experiencing a specific emotional response through language chosen and arranged for its meaning, sound, and rhythm (Nemerov, 2024). Poetry often uses language style and rhetoric to convey messages emotionally and artistically (Rachmadani, 2017). Each form has a specific structure and rules that govern its rhythm and rhyme patterns. Poetry often uses metaphor and symbolism to convey ideas and emotions in a more abstract and in-depth way (Faudillah et al., 2018). Poetry is an effective means of expressing feelings and emotions. Poetry writers can convey joy, sadness, love, confusion, and various other human feelings. Poetry provides space for the writer's imagination and creativity. Poets can create unique and enchanting poetic worlds (Fatahilah & Setiawan, 2022).

According to Tizhoosh (2008), poetry is a special kind of literature that is distinguished by the distinctive use of sound and the meanings of language to generate thoughts and emotions. Poetry is a strong unity between content and form. In general, poetry has several unique characteristics. First, poetry uses language creatively and meaningfully. The words used in poetry usually have double or even three meanings at once. This makes the poem more beautiful and strengthens its meaning. Apart from that, poetry also utilizes other elements, such as humour in limerick poetry. Limerick or humorous poetry is a short and funny type of musical poetry that is often embellished with nonsense or obscurity. This type of poetry was popularized in English by Edward Lear. A limerick poem consists of five lines. The first, second, and fifth lines should have seven to ten syllables. These lines should also rhyme and have the same rhythm as each other. The third and fourth lines

should have five to seven syllables. These lines should also rhyme and have the same rhythm as each other. Limerick poetry is known to follow the AABBA rhyming pattern.

The creative use of language in limerick poetry can expand the range of elements of humour contained in it. According to Suprana (2013: 19), humour is an event or situation that is entirely value-free. This means that humour is not absolutely related to the impression of being funny or always causing the impact of laughter. Humour is self-contained and independent. Furthermore, Suprana (2013: 20) explains that humour can give rise to an indescribable feeling of freshness, joy, and emotion when an event is aesthetic and contains the meaning of beauty. In Sulistyowati and Fauzan's (2019) research, humour is positioned as the use of language as a means of delivery. This research found that linguistic humour is very likely to be found in spoken poetry such as poetry. As a literary genre, limerick poetry is unique as a messenger. Humour in limerick poetry can be seen from its purpose. Thus, the language aspect of humour has a vital role in expressing the themes and intentions conveyed, especially in limerick poetry.

This research uses the research object Limericks Created by the Sixth Semester Students at Sriwijaya University as a novelty in research. The characteristics and elements of humour in this research represent the signs that appear in poetry through words or language. Limericks, a specific form of poetry with five lines adhering to the AABBA rhyme scheme (Nash, 2021), often rely on wordplay, puns, and unexpected twists to elicit amusement (Attridge, 2021). By analyzing the "signs" that appear within these student-created limericks – the words, language choices, and rhyme patterns – we can gain insight into the underlying humorous elements and their effectiveness within the form. These signs act as representations, hinting at the intended humour without explicitly stating it. A successful interpretation of the humour relies on understanding the conventions of limericks, including their brevity and reliance on wit. Ultimately, this analysis aims to decipher the humorous ideas embedded within these student-generated limericks by examining the signs employed by the writers.

In this case, the signs in poetry are analyzed based on the concepts of stylistics, semiotics, and hermeneutics. Stylistics reveals the characteristics and elements of humour in Limerick's poetry, which was created by the Sixth Semester Students at Sriwijaya University. Meanwhile, semiotics and hermeneutics are used as analytical tools in discussing the meaning and intent of poetry. Based on the background above, this research is entitled *"Analyzing the Characteristics and Humorous Elements of Limerick Poetry: Limericks Created by Sixth Semester Students at Sriwijaya University."*

### **1.2 The problems of the study**

Based on the background above, researchers can formulate problems in this study as follows,

1. What are the characteristics of Limerick Poetry created by sixth-semester students at Sriwijaya University?
2. What is the analysis of jokes and anecdotes in Limerick poetry created by sixth-semester students at Sriwijaya University?

### **1.3 The objective of the study**

From the background and the problems of the study, the objectives of the study are as follows,

1. To analyze the characteristics of Limerick Poetry created by sixth-semester students at Sriwijaya University.
2. To analyze the jokes and anecdotes in Limerick poetry created by sixth-semester students at Sriwijaya University

### **1.4 The Significance of the Study**

The study's relevance rests in its ability to make valuable contributions to both the theoretical and practical aspects of the subject of English literature. The potential advantages include gathering empirical data on the attributes and comedic elements of limerick poetry produced by other students at Sriwijaya University. This data will enhance the understanding of English literature, offering critical perspectives for the progress of the field and functioning as a significant resource



for academic scholars. However, the managerial advantages of this study can be seen in its ability to provide valuable information and serve as an additional resource for examining and understanding the variables being investigated. This study offers practical value for individuals interested in analyzing limerick poetry's characteristics and humorous elements. Hence, this research shows potential for enhancing both the academic and practical aspects of English literature.

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