

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of the background of research, statements of problem, purposes and significances of research, conceptual framework, and organization of writing.

1.1 Background Of Research

All cultural facts are signs. People actually live in the world that is full of signs. They themselves are also part on those signs. The signs are meant as a form to understand the life. Through their intellectual ability they make efforts to get interaction by using signs as tools for all sorts of aims. Language is one of much signs. The most important function of language is communication. Communication is not only as a process, but also as a generation of meaning. When a person gets communication with the others, at least he or she understands the aim of our message which is conveyed by using language.

A message can be conveyed by speech. Speech of this kind is not only spoken but also written. Roland Barthes said in *Mythologies* (1991:107),” a type of speech is called myth”. It means that myth is a system of communication. Barthes also said (1991:108), “Mythical speech is made of material which has been worked on so as to make it suitable for communication: it is because all materials of myth (whether pictorial or written) presuppose a signifying consciousness”. In fact, myth is semiotic system.

Actually, myth is a unique semiotic system. “It is a *second-order semiological system*” (Barthes, 1991:113). Everything can be a myth included sobriquet. Sobriquet is reasonably defined just as it is in web and dictionary. The definition of sobriquet according to *Oxford Advanced Learners’s Dictionary* (Hornby, 2000:1275) is, “an informal name or title that you give somebody or something”. \For example, a comedian, Azis Gagap, is known as Azis Gagap after acting as a person who has stammer in Opera Van Java.

Sobriquet of someone is given because of many reasons and so do the English Kings’ and Queens’ sobriquets. In this matter, the meaning isn’t delivered directly through the first semiotic system but receiver should construct the meaning through data and facts in the past time by the second semiotic system, the myth. Barthes said in *Mythologies* (1991:138 and 142) that “politics is already a representation, a fragment of ideology” and then “myth is depoliticized speech”. People do not have a relationship with myth based on truth but on use. They depoliticize according to their needs. It means that myth does not deny things but purifies and makes them natural. According to Dennis Sherman (2006:621), ideology is “sets of beliefs about the world and how it should be”. In fact, myth represents ideology, the fragment of ideology, because myth is not only part of semiology but also part of ideology.

Political is opposite the myth. But, it has relation with myth because as ideological fragment, it is in mythical system, in connotative signified. Thus ideological fragment of English Kings’ and Queens’ Sobriquet can be known by know mythical system of their sobriquets. Their sobriquets challenge the

researcher to know the meaning by using semiotic theories of Roland Barthes. The researcher is sure their sobriquets signify something else which relates to the English history. All facts above have made the researcher interested in writing this paper. The title is **“The Mythical System of English Kings’ and Queens’ Sobriquets”**.

1.2 Statements of Problem

Most of all English Kings and Queens have sobriquets. When the researcher reads their informal names, the researcher stops and thinks. There is something ambiguous about their informal or familiar names. On the one hand, the words in it do have a simple meaning. On the other hand, the words in it signify something else to the researcher. The researcher is faced with semiological or semiotic system. Based on the background of research, the research’s questions can be formulated as follows:

1. What is mythical system of English Kings’ and Queens’ Sobriquets?
2. What is ideological fragment of English Kings’ and Queens’ Sobriquets based on mythical system?

1.3 Purpose and Significance of Research

1.3.1 Purpose of Research

The purposes of the study are:

- 1) To find out the mythical system of English Kings’ and Queens’ sobriquets,

- 2) To find out the fragment of ideology of English Kings' and Queens' sobriquets.

1.3.2 Significance of Research

The result of the research is expected to be used as one of the sources of information about signs based on study literature. This might be used as a reference for those who are interested in the subject of semiotics and English history, especially for English Department's students. When they learn English literary works, they can not get out of the history. This research can be used as alternative for learning the development of England and its language. The researcher will describe the England and English history through the signs, semiotic theory.

1.4 Conceptual Framework

This research discusses about signs of English Kings' and Queens' sobriquets. *"Konsep semiotika diperkenalkan oleh Ferdinand de Saussure melalui dikotomi system tanda: signified dan signifier atau signified dan significant yang bersifat atomistis"*. (Santosa, 2003:12) The statement means that signified and signifier have indivisible relation between concept and sound image which signify it.

Thus the meaning of a sign can be found by associated both of signifier and signified. When people hear English Kings' and Queens' sobriquet, they construct the sound image and then they will construct the concept of those

sobriquets. Constructing the meaning of a sign is called signification. According to Roland Barthes on his books, *Elements of Semiology* (1964:30),

“The signification can be conceived as a process; it is the act which binds the signifier and the signified, an act where product is the sign. This distinction has, of course, only a classifying (and not phenomenological) value: firstly, because the union of signifier and signified, as we shall see, does not exhaust the semantic act, for the sign derives its value also from its surroundings; secondly, because, probably, the mind does not proceed, in the semantic process, by conjunction but by carving out.”

English Kings' and Queens got the sobriquets from the people because of some reasons. There are myths of those sobriquets. As the researcher quoted from Barthes, myth is a type of speech". Speech of this kind is a message; include the reasons of their getting sobriquets. To know about myth of English Kings' and Queens' sobriquets, the writer needs to know English history because actually myth is distortive, historical, intentional, and motivational.

Myth relates to ideology because it shows the fragment of ideology. The fragment will be found in mythical system. Then, this research will be focused on mythical system of English Kings' and Queens' sobriquets.

1.5 Previous Study

Myth had been researched by Erfan M. Fauzi as paper. He researched about *Myth of Modern Capitalism on Narrative Structure of E. M. Forster's Howards End*. He explained myth through narrative text, the novel. His analyze is based on the history especially modern capitalism in twentieth century as the setting of the novel, *Howards End*.

His research is different with this research. Although Erfan and the researcher research about myth, the objects are different. Erfan put his concentration more on myth and narrative structure of *Howards End* while the researcher put her concentration on mythical system and ideological fragment of English Kings' and Queens' sobriquet. Erfan used setting twentieth century while the researcher used setting from ninth century until twentieth century.

1.6 Organization of Writing

This research deals with five chapters. Chapter I, Introduction, contains of the background of research, statements of problem, research questions, purposes and significances of research, and organization of writing. Chapter II is A Review of Related Literature. This chapter reviews theories underlying and supporting the research including: a) the theories of sign include Barthes's theory of sign, b) mythical system based on Barthes, c) English Kings and Queens, and d) the definition of sobriquets.

Methodology of the research is explained in chapter III. It begins with the method of research, the data, data sources, the technique of collecting data, and ends with the technique of analyzing data. Chapter IV is Mythical System and Ideological Fragment of English Kings' and Queens' Sobriquets. This chapter provides data representation and discussion based on Barthes's theory of mythical system. The explanation is based on the problem statements and theories. Chapter V is the final chapter that provides the conclusion of the whole analysis and suggestion for better understanding.