

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents a general description of the paper. It consists of five components such as background of the research, statement of the problem, research objective, research significance, and conceptual framework.

1.1 Background of Problem

Symbol is a kind of signs, but not all signs can be said as a symbol. For example, nodding head is arbitrarily including symbol, crying signs sadness, being red on face signs getting angry, and being pale on the face also, signs fear. These signs are caused by emotional situation. The high quality of symbol makes the human language be the most useful device for speaker's life. The human language makes up symbol of hope, will, and so forth. Shortly, the language is a symbol of humankind life and man itself. As a symbol, the language can refer to all various objects, occurrences, relationship between the object and occurrences.

According to Frye (1975: 71), "Symbol means any unit of any literary structure that can be isolated for critical attention. A word, a phrase, or an image used with some kind of special reference is all symbols when they are distinguishable elements in critical analysis". A rose, for example, may indicate love; a dove stands for the peace, etc. Furthermore, symbol is a word or something which can be analogized as a related word to (1) the user's interpretation, (2) the

rules of usage that depends on the context, and (3) the creation of the meaning given that suitable to user's dimension. According to Sobur (2004: 58), the symbol that is included and related to those three aspects is called a symbolic form.

Besides appearing in the real world, symbol actually can be found in the textual world. Literary symbol actually is just the same as the sorts of symbol in the real world. That is, it may be conventional, in which the author uses a traditional emblem. Such as, a flying bird signifies freedom. It may also be private. According to Birkerts (1993:113), this kind of literary symbol is intrinsic to the work, that it reveals the symbolic element gradually through repetition or strategic placement. This could mean that the meaning of symbol is defined by the work in which it appears and limited to a particular story. Therefore, symbolic element could mean different in different works of poetry, drama or novel.

In novel, symbol can appear in some elements, such as setting, theme, plot or character and characterization. It may appear in all elements that every element supports the others. It can also appear only in certain element. As for the symbol appearing in characterization, character plays an important role, for it is the place from which the characterization descends. In discussing literature, according to Abrams (1985: 206), 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.

Finding the meaning of symbol is not that simple. It needs process as a tool of operating the object. The researcher names the process done in finding the meaning of symbol with symbolization. Thus, symbolization is more complex than

symbol. To talk about symbolization means to think about process. By the fact, symbolization is a process of constructing the meaning of symbol itself. According to Laurine (1974: 75), it concerns how something contains symbol and how the way the symbol releases its meaning.

Then, the factors themselves are contained in the novel. The factors related to the story and the narration that simply gives meaning to the certain symbols. By the statement, the appearing symbol in the novels interests the researcher to analyze.

The Call of the Wild is a short adventure novel by Jack London, published in 1903 and set in Yukon, Canada, during the 1890s Klondike Gold Rush, when strong sled dogs were in high demand. The central character of the novel is a dog named Buck. The story opens at a ranch in Santa Clara Valley, California, when Buck is stolen from his home and sold into service as a sled dog in Alaska. He becomes progressively feral in the harsh environment, where he is forced to fight to survive and dominate other dogs. By the end, he sheds the veneer of civilization, and relies on primordial instinct and learned experience to emerge as a leader in the wild.

Based on the above description of the background, the researcher is interested in analyzing the symbols of wilderness in the novel, in order to dig how the main character named Buck can change its 'soul' and understands the 'wilderness' during every phase in its life. Thus, the researcher proposes this research that entitled *Wilderness Symbols in Jack London's The Call of the Wild*. There are some previous studies to this topic. First, Mutia. 2018, Symbol as The Way to Deliver Message in Mother! Movie. An undergraduate thesis draft,

English Literature, Faculty Adab and Humanities, State Islamic University of Sunan Gunung Djati, Bandung. This research has two problems: (1) the symbol and its meaning that appear in the Mother! Movie (2) the connections between one symbol to another.

To answer and analyze the questions, the researcher used Peirce's theory of triadic relation that presenting the relation between the represent, object and interpretation in semiotics. The researcher found 10 data of symbols that will be analyze using the triadic relation of the semiotic approach. This research is the qualitative research.

As the result, the researcher found that Mother! Movie is a movie that representing the biblical story. All the symbols that appear in that movie are the allegory of biblical story. The researcher is also found that, the movie was formed by the structural symbol of the biblical story. The symbols in the movie were connected to each other.

The symbols that found in the movie are a house as symbol of the Earth, a poet as symbol of God, the poet's wife as symbol of mother earth. The connection between ones symbol to another is the whole symbols formed one intact story. The whole symbol could not be separated from the other symbol. The separating of symbol makes the story un-complete.

Second, Palupi Utami. Symbol of Love in William Butler Yeats' Selected Poems. This research has purposes to find out, to analyze and describe the symbols of love that found in William Butler Yeats' selected poems. Besides, this research also composed to analyze and describe how the symbols are related to the four

phases of symbol theory by Northrop Frye in William Butler Yeats' selected poems. This research used Descriptive Method. This method enable to analyze the symbols by picturing and describing it based on the facts which already available. The data was taken from a book; 'William Butler Yeats Poems' which contain of all poems by W.B. Yeats.

This research used Qualitative Data Analysis which enables to analyze the data that have been collected. Based on Collaborative Group Analysis of Data by Mc Drury, there are three steps to analyzing the data. First is recognizing the symbol. The second is categorizing the symbol. The third is identifying the symbol. Besides, the researcher used Frye's theory of symbol which divided symbol into four phases. They are Literal and Descriptive phase, Formal Phase, Mythical phase, and Anagogic phase.

Finally, the researcher found that there are eleven symbols in W.B. Yeats' ten poems. They are angels, vow, soul, dove, white woman, ignorance, eye, joy, warm heart, we were so much at one and broke my heart. The researcher also found that all of symbols were fit in the first phase theory of symbol by Frye. Then, there were only six symbols which fit in the second phase. There were also six symbols which fit in the third phase. Meanwhile, in the last phase there were only two symbols which fit in it.

Third, Guntara. *The Symbol of Life and Death in Into the Wild Movie (The Literal and Descriptive Study of Symbolism)*. In this research, the analysis concerns to two kinds of symbol that appear in words or sentences and image as the representation of life and death. Symbols in this analysis can be analyzed by literal

and descriptive phase. Literal phase serves the analysis which shows literal meaning of the symbol. It is like lexical meaning which is taken from dictionary. Meanwhile, descriptive phase shows the analysis by seeking contextual meaning. It expands the analysis of symbol to be more complex. In descriptive phase, the researcher only focuses to the life and death symbol.

Qualitative method is used in this research by applying descriptive analysis for analyzing and interpreting the data. The data is taken from *Into the Wild* movie. Those data relate to life and death symbol. The analysis applies Northrop Frye's theory which is taken from the book of Northrop Frye; *phase: symbol as monad* in *Anatomy of Criticism: Four Essays* consists of four phases: literal and descriptive phase: symbol as motif and sign, formal phase: symbol as image, mythical phase: symbol as archetype, and anagogic. But in this analysis focus for applying literal and descriptive phase only, symbol as motif and sign.

Forth, Kurniawan. *Symbol of Heroism Act of The Characters in Suzanne Collin The Hunger Games*. An undergraduate thesis. This graduating paper has been written to analyze symbol of heroism act of the characters in Suzanne Collin's *The Hunger Games*. The grand theory which is used to analyze this research is Pierce's theory. It has three elements on modifying something or data into a symbol; there are representment, interpetant, and symbol. This research used three elements into the object and applied it to get symbols and other meanings. The novel is analyzed by the theory of symbolism because Collin's work has other meanings and symbols of heroism acts.

In applying the technique of analyzing data, this research used qualitative research. The data are collected from originally words, sentences and narration of The Hunger Games novel by Suzzane Collins.

The data were taken from Suzanne Collins Novel entitled: The Hunger Games. There are six symbols of 22 heroism act found in this research of the four characters. Those are symbols of love (five data), symbols of responsibility (three data), symbol of struggle (one datum), symbols of hope (two data), symbols of bravery (three data) and symbols of solidarity (seven data).

The dominant symbol in this research was heroism act symbolized solidarity because the data obtained from those symbols are more dominant than other symbols.

Fifth, Rahayu. *The Symbol of Man and Nature in Yann Martel's Life of Pi*. A Bachelor Thesis. This research analyzes the novel as one of literary works. The analyzed novel is Yann Martel's novel entitled Life of Pi. The analyzed problem in this research concerns with symbol. Symbol is anything, which signifies something. Symbol can represent an object, idea, or a relationship. The symbol of man and nature is analyzed in this research constructed by the relevant theory. The main problem of this research is divided into two questions. First, what category of symbol, which is used as the representation of the man and nature in Yann Martel's Life of Pi. Second, based on Frye's theory, in which phase are the symbol of man and nature included.

The used theory of this research is Frye's theory of symbol, (taken from the book of Northrop Frye; *Anatomy of Criticism: Four Essays*). Frye's theory of

symbol consist of four phases: literal and descriptive phase: symbol as motif and as sign, formal phase: symbol as image, mythical phase: symbol as archetype, and anagogic phase: symbol as monad.

The employed method in this research is a descriptive method. This method tries to give an explanation about something or some object briefly. The data in this research are the forms that contain words, phrases, and sentences. Technique of collecting data that is used in this research is library research, and the steps of data analysis including 1) identifying data, 2) categorizing based on the literary criticism, 3) analyzing the data based on Frye's Theory, 4) interpreting data, 5) making conclusion.

The result of this research is divided into two discussions. First, categorization of the symbol of man and nature: Pi (the man) as a symbol of man's struggle, and man's pride. While, Sea as a symbol of a woman, and God's gift. Moreover, Dorado the fish as a symbol of a valuable thing, man's brother, and victim. Sharks as a symbol of man's rival. Birds, Dolphins, and Turtles are symbols of man's brother. Second, phases of symbol based on Frye's theory: One category of those symbols is same that is the whole the symbol of man and nature. Those symbols are included in the first category of Frye's Theory: descriptive phase (symbol as sign) nevertheless, one category of symbol is included in two different phases, like the man, Pi, and the sea.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

Based on the background of problem can be formulated into research questions as follows:

1. What are wilderness symbols found in Jack London's *The Call of the Wild*?
2. How can such symbols be related to wilderness in Jack London's *The Call of the Wild*?

1.3 Research Objective

In this paper, the researcher focus of wilderness symbols in Jack London's *The Call of the Wild*, namely:

1. To find out wilderness symbols in Jack London's *The Call of the Wild*.
2. To find out how the symbols related to wilderness in Jack London's *The Call of the Wild*.

1.4 Research Significance

There are some significances that are expected by conducting this research.

The significances of the research are as follow:

1. Theoretical Benefits

This research is expected to give a new contribution, especially in the literary studies on Jack London's *The Call of the Wild*. The researcher wants to give more information and knowledge about wilderness symbol. Moreover, the researcher wants the result of the research to be useful as

a reference and alternative information for others especially English Literature students who conduct the similar research.

2. Practical Benefits

This research is expected to be useful for the readers easier to understand the story and know deeply about psychoanalysis. Moreover the researcher wants the result of this research give a deeper understanding to the reader and to the next researcher about ambition and its effect on people life.

1.5 Conceptual Framework

According to Holman and Harmon (1968:44), symbol is an image that evokes an objective, concrete reality and suggests another level of meaning. It is a trope that combines a literal and sensuous quality with an abstract or suggestive aspect. While according to Guth (1997:189), symbols are images that have a meaning beyond themselves. Symbol is a detail, a character, or an incident that has a meaning beyond its literal role in the narrative. In order to fully respond to a story, it is necessary to become sensitive to symbolic overtones and implications. Abrams (1975: 195) defines symbol as a word or phrase that signifies an object or event, which in turn signifies something, or a range of reference, beyond itself.

Symbol, according to Pierce's theory, is one of the subdivisions of sign that has two principle characteristics; representative and interpretative. Pierce views sign as process of signification. Sign is an unseparated part from its object of

reference, also from subject understands of sign. He called it “Representament”. According to Dadan Rusmana (2004: 50), while something is represented by sign is called an “object”, and “interpretant” is the process of signification.

In his book, *Literature: Structure, Sound, and Sense*, Perrine (1974:20), states that a symbol may have more than one meaning. He adds that at its most effective a symbol is like many faceted jewels. It flashes different colors when it is turned in the light. Furthermore, the area of the symbols’ possible meaning is always controlled by the context. Therefore, it can be said that the meaning of a literary symbol must be established and supported by the entire context of the literary work, which means that a particular symbol has its meaning within the story.

According to Rohrberger and Woods (1971:17), the presence of symbols in literary works is inevitable. Some people think that many great works of art use literary symbols because they suggest complexity, intricacy, and richness. If symbols are present in literary works, whether through emphasis, repetition, implications, or recurring patterns, it means that the author wants to say something in terms of another. Therefore, such a hint should not be neglected in order to get the actual understanding of the literary work itself.

Related to the interpretation of symbols, Guth (1997: 189-190), states that some symbols come into a story from a shared language of symbols. He notes that much in human experience has traditional symbolic associations. Dawn for example, is often associated with hope, dark forest with evil, clay with death, water with fertility, and light with knowledge or enlightenment. Symbols may be

ambiguous; the Whale in *Moby Dick* may represent everything that is destructive in nature, but it may also represent everything that is most serenely beautiful in nature and adds that literary symbols are rich in associations. They have more resonance, and more reverberations than simple signs. Garden as a symbol may be associated with the Garden of Eden, nature, or an oasis in the desert. It's also notes that some symbols have a special personal meaning for the writer; their meaning may come into focus as they return again and again in the writer's work.

Symbols can be classified into several categories. According to Reaske (1974:109), there are two types of symbols: public symbol and private symbol. Public symbol is a symbol that through repeated use has the same connotations whenever they occur. While private symbols are products of a particular poet's imagination and are fairly mysterious. If a poet has a private symbol, it often remains in private use until someone decides that the symbol has some particular meanings, which become clear when one has observed carefully how the symbol functions in every poem in which it is observed.

The above explanation is supported by Guth (1997:589), states that some poets develop a symbolic language of their own that may at first seem private or obscure. However, it gradually becomes meaningful as the readers learn more about the poet or read several poems by the same poet. As the readers learn the poet's symbolic language, the readers gradually feel less like strangers in the poet's world of meanings.

There are various ways of identifying symbols. Kennedy (1983:147), in his book *Literature: An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry, and Drama* suggests several

ways of identifying symbols. In his opinion, in order to look for symbols it is necessary to focus on certain characters and actions because usually the author invents them based on certain purposes. By holding up for inspection certain characters and their actions, the author lends them some special significance in order to support the idea. Kennedy further adds that the readers should be careful with words, phrases, or sentences which are mentioned repeatedly, because they might suggest symbols.

Guth (1997: 223-225), also suggests several ways of identifying symbols in order to identify the role symbols play in a work of fiction there are a few steps that must be taken: first, the full range of possible associations of a symbol need to be explored. Second, it is necessary to trace the full meaning of a gradually evolving central symbol. Third, it is important to look for secondary symbols that echo the major theme of a story. Fourth, contrasts or polarities need to be found. Fifth, relate key terms specifically to the story, if a term is brought into the story from the outside, show how it applies to the story.

The previous explanation from Guth can be given the sample. For instance, if it is believed that the Garcia Marquez' story is simply a fantasy, then it is suggested to find out what kind of fantasy is acted out in the story, and what are its workings or dynamics. The last step is to look for personal connections between the use of symbols in a story and our own life and experience.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

In this research, there are some of the words turned up as the key term of the research. They are as follows:

1. Symbol : It may be a thing, place, action, person, or concept that represent something else (Robert, 1977).
2. Sign : It may refer to more than one object or group of objects. A sign may be an element of sign or may itself be composed of other sign. It may refer to a simple object, or may refer to complex object. A sign may have a simple meaning or may have a complex meaning and the meaning of a sign may be determined by its relation with other sign (Pierce, 1973).
3. Semiosis : The process by which representation of objects function assigns (Pierce, 1973).
4. Semiotic : The study of semiosis and is an inquiry into the conditions which are necessary for representations of objects to function as signs (Pierce, 1973).
5. Novel : One of the most popular fictions, the most written and read in literary works (Sumardjo & Saini, 1986: 32).