

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter reviews the general outlines of present study. It begins with background of the study, statement of problem, research question, purpose of research, and significance of research.

A. Background of Problem

Linguistics is the scientific inquiry into the human language with all its aspects. Therefore the language can be defined as a highly elaborated signaling system (Ispen, 1998-1999: 10-11). Sign is studied in semiotic. In a semiotic sense, signs take the forms of words, images, sounds, gestures and objects. According to Dadan Rusmana (2004: 29) there are some principles of sign explained by famous semiotic figures:

Ferdinand de Saussure makes a statement that sign has an object as its reference. He divides sign into signifier and signified. Signifier is a material sign, e.g. sounds, objects, imagines, etc. Whereas signified is a meaning which is produced by a sign.

The other famous semiotican is Charles Sanders Pierce, he divides sign into three kinds. There are icon, index, and symbol. Icon is relation between representatives and object whom the representative has resemblance with. For examples, statue of Soekarno is icon of the real Soekarno, imitative of bird's sound refers to the bird. Index is relation between representative and object, the existence of which is caused by the base and its object. For examples, smoke is index of fire, the smell of burnt flesh is index of sate. Symbol is relation between representatives and object formed

due to the convention. This relation is arbitrary. For example, three colors in traffic lamp; red lamp refers to stop, yellow refers to careful, and green refers to move on, Morse code with combination of long and short sound refers to each word.

Symbol cannot be separated from sign, because the symbol makes up a part of sign. Firstly, symbol and sign should be distinguished; symbol and object are arbitrary. Symbol can appear in everywhere and every time, including in a movie. Some people watch a movie just for an entertainment.

“Language is a system of signs that express ideas, and is therefore comparable to a system of writing, the alphabet of deaf – mutes, symbolic rites, polite formulas, military signal, etc. but is the most important of all these systems.” (Saussure, 1983: 15)

His statement shows us that something hidden from a movie may be able to get from a language or a conversation and dialogue in a movie. About other explanation of language definition, Wardaugh also says:

“Language is a system of arbitrary vocal symbols used for human communication” (Wardaugh, 1977: 3).

From that quotation above, it means that language is used for communication. Language allows people to say things to each other and express their communicative needs.

Since Saussure said that language may be as symbolic rites, so, Hawthorn states, “In talking about symbol, what is called symbol consist of two things: Those are the symbol itself and the meaning or referring which is directed by the symbol” (Hawthorn, 1985:62). Moreover, Pierce in Dadan Rusmana states that a sign or a symbol had two basic principal aspects. First is representative and second is interpretative. Representative is that symbol is something that represents or substitutes something else, while interpretative is a situation

where symbol gives a chance to the reader for interpreting another meaning besides the meaning of the words itself. (Rusmana, 2004: 50).

Roland Barthes also makes a statement that in the symbol the representation is analogical and inadequate (Barthes, 1964: 22). However, in talking about sign or symbol Barthes also developed the Saussure's theory about signifier, signified, and sign. He completed the idea of Saussure by idea of Hjelmslev. Hjelmslev formulated signification as *relation (R)* between *expression (E)* and *content (C)*. It is not different from the idea of Saussure because expression is similar to signifier and content is similar to signified. This concept is the development of the *relation (R)* between *expression (E)* and *content (C)*. From that concept Barthes introduces about denotative semiotic (first order) and connotative semiotic (second order). The first semiotic system is linguistic system and the second is semiotic system known as mythical system.

Every object can be a myth; Icons, symbols, movies, songs, stories, etc. the writer choose the movie as the object of myth. Movie is a communication which appears as a part as people's culture. There are a lot of movie's genres; horror, thriller, drama, action, heroic, etc that people can find easily in present time. The writer chooses *Superman Returns*, it is heroic genre and will be made as object research. This genre has heroism message which can be used as private establishment like a hero who defends the truth and uphold justice.

Generally the audiences don't want to know something else like symbol or myth or ideology which is hidden in the *Superman Returns* movie. Here, the writer wants to know how important the use of a symbol in a movie is, because the use of a symbol in a movie is inevitably. Many audiences usually just enjoy the plot. They are

just interested to the heroism, characters, love story, the used technology and how the story ends.

Audiences assume that there are no other things like ideology meaning, irony, satire, conspiracy, symbol, hidden message and of course about myth that they can find if they watch it carefully. Thus, here the writer tries to find out the denotation and connotation in a symbol and what kind of myth is represented in the movie. For that, the writer chooses a script by Bryan Singer, *Superman Returns*. According to Barthes myth is a type of speech. Myth is the way to communicate but it is non verbal communication. However, myth is a unique system because it is second semiotic system (Barthes, 1964: 107).

The script is chosen by the writer because after the first reading, the writer knows that there are lots of things which can be made as a symbol and myth. Like Superman which has resemblance with Jesus. For example:

Jhor-El :

*Even though you've been
raised as a human being...*

...you are not one of them.

They can be a great people, Kal-El.

They wish to be.

*They only lack the light
to show the way*

*For this reason above all,
their capacity for good...*

...I have sent them you...

...my only son.

From the explanation above the writer can see there is the myth in monolog, Jhor-El is representative as god who speaks to Superman which resemble Jesus.

Roland Barthes also makes statement (Rusmana, 2004: 119), myth is not the reality unreasonable or unspeakable, but myth is a system of communication or a message whose function is to give the truth about dominant values prevailed in a given period. Myth in so important discourse form shows that a message is not only an object, but how to tell its message (model of speech).

The research that is related to myth has also been carried out by Devi Astriyani Nur Atni, (UIN-2011) with his research entitled *Mythical System of English Kings' and Queens' Sobriquets*. She analyzed the myth of the sobriquets given to Kings and Queens in England based on their characteristic by using Barthes' Theory.

This research is different from Devi's researched, even though using the same theory but the data are different. The writer takes the script dialogue of film to find the myth in Bryan Singer's Script of *Superman Returns*.

B. Problem Statement

Based on the background above this study is about an investigation into the symbol S and myth in the movie entitled *Superman Returns*. Myth occurs when people have their own interpretation on things that often appears around us, of course include in a movie. In fact, some people do not care about it. They think movie is just

for an entertainment. In *Superman Returns* there are some hidden messages of a reality. So, this analysis focuses on symbol and myth in *Superman Returns*.

C. Research Questions

Based on the problem of statement above, there are things that can be made as problems in this analysis. Both problems can be stated as:

1. What is denotation and connotation of symbol S in *Superman Returns*?
2. What is the myth in *Superman* in relation to the symbol S in *Superman Returns*?

D. Purpose and Significance of Research

1. Purposes of Research

According to the statement of problem above, so the purposes of this research are:

- a. To find out the denotation and connotation of symbol S in *Superman Returns*.
- b. To find out the myth in *Superman*.

Furthermore, it is purposed to develop a study of symbol and to add the knowledge of the writer in understanding and analyzing a symbol in a movie.

2. Significance of Research

1. Increasing the knowledge and insights for writers and readers;
2. Giving the contribution of knowledge that can increase insight into the reader related to the symbol and myth;
3. This study provides insights for language learners to learn the relationship between semiotic and linguistic;
4. This study follows up the result of previous studies on the subject and contributes to the development of semiotics, and English linguistics in general.



E. Organizing Paper

The paper consists of five chapters and it will be described as follows:

Chapter I: The first chapter is Introduction, which consisting of Background of problem, Statement of problem, Purpose and significance of research, Conceptual framework, Organization of writing, and Procedure of research. The Procedure of research is consisting of research method, data, data resources, technique of collecting data, and technique of analyzing data.

Chapter II : The second chapter is theoretical foundation. This chapter consists of semiotic, myth, signification theories by Roland Barthes and the implementation of signification theory into the movie.

Chapter III : The third chapter is methodology of research. This chapter consists of method of research, object of the research, source of data, technique of collecting data, and technique of analyzing data.

Chapter IV : The fourth chapter is data analysis. This chapter discusses the data and the analysis from the notes which is the results of observations of dialogues from film that researcher do in this research.

Chapter V : The last chapter is Conclusions and Suggestions, consist of conclusions from the analysis in the third chapter, and suggestion from the writer for them who will make another literary analysis as the writer did.