

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of Background of Research, Statement of Problem, Purposes and Significances of Research, Definition of Key Terms, and Organization of Writing.

1.1 Background of Research

People uses language as a symbolic action, they uses symbol to communication. But in used symbol, properly they have a reason why they talk about symbol because everything that happened there are the reason to evaporate their discussion. In this case, the researcher chooses symbol as a course is because from the symbol we can reveal the hidden meaning that we don't know before. Generally, symbol is an object representing another to give it an entirely different meaning that is much deeper and more significant.

Symbol is a person, an object, an event, that represents a more general quality or situation. Symbol also is one of subdivisions of sign. In this mater, Barthes says that signification of sign is a process of composite signifier and signified which produce a sign, and the original characteristic of sign is connotation, which is a connotative meaning which characterized in general meaning, like a symbol, which Frye said in this case (Rusmana, 2004: 99, 116-117).

We can find a sign and symbol in human life it is because many things in life have meaning. There are many concrete elements in this world that can be recognized as a sign in people daily life, such as a flag, a logo, trademark or non-verbal language and so on, all suggest thing beyond themselves on that looked upon as representing something. Mulyana (2000: 83) states that, *“salah satu kebutuhan pokok manusia, seperti dikatakan Susanne K. Langer adalah kebutuhan simbolisasi atau penggunaan lambang.”* It means that human have high cultural, they makes symbol as a system arbiter to their communication.

With symbol we can know what someone’s ideas about; love, affection, hatred and jealousy sign of their habit. It is because human’s daily life is fully constructed by sign or symbol. Johannesen (1996: 46) said that *“dan, salah satu sifat dasar manusia, menurut Wieman dan Walter, adalah kemampuan menggunakan simbol.”*

Sometimes, an action when spoken by someone may have a symbolic value. For instance, “smile” is a symbol of happiness or is a symbol of friendship. Similarly, the action of someone smiling at you may stand as a symbol of the feeling of affection. Another example is that “a red rose” symbolizes for love or romance. Symbols are used is to signify ideas and qualities by giving them symbolic meanings that are different from their literal sense. Symbol is two things. Those are the symbol itself and the meaning or referring which is directed by the symbol.

A symbol also has relation with literature. A literary symbol combines an image with a concept. In literature always has a symbol, without symbol there can

be no literature or even language, because, words themselves are a kind of symbol. In relation to semiotics and literature, it is understandable that literary works is meaningful structure that bears the system of meaning and conventional sign through language as medium. According to Sobur (2013: 141):

“Dalam lapangan sastra, karya sastra dengan keutuhannya secara semiotik dapat dipandang sebagai sebuah tanda. Dimensi ruang dan waktu dalam sebuah cerita rekaan mengandung tabiat tanda-menanda yang menyiratkan makna semiotika.”

According to Frye, “Literature is an ‘autonomous verbal structure’ quite cut off from any reference beyond itself, a sealed and inward-looking realm which ‘contain[s] life and reality in a system of verbal relationship. All the system ever does is reshuffling its symbolic units in relation to each other, rather than in relation to any kind of reality outside it (Eagleton 1983: 92-93).

The literary work that the researcher will discuss is a novel *Gulliver’s Travels*. Therefore, the researcher takes “symbol” as the main focus in a novel. This research takes the work of fantasy novel, this novel tells about a famous fiction character whose name is Lemuel Gulliver. *Gulliver’s Travel* is a book that telling about the adventure of Lemuel Gulliver. He is the main character in *Gulliver’s Travel*. It is a satire novel by Irish writer and clergyman Jonathan Swift, which is both a satire on human nature and the travellers’ tales literary subgenre. It is Swift’s best known full-length work, and a classic of English Literature. As the description above, symbol can represent an object, idea, or a concept. It can symbolize anything depends on the context of the text.

This novel makes researcher interesting, there is a completely date in every chapter. It is like this fiction is a real history or autobiography of the author, and he makes this happen to be a novel as the illustration but this novel is just a fiction, besides that many symbols in the novel *Gulliver's Travels* especially the symbol of Lilliputian that make the conflict of the novel.

In general Lilliputian is a minute or very small person or thing but in origin in early 18th century: from the imaginary country of Lilliput in Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*, inhabited by people 6 inches (15 cm) high, + -ian. Swift (1726: 29) said that, "I treated the rest in the same manner, taking them one by one out of my pocket." They can enter of Gulliver pocket's, it is because theirs body are tiny. In the novel Lilliputians may be symbolized of the quarrel, war, feud, and social class which show of the conflict on the novel.

In this adventure novel besides Lilliputias as a symbol, there is another thing that can appear as a symbol in some elements such as setting, theme, plot, or character and the characterization and all of that is a narration in a novel.

To support the analyses the researcher view some of the previous studies. The first research has been done by Reni Anggraeni (2009), she makes a research entitled "*Symbol of Curse in Nathaniel Hawthorne's novel The House of the Seven Gables*". It talks about identifying and interpreting category of symbol of curse in the novel, and the relationship between the expression and the content is placed as second order which is concerned in connotative meaning refers to symbol. In this analyze the symbol of curse are divided into four categories of Frye's theory of symbol: descriptive phase (symbol as sign), formal phase: symbol as image, and

anagogic phase: symbol as monad. In analyzing the object of the materials, the researcher uses the structural analysis method.

The second research has been done by Ahmad Fauzie (2010), he makes research entitled “*Animal Symbolization in Clive Staples Lewis’s novel The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian.*” That research talk about animal symbolization of the novel. The research concerned to analyze five animals in Lewis novel, animal symbolization that have some typical characterization. He also talks about the factors of process animal symbolization of the novel.

The findings showed that in Lewis’s novel there are five animals with typical characterization and symbol that represent some meanings. The symbol is emerged by the characterization of the animal themselves. Characterization as the part of the constructing elements then arouse symbol to appear. That research also uses the structural analysis method.

The similar research is talk about symbol and the theory in use. The different between those researches and my research is the objects because I take the adventure novel *Gulliver’s Travels* to analyze. The review above becomes main inspiration of this research. She also discusses about the main problem as a symbol on the novel and she also uses theory symbol by Frye to analyze.

Based on the background above, the researcher takes this novel to analyze and discussed about symbols in *Gulliver’s Travels* that related with the point of relation between sign and the course of the analyze and the researcher take Frye’s theory about sign to analyze. Finally, the researcher choose the *title “Symbol of Lilliputians in Jonathan Swift’s Novel Gulliver’s Travel”*

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Based on the explanation above, the problems in the analysis are absolutely under the title of my paper that is, *Symbol of Lilliputians*. This analysis will focus about the Lilliputians symbolize for. The Theory of Symbols by Northrop Frye is the theory that researcher uses to analyze the symbols. Frye divides symbols into 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.

To make this paper more specific, the researcher limits the analysis into two research questions as follow:

1. What are Lilliputians symbolized for, in Jonathan Swift's novel *Gulliver's Travels*?
2. How the interpretations of Lilliputians symbolized in Jonathan Swift's *Gulliver's Travels* that related with Frye's theory of symbol?

1.3 Research Objective

Based on the background of study and the statement of the problem mentioned above, the objectives of this research are as follows:

1. The Purposes of this Research are:

- a. To know the Lilliputians symbolized for, in Jonathan Swift's novel *Gulliver's Travels*.

- b. To know the interpretations of Lilliputian symbolized in Jonathan Swift's *Gulliver's Travels* based on theory symbol by Frye.

1.4 Significance of the Research

This research is expected to give some contributions to the following elements:

- a. As a challenge, for the writer, to improve the comprehension of literary study as well as the understanding of Semiotics in literature especially about the process of signification of symbol.
- b. As a source of literary knowledge, for theories this research can be a reference upon Northrop Frye semiotics theory in literary work. The researcher hopes this research to be useful and beneficial to gain understanding of applying semiotics theories, especially for the students of English Literature UIN "SGD" Bandung.

1.5 Definition of Key Terms

1. Semiotics is a study about sign, symbol, and signification. Eco states that 'semiotics is concerned with everything that can be taken as a sign' (Eco 1976: 7).
2. Symbol, is one of subdivisions of sign, and Barthes says that signification of sign is a process of composite signifier and signified which produce a sign, and the original characteristic of sign is connotation, which is a connotative meaning which characterized in general meaning, like a symbol, which Frye said in this case (Rusmana, 2004: 99, 116-117).

3. According to Frye, symbol means any unit of any literary structure that can be isolated for critical attention. A word, a phrase, or an image usage with some kind of special reference (which is what a symbol is usually taken to mean) are all symbols when they are distinguishable elements in critical analysis (Frye 1957: 71).
4. Swift said (1726: 29) about Lilliputians “I treated the rest in the same manner, taking them one by one out of my pocket.” They can enter of Gulliver’s pocket is because theirs body are tiny.

1.6 Organization of Writing

In this paper, the researcher had divided this paper into five chapters. They are:

1. The first chapter is Introduction. This chapter deals with the background of research, statements of problem, purposes and significances of research, definition of key term, and organization of writing.
2. The second chapter is Literary Review. This chapter reviews theories underlying and supporting the research including: a) Theory Symbol, b) Definition Symbol by Frye, and c) The Description of *Gulliver’s Travels* Include; Biographical Sketch Of Jonathan Swift, About *Gulliver’s Travels*, and Synopsis Of *Gulliver’s Travels*.
3. The third chapter is Methodology. This chapter elaborates methodology of this research. It begins with the method of research, the data, and

sources of data, the technique of collecting data, and ends with the technique of analyzing data.

4. The fourth chapter is Analysis of Symbol of Lilliputians in Jonathan Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*. This chapter provides data expression of symbol, its content, and its relation between the expression and content to the story of Jonathan Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*.
5. The fifth chapter is Conclusion and Suggestion. This final chapter provides the conclusion of the whole analysis and suggestion for better understanding.

