

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents with the background of research, statement of problem, research objective, research significance and definition of key terms.

1.1 Background

Each sign requires interpretation to determine the meaning contained therein.

There are many signs that can be found in the life of the world. Like the red color on the traffic light means stop. The word symbol means that every unit in this case is a structure of words of the literary works that related to the literary study.

Furthermore, sign aspect and textual facts will be compared, contrasted and connected to build a structure, which can be understood by the reader.

There are three classes distinct of signs; these are defined in terms of kind relation between the signifying item and which it signifies those are an icon, an index, and a symbol (Alex Sobur, 42). An icon functions as a sign by means of inherent similarities, or shared features with what it signifies, like the similarity of portrait to the person it depicts, or the similarity of a map to the geographical area it stands for. 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 weather vane indicates the direction of the wind. A symbol is anything, which signifies something; in this sense, all words are symbols (Abrams, 206). Then, the symbol here is used for media of this research in literature.

Symbol, is one of subdivisions of sign, and Barthes says in Rusmana that signification of sign is a process of composite signifier and signified which produce a sign, and the original characteristic of sign is connotation, which is a connotative meaning which characterized in general meaning, like a symbol, which Frye said in this case (99).

Symbol is a person, an object, an event, that represents a more general quality or situation. Symbol is sign, mark, object, and so on that looked upon as representing something (Hornby, 876). In discussing literature, the term symbol applies only to word, phrase and sentence that signify an object or event, which in its turn signifies something, or has a range of reference; beyond it (Abrams, 311). In literary works can be found the use of a concrete image of symbol to express an emotion or abstract ideas. The symbol carries various ideas, associations, forms of significance that in ordinary life it might not have in people's mind (Hawthorn, 62).

The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants is one of Ann Brashares's novel which blending of symbolic representation, here the researcher would like to use as the theory of ethical criticism consists of the systemization of literary symbolism, it follows that other word must be used to classify the different types of symbolism (Frye, 71). Ann Brashares's was the famous novelist with female character's stories. Ann Brashares's *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants*, the symbol from this novel is pants, which is used of four female characters in different places.

There are some research which explored the topic of symbol, such as by Shandi (2008), Lilis (2009) and Sandi (2006). Sandi had focused with him analyzed *Symbol of Evil in William Golding's Lord of the Flies*, he analyzed because Golding puts some symbol of evil to build this story to make the reader interested and Lilis had analyzed *The Symbol of Struggle of Life in Ted Hughes' Poems*, she analyzed the symbols of struggle of life and their meaning in Ted Hughes' Poems do indeed exist. Ted Hughes uses symbols that connect with a struggle of sustain life. Here exists as well the relationship between representant, object, interpretant, and the symbols of struggle of life in Ted Hughes' Poems through Pierce's theory. The last Sandi had analyzed *Mytical Symbol on the Davinci Code*. He describes and identifies kinds of mythical symbols in the novel. He chategorizes those mythical symbols into three kinds such as mythical symbol on the works of Leonardo Da Vinci's, religius symbol and historical building. From the previous study above, the researcher focused on outward and inward phases of symbolism in Northrop Frye's theory. This theory implied the discussion on symbol as a grand theory.

The differences between this present reseach, Sandi with him research, he analyzed symbol of evil with the same theory of Northrop Frye's theory in *William Golding's Lord of the Flies*. Lilis had analyzed *The Symbol of Struggle of Life in Ted Hughes' Poems*, here Lilis used with Pierce's theory. The last Sandi had analyzed *Mytical Symbol on the Davinci Code*. He describes and identifies kinds of mythical symbols in the novel.

1.2 Statement of Problem

The symbol of pants in *The Sisterhood of the Travelling Pants* by Ann Brashares has become an interesting point in this paper. Based on the background of problems above, symbol in literary works needs re-interpretation by understanding the world means the symbol here made reference to the pants which is used of human being. Here then the researcher attempts to depict the symbolization on the novel; especially the outward and inward phases of symbolism which parts of Frye's theory. So, the problems can be formulated into following questions:

1. How can pants become the outward phase of symbolism based on Frye's theory?
2. How can pants become the inward phase of symbolism based on Frye's theory?

1.3 Research Objective

Based on formulation above, the purposes of this research are:

1. To know the outward phase of pants based on Frye's theory
2. To know the inward phase of pants based on Frye's theory

1.4 Research Significance

The significance of this research can be source of information about symbolic thought related to pants as a symbol. This research is significant in terms of

challenge in literary study of the symbolic thought to the literary work.

Furthermore, this research is a reference to those who are interested to this research, or who are excited in reading this novel.

1.5 Definition of Key Terms

1. Outward: Centrifugally, when our attention focuses centrifugally we think of the things the words mean, to our memory of their associations. Verbal elements connecting centrifugally are referred to as 'signs'.

2. Inward: Centripetally, when we focus centripetally we develop a sense of the larger verbal pattern the words make. The centripetal verbal structure is referred to as 'motifs'.

3. Symbol: Connected to something being object. Relationship between symbol and object is arbitrary, but relationship between sign and reference is not. Symbol is also a kind of signs, but not all signs can be said as a symbol

4. Pants: A piece of clothing that covers from waist to feet and has a separate part for each leg.



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