

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter deals with the background of research, statements of problem, purposes and significances of research, and organization of writing.

A. Background of Research

Human's life consists of many signs, including human's work such as, culture, custom, rule, and moral. Besides, society's phenomenon can be recognized as a sign. Pierce argues, "Sign is something which stands to somebody for something in some respects or capacity." As it will be seen, a sign can stand for something else to somebody only because this 'standing for' relation is immediated by interpretant (Eco, 1979: 15).

Pierce also divides three classes of signs based on the relation between sign and its reference; an icon, an index, and a symbol. (1) An icon functions as a sign by means of inherent similarities, or shared features, with what it signifies examples are the similarity of portrait to the person it depicts, or the similarity of a map to the geographical area it stands for. (2) An index is a sign, which bears a natural relation of cause or effect to what it signifies; thus, smoke is a sign indicating fire, and pointing weathervane indicates the direction of the wind. (3) A symbol is anything, which signifies something; in this sense, all words are symbols (Abrams, 1985: 206).

In the symbol (or in a less ambiguous term, the “sign proper”), the relation between the signifying item and what it signifies is not a natural one, but entirely a matter of social convention. The gesture of shaking hands, for example, in some cultures is a conventional sign of greeting or parting, and red traffic light conventionally signifies “Stop!” The major and most complex examples of this third type of purely conventional sign, however, are the words that constitute a language (Abrams, 1985: 275-276). From those three classes of signs, symbol is the most superior because it has a function of thought, imagination, and sense (Burhan Nurgiyantoro, 1998: 42).

Symbol can be found in human’s daily-life, besides it can be found in literature. Literature is written works such as fiction, poetry, drama and criticism that are recognized as having important or permanent artistic value. Besides, literature is a creation, and not an imitation (Dick Hartoko 1982:5).

In discussing literature, the term symbol applies only to word or phrase that signifies an object or event, which in its turn signifies something, or has a range of reference; beyond itself (Abrams, 1985: 206). Symbol can represent an object, idea, or a relationship. It can symbolize anything depends on the context of the text. Symbol may represent the relationship between man and nature. Man is an adult male human being. As a human being, a man cannot stand-alone. On the other words, he needs a relationship with the others, such as with the other human, even with nature.

Nature is the physical world including all natural phenomena and living things. In broad sense, nature is the entire universe, including human society. In a

narrow sense, it is often juxtaposed with human society through it actually refers simply to the world excluding human society. Therefore, as far as space is concerned, human society is up to now far of the earth, which is extremely small, whereas nature includes the earth and the immense universe outside of earth, which is boundless (Gaspari, Antonio 2008, in www.zenit.org/article-23370?l).

Based on the background above, the researcher is interested to analyze the symbols in Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea* that related with the point of the relationship between man and nature in a narrow sense, in which it is often juxtaposed with human society through it actually refers simply to the world excluding human society.

The reason of choosing this problem is the novel entitled *The Old Man and the Sea*; there are many symbols contained within. First, from the title itself "The old Man" and "the Sea" are two separated distinctions that have no natural relationship at all. Therefore, the title itself must be a symbol. The intrinsic elements like the characters and the setting are also the symbols of the novel. The characters of an old man; Santiago and setting as the natural things like the sea. Finally, for that reason, this research entitled "**Symbol of the Relationship between Man and Nature in Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea***".

B. Statement of Problem

The main problem of this research is the analysis of symbol in Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea* that represents the relationship between

man and nature through the relevant theory by Northrop Frye. Therefore, the problem of this research is formulated into some questions:

1. What category of symbols, which is used as the representation of the relationship between man and nature in Ernest Hemingway,'s *The Old Man and the Sea*?
2. Based on Frye's theory, in which phase are symbols of the relationship between man and nature included?
3. What is the relationship between man and nature through the representation of symbols in Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*?

C. Purpose and Significance of Research

1. The purposes of this research are:
 - a. To identify category of symbols used as the representation of the relationship between man and nature in Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*.
 - b. To find out the phase of symbols of the relationship between man and nature presented based on Frye's theory.
 - c. To know the relationship between man and nature through the representation of symbols in Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*.

2. Significance

The significance of this research, for the researcher, is a challenge in improving the comprehension of literary study and also this research gives new

understanding about the symbol in literature because the researcher is interested to symbol. Academically, this research is directed to the students of literary subject or the reader generally, and literary society especially, for further analysis. Furthermore, this research is a reference for those who are interested in enriching the literary knowledge.

D. Organization of Writing

This graduating paper is divided into five chapters. The first chapter is introduction. This chapter deals with the background of research, statements of problem, purposes and significances of research, and organization of writing. The second chapter is literary review. This chapter reviews theories underlying and supporting the research including: a) the theories of symbol include; general theory of symbols and Frye's theory of symbol, b) the description of the object, *The Old Man and the Sea* include; biographical sketch of Ernest Hemingway, about *The Old Man and the Sea* and synopsis of *The Old Man and the Sea*. Third chapter is methodology. This chapter elaborates methodology of this research. It begins with the method of research, the data, and sources of data, the technique of collecting data, and ends with the technique of analyzing data. The fourth chapter provides data representation and discussion based on Frye's theory of symbol. The fifth chapter is conclusion and suggestion. This final chapter provides the conclusion of the whole analysis and suggestion for better understanding.