

ABSTRACT

Cecep Saepudin, 200101384: Death Symbols on Dylan Thomas' Poems: Heuristic and Hermeneutic Analysis

Dalam sejarah perkembangannya, puisi telah menjadi bagian dari sisi kehidupan manusia yang mampu menjembatani antara dunia realitas dan dunia khayalan. Tak disangka dalam dunia khayalan ini, karya sastra khususnya puisi mampu berperan sangat besar dalam membangkitkan semangat berkarya masyarakat. Dalam puisi setiap orang boleh mengeluarkan segala macam ide, gagasan secara lugas atau kiasan. Symbol yang menjadi tema sentral (focus) dari penelitian ini termasuk dalam konvensi kiasan. Karena bersifat kiasan atau konotasi, symbol harus ditemukan dan ditelaah agar mampu menyentuh lebih jauh makna sebuah puisi. Untuk mencari symbol tersebut, penulis menggunakan metode analisis deskriptif dengan mengacu pada pendekatan structuralism-semiotic. Metode tersebut adalah metode pembacaan heuristic dan pembacaan hermeneutic yang diharapkan mampu mencari dan membongkar makna symbol dan keterkaitan symbol tersebut terhadap keseluruhan puisi.

Metode heuristic adalah memasukan kata yang tepat diantara kata-kata dalam puisi. Dengan kata lain, metode heuristic mencoba memparafrasekan puisi agar lebih mudah difahami. Setelah itu kata-kata tersebut diberi penjelasan yang lebih dalam melalui metode hermeneutik yang mencari kemungkinan tafsiran lain yang disesuaikan dengan kebutuhan penelitian ini. Kedua metode itu diterapkan ke sepuluh puisi Dylan Thomas dalam *Collected Poems: 1934-1952*, yang menjadi objek dalam penelitian ini, yaitu: *I dreamed my genesis*, *Now*, *The tombstone told when she died*, *The conversation of the prayer*, *A refusal to mourn the death, by fire, of a child in London*, *This side of the truth*, *Do not go gentle into that good night*, *Death shall have no dominion*, *Deaths and entrances* dan *Elegy*. Dalam kesepuluh puisi tersebut, ia telah menyisipkan banyak sekali pencitraan (*image*) yang berhubungan dengan symbol-simbol kematian yang harus diungkap. Dalam memahami apakah sebuah *image* dapat dimasukan menjadi symbol penulis menggunakan teori Pierce dan Frye yang menengahkan symbol sebagai sebuah *image* yang mewakili ide abstrak dan arbitrary sesuai dengan konvensi puisi.

Symbol-simbol kematian yang ada dalam puisi-puisi Dylan Thomas merupakan sebuah kekuatan dalam memahami jalan cerita puisi-puisi tersebut. Dalam puisi *I Dreamed My Genesis*, *Death and Entrance*, *Do not go gentle into that good night* and *Elegy*, penyair menggunakan *image* "night" sebagai symbol perlawanan agar tidak terlalu pasrah menghadapi kematian. Symbol-simbol lain yang muncul adalah dust, grave, sea, bone, tears, stairs, ghost, grass, land, snow, fire and blood. Symbol-simbol itu jelas telah menambah suasana kesedihan atas kematian yang terjadi dalam puisi-puisi Dylan Thomas.

Pencitraan-pencitraan ini membantu sang penyair dalam membuat pernyataan-pernyataan sebagai konsep hidup yang dituangkan dalam kesepuluh puisi tersebut. "now say nay, sir no say, death to the yes" in *Now*, "do not go gentle into that good night" and "rage, rage against the dying of the light" in *Do*

Not Go Gentle into that Good Night, “death shall have no dominion” in *Death Shall Have no Dominion*, “until I die he will not leave my side” in *Elegy* and so on. Kesimpulan-kesimpulan ini tentu akan dengan mudah diketahui melalui metode pembacaan heuristic dan hermeneutic yang menekankan pembacaan secara menyeluruh guna mendapatkan symbol-simbol yang diinginkan yang dengan jelas tersembunyi dalam kata-kata. Terakhir, metoda analisis ini memungkinkan pencarian segala bentuk tanda atau unsur-unsur yang ada dalam konvensi sastra dalam setiap karya sastra, khususnya puisi



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In the history of poetry's development, poetry has become a part of human life that could be a bridge between reality and imaginary world. In this imaginary world, a work of art especially poetry has a great role in improving human's creativity. In poetry every body may express all his ideas, opinions, feeling, and emotion in denotation or connotation's way. Because words in poetry should be simple, rich and beautiful, many poets put connotative images in their poems. Symbol which is a central theme of this research included in figurative convention. Because symbol is always connotative then it should be found and recovered to reach the meaning of the poem. Therefore, this present study uses descriptive analysis which refers to structuralism-semiotic approach. It is a text analysis based on heuristic and hermeneutic analysis.

Heuristic analysis is structural analysis focus on the structure of the text. Heuristic analysis is to put appropriate words among words in order to get totality in meaning. This analysis is to paraphrase a poem so it could be understandable. Then, those words are given brief explanation through hermeneutic analysis which looks another possible meaning that is suitable for this research. Those two analyses are practiced to ten poems of Dylan Thomas, *Collected Poems: 1934-1952*, which becomes an object of this research. Those ten poems are *I dreamed my genesis*, *Now*, *And death shall have no dominion*, *The tombstone told when she died*, *The conversation of prayers*, *A refusal to mourn the death, by fire, of a child in London*, *This side of truth*, *Deaths and Entrances*, *Do not go gentle into that good night and Elegy*. Through these poems, the poet put many images relate to symbol of death. In understanding how an image becomes a symbol, Pierce and Frye's theory are presented here. They said a symbol is an image that represents abstract idea and arbitrary based on poetry convention. Symbol is simply an image that appears continuously in a work of art.

Death' symbols in Thomas' poems are a power to understand the whole poems. In *I dreamed my genesis*, *Deaths and Entrances*, *Do not go gentle into that good night* and *Elegy*, the poet use an image of night as a symbol of death. Night is something that should be struggled and faced without being calm. Another death symbols are dust, grave, sea, bone, stairs, ghost, grass, land, snow, fire and blood. Obviously, these symbols strengthen the atmosphere of death in the poems.

Those symbols also help the poet in making statements as the concept of his life. The statements are "now say nay, sir no say, death to the yes" (*Now*), "do not go gentle into that good night" (*Do Not Go Gentle into that Good Night*), "until I die he will not leave my side" (*Elegy*) and so on. And these statements would be understandable through heuristic and hermeneutic analysis. So this analysis method provides spacious scope particularly for student of letter department who want to make a research about sign and its variants or any elements of literary convention in any work of art.