

# LESSON 2

## PATTERNS AND MOTIFS: THE SECRETS BEHIND TIMELESS TALES

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## Path to Understanding

Stories and poems follow recognizable patterns that guide their flow, from a hero's introduction to their trials and eventual resolution. Motifs, or recurring themes, deepen the meaning of these narratives by highlighting important ideas like bravery, sacrifice, or destiny. By analyzing these elements, we uncover the timeless structures that make tales like *Ibong Adarna* and *Darangen* both memorable and meaningful.

Narrative poetry has a **structure** similar to a story.

**Patterns** are the building blocks of stories. They help the poem flow from one part to the next in an organized way. Every story or poem has a beginning (where the story starts), a middle (where challenges happen), and an end (where everything gets resolved).

### General Structure and Pattern

- **Beginning:** Introduction of hero, context, and the initial challenge. In "*Ibong Adarna*," we meet the king, the queen, and their three sons. The problem? The king is sick, and only the magical bird can heal him.
- **Middle:** A journey filled with trials, conflict, and displays of heroism. For instance, Don Juan's journey across valleys and mountains shows the trials he faces to find the *Adarna*.
- **End:** Resolution through triumph, often involving love, transformation, or redemption. For example, Don Juan succeeds, we see how his kindness and courage helped him.

A **motif** is an idea or theme that keeps appearing in a story. It's like a guiding light that helps us understand what the story is really about.

Example:

In *Ibong Adarna*, bravery is a major motif. Don Juan faces dangerous trials, but his courage helps him succeed. Another motif is sacrifice—Don Juan sacrifices his comfort and safety to save his family.



### Extend Your Learning!

Echoes of the *Darangen*: Understanding Heroism in Maranao Culture

Carefully read the excerpt from the Maranao epic *Darangen* provided. Pay attention to repeated themes, symbols, and ideas. Afterwards, do the task that follows.

"*Darangen*" is an epic poem from the Maranao people of the Philippines, known for its rich narrative and cultural significance. Here is an excerpt highlighting essential events from the journey depicted in the epic:

#### Key Concept Unveiled!

The *Sarimanok* is a legendary bird in Maranao culture, symbolizing wealth, prestige, and good fortune. It is often depicted as a colorful, bird-like figure with elaborate decorations and is associated with the Islamic and pre-Islamic traditions of the Maranao people of Mindanao, Philippines. The *Sarimanok* plays a central role in their art and folklore, embodying the Maranao's rich heritage and artistic expression.



In the beautiful land of Mindanao, where rivers sang songs and mountains touched the sky, there lived a brave hero named Bantugan. He was no ordinary man—he was strong, kind, and full of courage. Bantugan came from the kingdom of Pagayawan, ruled by his older brother, King Madali. The kingdom was peaceful and happy under Madali's leadership<sup>1</sup>, but trouble was brewing<sup>2</sup> beyond its borders. Bantugan had special weapons that made him even more potent. His shield, called Taming, could block any attack, and his spear<sup>3</sup>, Kamayong, always hit its target. But what made him truly special was his big heart and his love for his people.

One day, Bantugan fell in love with Princess Datimbang, a kind and beautiful woman. They promised to be together forever, but before they could marry, danger struck<sup>4</sup>. An enemy kingdom attacked Pagayawan, and Bantugan went to fight to protect his home. While he was away, someone jealous of him spread lies about him to King Madali. Believing these lies, Madali banished Bantugan from the kingdom.

Heartbroken but determined, Bantugan left Pagayawan and began a long journey. Along the way, he faced many challenges—wild animals, dangerous paths, and evil sorcerers<sup>5</sup>. But he never gave up. During his travels, magical spirits gave him a unique cape that let him fly. People started calling him the “Winged Warrior” because of this fantastic gift. Bantugan became famous for helping others. In one adventure, he saved a kingdom from a giant dragon that breathed fire. After defeating the dragon, the people wanted to reward him with gold and titles, but Bantugan refused. His heart was still set on returning home.

Years later, news reached Bantugan that Pagayawan was in trouble again. A vast<sup>6</sup> army was attacking the kingdom. Without hesitation<sup>7</sup>, Bantugan flew back to help. With his shield and spear, he led the fight against the invaders<sup>8</sup>. His bravery inspired everyone, and together, they drove the enemies away. After the battle, Bantugan met King Madali. Instead of being angry, he forgave his brother. Madali realized his mistake and welcomed Bantugan back with open arms. Finally, Bantugan reunited<sup>9</sup> with Princess Datimbang, and they got married in a joyful celebration.

Bantugan's story teaches us important lessons about courage, forgiveness, and staying true to yourself. Even when things get tough<sup>10</sup>, we can rise above them and make things right. That's why people still tell the story of Bantugan today—it reminds us of the power of hope and kindness.



### Word Wizard – Power Up Your Vocabulary

<sup>1</sup>**Leadership** – The ability to guide and influence individuals or groups.

<sup>2</sup>**Brewing** – The process of preparing a liquid, typically a beverage such as beer or tea.

<sup>3</sup>**Spear** – A long, pointed weapon used for thrusting or throwing.

**Struck** – The past tense of "strike," meaning to hit forcefully.

<sup>5</sup>**Sorcerers** – They are typically associated with wizardry, enchantments, or mystical powers.

<sup>6</sup>**Vast** – Extremely large in size, extent, or quantity.

<sup>7</sup>**Hesitation** – A pause or delay in speech, action, or decision-making due to uncertainty.

<sup>8</sup>**Invaders** – People or forces that enter a place, territory, or country aggressively.

<sup>9</sup>**Reunited** – Brought back together after being separated.

<sup>10</sup>**Tough** – Strong, durable, or resilient, both physically and mentally.

**Task:** Answer the questions below to identify patterns and motifs in the story.

### **Part 1: Patterns and Themes**

#### **Repeated Actions or Events**

- What events or actions happen multiple times in the story? (For 2 points, Identifies at least two repeated events.)
- Why do you think these actions are essential in the story? (3 points)

#### **Themes**

- What themes or big ideas (e.g., love, bravery, loyalty) did you notice in the story? (For 2 points, Identifies at least two key themes.)
- How are these themes connected to the characters' actions? (3 points)

### **Part 2: Motifs and Symbols**

#### **Recurring Symbols**

- What objects, words, or natural elements appeared multiple times in the story? (2 points)
- What do you think these symbols represent? (3 points)

#### **Cultural Connections**

How do these motifs and patterns reflect Maranao culture and values? (5 points)