

ABSTRACT

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Peirce distinguishes sign into three classes: icon, index, and symbol. Symbol in literature is described in this research. In addition, literary symbol is a word, a phrase that signifies an object or something that reference beyond itself. This research concentrates on analyze the novel as one of literary works. The object that has been chosen in this research is Christopher Paolini's novel titled *Eragon*. The problem analyzed in this research concerns identifying and interpreting the symbols and its meaning of dragon's characters through a process that is constructed by the relevant theory.

As the qualitative research, this research requires theoretical base and reasoning logic. In this case, the theory of Charles Sanders Peirce is applied, besides the other theories of symbolism. Peirce describe to identify a symbol (sign) there must be relationship between object, ground/representament, and interpretant.

In analyzing the subject of the materials, this research uses the structural analysis method. The structural analysis method is a method that focused on the structure itself, definitely not concerning to the writer's analysis and view, the reader response, the relevant of the real world, and sign as the process of communication. While the data of this research is primary and secondary data that contain word, phrase, and sentence identified as symbols: Saphira, Thorn, Shruikan, and Glaedr with the technique of collecting data by using library research, and the steps of data analysis include 1) Identifying data 2) categorizing based on literary criticism, 3) interpreting data, and 4) making conclusion.

The result of this research is that there are the different symbolizations and constructing factors of those dragon's characters: saphira as the symbol of love and friendship. Her wisdom is paramount to Eragon's growth and via telepathy, she communicates with Eragon, a link created when they first touched. Ironically, her name is the same as Brom's dragon before she was killed. The two become close friends and confidants in their journies. Thorn as the symbol of betrayer is the red male dragon bound to Murtagh. Thorn and Murtagh defeat Eragon and Saphira in the Battle of the Burning Plains, but spare their lives. Shruikan is Galbatorix's black dragon. he is a symbol of evil. Shruikan was spared from the Banishing of the Names because he did not choose to betray the Riders, he was forced to by Galbatorix. Glaedr is the gold dragon bonded to Oromis, and from battles of the past he has lost his left foreleg. He is a symbol of knowledge. He

serves as Saphira's mentor and helps teach Eragon about Dragon Riders As the final conclusion, some elements are the symbols that represent some meaning or reference and these symbols are categorized based on Peirce's theory.