CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents background of research, statement of problem, research objective, research significance, and organization of writing.

1.1 Background of Research

Language is succinctly defined as a human system of communication. Mulyana (2005: 3) says that communication is a process of shared meaning through verbal and nonverbal behavior two or more people. People can communicate uses arbitrary signals such as voice sounds, gestures, or written symbols. Saussure (1961:16) states that language is a system of sign that expresses ideas, and is therefore comparable to a system of writing, the alphabet of deaf-mutes, symbolic rites, polite formulas, and military signals. It means that when human expresses something to the other, it will be a meaning. Each human language has knowledge and abilities to communicate each other, to express ideas, emotions, desire, and all other thing that need expressed.

Saussure (1961: 16) considers linguistics as a branch of semiology. He says that linguistics is only a part of general science of semiology; the laws discovered by semiology will be applicable to linguistics. It means that semiotic or semiology is a part of linguistic subject. Pierce in Sobur (2003: 16) says that semiotic is the relationship among a sign, an object, and a meaning. Symbol is another type of signs that are important to be considered. A symbol has no logical meaning between it and the object. Buchler (1940: 99) says that a sign, or representamen, is something which stands to somebody for something in some respect or capacity. It addresses somebody creates in the mind of that person an equivalent sign, or perhaps a more developed sign. That sign which it creates he calls the interpretant of the first sign. It means that
representamen is something represents or substitutes something else, while interpretant is a situation where sign gives a chance to the reader for interpreting another meaning.

Talking about sign or symbol, Barthes (1983: 39) states the sign is a compound of signifier and signified. He has completed Saussure’s idea that formulated signification as relation (R) between expression (E) and content (C). It is not different from the idea of Saussure because expression is similar to signifier and content is similar to signified. This concept is a development of relation (R) between expression (E) and content (C). From the concept, Barthes introduces about denotative sign (primary system) and connotative sign (secondary system). Primary system is linguistic system and secondary system is semiotic system known as mythical system.

Muzir (2013: 151) says that myth is type of speech and it is not just a type, language needs special condition in order to become a myth. It means that myth is a system of communication refers to a message. This is confirmed by Muzir (2013: 153) that the type of speech is a message. Myth cannot be explained by object or material, because any materials arbitrary can be supported by meaning or message. Through symbols, myth appears because they signify other thing that is form of a message or speech. Barthes proposes the five codes include: the proairetic code, the hermeneutic code, the semantic code, the symbolic code, and the cultural code, those aim the readers are not in vain in the interpretation of discourse. Barthes (1990: 5) states that to interpret a text is not give a meaning but on the contrary to appreciate what constitutes it.

The similar researches about symbol were done previously by some researchers. First research, Zazi Haerizal (2011) entitled Symbol of Holiness in Dan Brown’s The Da Vinci Code presents kinds of holiness symbols in novel. He has categorized those symbols into some kinds
such as holiness symbol of divinity, holiness symbol related to person, things, place, and religious activities. He also has analyzed concept of holiness as result of relationship among symbols. Second research, Aji Zainul Fata (2013) entitled *The Representation of “Illuminati” symbol in Dan Brown’s Angels and Demons* presents representation of the “Illuminati” symbol in novel, as a power that causes a variety of problems in social life. By relying on main character, Robert Langdon, to represent the “Illuminati” by how Langdon identify, understand, and provide attitude toward “Illuminati”. He also tries to parse every symbol in the story to be analyzed their relationship one by one.

Based on research conducted by some researchers about the symbol above, the difference between those researches and this research is in the symbol itself. First researcher analyzed on symbol of holiness, while second researcher analyzed on representation “Illuminati” symbol. In this research, the researcher analyzed on the mythical symbols. Other difference is in the object of research. Object of two researchers are Dan Brown’s novel; *The Da Vinci Code* and *Angels and Demons*. Object of this research is David S. Goyer’s drama series *Da Vinci’s Demons*. The reason why symbol is taken as the topic of this research because symbol has an important part of the story that cannot be ignored, it usually has a hidden meaning through symbol itself.

*Da Vinci’s Demons* is a historical fantasy drama series that presents a fictional account of Leonardo da Vinci’s early life. The series was conceived by David S. Goyer and stars Tom Riley in the title role. It is developed and produced in collaboration with BBC Worldwide and is shot in Wales, United Kingdom. The series has been distributed to over 120 countries. The series premiered in the United States on Starz on April 12, 2013, and its second season premiered on March 22, 2014. The series was renewed for a third season, which premiered on October 24,
2015. On July 23, 2015, Starz announced that the third season would be the show’s last.

http://freemoviesbucket.com/series/adventure/da-vincis-demons

Based on the background of research, this present study is entitled THE MYTHICAL SYMBOLS IN DRAMA SERIES DA VINCI’S DEMONS BY DAVID S. GOYER.

1.2 Statement of Problem

Based on the background of research above, it can be formulated into the research question as follows:

1. What are the signs of the mythical symbols in drama series Da Vinci’s Demons?
2. How the mythical symbols in drama series Da Vinci’s Demons are applied into the five codes?

1.3 Research Objective

Based on the statement of problem above, the purpose of research as follows:

1. To find the signs of the mythical symbols in drama series Da Vinci’s Demons.
2. To know the mythical symbols in drama series Da Vinci’s Demons are applied into the five codes.

1.4 Research Significance

This research is generally expected to give a valuable contribution theoretically and practically. Theoretically, this research is directed to the students or the readers generally as a reference for those who are interested in enriching knowledge and development theory on the research, especially further analysis about mythical symbol. Practically, this research is expected
would be useful as a material reference for the next research that studies in the same research or the similar research.

1.5 Organization of Writing

The writing of this research is organized into five chapters. Chapter I: introduction contains background of research, statement of problem, research objective, research significance, and organization of writing. Chapter II: theoretical review contains introduction of semiotic, semiology of Roland Barthes, mythology of Roland Barthes, theory of symbol, Barthes’ the five codes, synopsis of *Da Vinci’s Demons*. Chapter III: methodology of research contains research method, source of data, data and sample of data, technique of collecting data, and technique of analyzing data. Chapter IV: finding and discussion contains analysis of the signs of the mythical symbols in drama series *Da Vinci’s Demons* and the five codes are applied into the mythical symbols in drama series *Da Vinci’s Demons* according to Roland Barthes’ theory. Chapter V: conclusion and suggestion.