

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of an initial description related to the analysis of depression of the main character in the film *The King's Speech* through Semiotics analysis. It includes research background, statement of the problem, research purposes, research significance, conceptual framework, previous studies, and definition of key terms.

1.1 Research Background

Depression is a state in which someone is feeling sad, down, grumpy, or irritable for an extended period of time and interferes with normal life. Depression is a mental health problem that today. This is very important because people's depression will decrease productivity and the consequences are very bad for a society or country that is building (Jamil, 2019). A depressed person has difficulties with daily activities and normal life functions. It can be painful for both the person experiencing it and a person watching them. A person's depression can be caused by a variety of factors, including family, environment, economy, and finances. A person who is depressed can be identified by several signs that appear indirectly through the person's pronunciation or behavior, such as what they want to utter or do on their behavior that they intended to give an indirect indication that they have something that causes them to be depressed.

According to Aaron Beck, "Depression-prone individuals have deep level knowledge structure – depressive schemas – that cause these individuals to see themselves and the world in pervasively negative terms. Depressive schemas are thought to be relatively long-lasting structures that, when activated, produced consciously accessible depressive thinking (automatic thoughts). It is empirically proven that depressed people have relatively negative outlooks (Rude et al., 2004).

The signs indicated by people experiencing depression differ and can

be seen in their speech and their word choices because depression affects how you speak and the words you choose to use, this is known as a language of depression, and it is possible to spot the signs of depression that appear in our speech. The words we use to describe the content of what we are expressing contain some clues to signs of depression. People who are depressed use more negative adjectives and adverbs; because depressed people are constantly thinking negative thoughts, these words will naturally appear in their speech as a sign.

Semiotic is the study of the signs that exist in human life. According to the Great Dictionary of Indonesian, the meaning given to a form of language is meaning. Three elements must be included in the study of meaning: signs, directional arrows, and user arrows (Hamid, 1990). A physical sign is something that can be perceived or sensed. The interpretation of a sign is heavily reliant on the perpetrator's use and understanding of that meaning. As a means-over, the sign indicated can be felt with various aspects. A sign can be shown and understood by using a word, sentence, gesture, expression, behavior, and so on, conveyed by the conveyer of meaning who, in general, has the same understanding. A sign depicted to be submitted can be a way of conveying the physical or emotional state of the meaning conveyer. Words, sentences, gestures, and expressions can all be used to convey or indict signs describing the physical and emotional state conveying meaning.

In semiotics, two models are commonly used to study the meaning of a sign: a dyadic model proposed by Ferdinand de Saussure and a triadic model proposed by Charles Sanders Peirce. Ferdinand de Saussure introduced the first model, a dyadic model. According to Saussure, a sign contained in a network can be arranged into a structure but cannot be separated from the signifier and signified. The relationship between signifier and signified is also known as an arbitrary relationship in Saussure theory, where the relationship between signifier and signified is an assessment of the meaning agreed upon by humans as sign users (Lukman, 2015). Language, according to de Saussure, consists of several signs contained in a network of systems and can be arranged

in a variety of structures. As a result, language as a system can be born from the unwarranted or arbitrary agreement or convection, and the relationship between correspondence and concepts in a language in each person or user can vary depending on the background of a language. As a result, the relationship between correspondents and concepts for its users can be extremely diverse and limitless in terms of comprehending signifiers and signified. According to Saussure, as a sign will always be out of reach, and the implications, meaning, can never be fully obtained. This understanding is obtained as a result of the possibility of de Saussure's language system operating as assumed by the principle of negative difference, namely that the meaning of signs is derived not from the question of what is it, but rather from an answer to the question of what is not.

The second model is a triadic model proposed by Charles Sanders Peirce. Based on Peirce's theory, there are three basic elements used to understand the meaning in the sign, which is representamen (sign), object (something in human cognition), and interpretation (interpretation process). These three processes are referred to as Semiosis in this theory. The representative (sign) that can produce an interpretant as a result of meaning that is equivalent in the human mind as an interpreter is something that can be captured by the perceptible. So that an understanding of the sign can be used when the representative is associated with the object, and the object used as a reference sign is a concept known by the wearer of the sign as reality or something that has been considered meaning.

Semiotics is a study that refers to more than just signs in everyday conversations; it also refers to other forms or things such as words, images, sounds, gestures, and objects. According to Peirce, "Semiotics was a formal doctrine of signs closely related to logic,". A sign is anything that represents something to someone in some way or capacity. Because every thought is also a sign for him. Unlike Saussure, who claims that semiology is a study of the rules of a sign as part of social life, Semiotics science is a study of the rules of

a sign as part of social life. Semiotics is the science of signs that can be found in our daily lives and in every object in life. In terms of talking, communication, and the realm of entertainment, the film is an example of sign science that we can get in the realm of visual entertainment. The film is a type of media that is commonly used as a creative work by humans. The film is a work that combines artistic elements with spiritual needs.

The film is used for more than just entertainment; there are many values and meanings contained in a movie through the story, which is mostly based on true events; there is even a movie that is based on a true story of someone's life (EFFENDI, 2016). The film contains life values such as educational values, information, persuasion, social, psychological, and so on that produce meaning for the general public. The meaning contained in a film in the form of signs that can be studied in the science of understanding a sign, which is Semiotic science.

As a result of watching the film, *The King's Speech* film is a film based on the true story of King George VI's life. He is the father of the current Queen Elizabeth II and the grandfather of Prince Charles. The film tells the story of Prince Albert, also known as the Duke of York or Bertie, who has a speech impediment or stuttering. The film tells the story of Prince Albert's efforts to cure his illness, which led him to see several doctors until his wife, Elizabeth, met Lionel Logue, a speech therapist known for his unique healing methods. During the healing process with Lionel, some signs that appear by Prince Albert or other characters as the reasons for every incident that occurs to the main character or those around him are discovered. So that the issue can be resolved with the therapist and Prince Albert can recover from his illness to become the next King, King George VI.

This film depicts many signs of depression in the character of Bertie, who strives to be perfect as a member of the Kingdom through his emotional expressions and speech. A sign that he describes indirectly in the film gives a very deep impression of what is happening to him; in other words, all of the pressures applied by the royals caused Bertie to show signs that he was

depressed by all of the pressures through his words, expressions, gestures, and emotional responses. The pressure that causes Bertie to stutter could be one of the causes of his stuttering because the pressure in a person's inner and mental life can cause some disruption to life as one of them in Bertie's possession. One of the dialogues in the film occurred in Lionel's consultation room during Bertie's first consultation with Dr. Lionel Logue due to his stuttered disease.

Lionel: Makes it official then. My 'castle', my rules. What was your earliest memory?

Bertie: What on earth do you mean? Lionel: First recollection.

Bertie: (*stammer growing in intensity*) I'm not here to discuss personal matters. Lionel: Why're you here then?

Bertie: (*exploding – stammer free*) Because **I bloody well stammer!** (Seidler, 2010)

That scene occurs at 00.23.06 in the film. Bertie's words to Lionel contained very negative words for himself, such as 'I bloody well stammer!', 'One of my faults', 'I've always been this way,' and 'It's my defect'. Those words were spoken with a high intonation of tone, as was the expression and angry gesture he displayed to Lionel. Bertie emphasized the word "I", which refers to himself in relation to the circumstances that occur in him when the condition can be cured with the help of a therapist, and most importantly, his confidence. Bertie is also very temperamental, making it difficult for him to accept Lionel's method of therapy at the first meeting, where an unstable emotional state also characterizes a person's fine state of depression.

According to the explanation above, the author wanted to conduct the meaning and messages from the sign in this film by focusing on the semiotics of Charles Sanders Peirce theory in dialogue and expression carried out by characters in the film *The King's Speech*, and comprehends the meanings of this film in terms of the main character's freedom, which is very prominent in

this film, through semiotics analysis of Charles Sanders Peirce theory.

1.2 Statement of Problem

This study is looking for signs of depression, such as facial expressions, gestures, words, sentences, and behavior. According to Sahu and Espy, “Depressed people have different speech/vocal characteristics as their depression worsen. Their voices became gravelly and hoarse, and their language skills deteriorated” (EFFENDI, 2016). So, depression feelings also affect our tone of voice and fluency, not just the choices of words that we use as a sign.

Based on the research statement, the researcher concludes that two questions will be the primary focus of this research:

- a. What phrase of language and visual signs of depression are found in *The King's Speech* Film?
- b. What phrase of language and visual sign defines as representamen, object, and interpretant are contained in *The King's Speech* Film based on the ‘Triadic Theory’ of Charles Sanders Pierce’s?

1.3 Researches Purposes

Based on the problem stated above, this study seeks to identify and describe:

- a. To discover the characters’ messages and expressions of depressed feelings in the film *The King's Speech*.
- b. To discover the signs in the film *The King's Speech* based on Charles Sanders Peirce’s triadic theory.

1.4 Researches Significance

This study appears to be about producing the meaning of the signs that

appear in *The King's Speech* film, including words, expressions, gestures, and others. This study aims to provide information about the evaluation of signs in the film depicted by the characters in the film, or signs depicted directly by the director of the film from some ornaments shown in the film.

The researchers decided to employ the logic Semiotics experts Charles Sanders Peirce's theory of the study of meaning. Researchers apply this theory to examine the meaning that can be derived from the signs in the film as research data, which is then examined using qualitative descriptive research methods. The researchers decided to use *The King's Speech* film as data in this study.

1.5 Previous Study

Essentially, the topic of this study is not novel. Many topics are discussed in the same way, but only the problem and the method of analysis differ. Based on Triadi Sya'Dian research on his journal titled "*ANALISIS SEMIOTIKA PADA FILM LASKAR PELANGI*". This journal analyzes the icons of education, religion, creed, and values of life that exist in the movie *Laskar Pelangi*. Inside the icons are explained by Triadi through a description of the meaning of circumstances, events, costumes, depictions of social inequalities such as wealth and poverty, names, and talents.

The signs raised in the film *Laskar Pelangi* are raised so well that the concerns of the social gaps are very clearly raised through the icon of costumes, school buildings, as well as gestures and expressions of tenacity depicted by the cast of teachers and schoolchildren in the film. The similarities between this journal and this thesis is both analysis studies use semiotics analysis using Charles Sanders Peirce's theory analyze a sign as an icon in the film. But, in the journal Triadi mostly analyzes the icons in the film through the shape of the buildings, the existence, and the existing environment. While this research is more focused on icons as a sign shown emotionally and more on the expression, gesture, pronunciation, and word selection or linguistic elements in *The King's Speech* film.

The result of Alfian Asyraq Pauzan on his thesis titled *A Semiotic*

Analysis of the John Wick 1 Film Using Charles Sanders Peirce's Semiotic Theory. In this research, researchers analyzed the signs in the film John Wick I using the triadic theory method of Charles Sanders Peirce and more focused on signs such as indexes, icons, and symbols that researchers found on the scene in the film. Both analysis studies examined signs in a film with a Semiotic approach using the triadic theory of Charles Sanders Peirce, and also focused on the icon, indexes, and symbols raised in the film. Alfan describes all the parts in the scene that He used and found as a sign, while this research focuses on the expression, gesture, and words of the main character in the scene of The King's Speech film.

Research finding of Dyah Ayu Rizky Ramadhani on her titled *Emosi Dasar dalam Film 'Inside Out'*. The research examined the differences in the representation of emotion such as happiness, sadness, angry, scared, hatefulness, and disgust in the animated film Inside Out provides physical (appearance) and dresses depicting an emotional character. See similar myths in every country can be used as an advantage to interpret everything. Both kinds of research are examined the emotional sign of the main character intended in the film as the object of research using the semiotic theory of Charles Sanders Peirce. Dyah examines the signs emotionally in the film and connects them with emotional communication. While on this research, the researchers conducted here is more on the emotional drawn through the expression, gestures, and words chosen by the main actor in speaking.

1.6 Definitions of Key Terms

Depression. Depression is a state in which someone is sad, down, grumpy, or irritable for an extended period of time and interferes with normal life. A depressed person has difficulties with daily activities and normal life functions. It can be painful for both the person experiencing it and the person watching them (Sasmara, 2018). A person's depression can be caused by a variety of factors, including family, environment, economy, and finances.

Film. The film is used for more than just entertainment; there are many values and meanings contained in the story, which is mostly adapted from real

life; there is even a movie that is based on a true story of someone's life (EFFENDI, 2016). The film contains life values such as educational values, information, persuasion, social, psychological, and so on, which produce meaning for the general public.

Semiotics. Semiotics is a study that encompasses everything that refers to other forms or things, such as words, images, sounds, gestures, and objects, in addition to signs in everyday conversations. Because, according to Peirce, "Semiotics was a formal doctrine of signs closely associated with logic". According to Peirce, "A sign is also something that stands to somebody for something in some respect or capacity", and every thought, according to Peirce, is also a sign.

