

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This study examines and explains the illuminati symbol as a matter of narrative and its projection performance. This chapter consists of research background, statement of problems, research objectives, research significances, definition of literary terms.

1.1 Research Background

Symbols serve as a valuable tool for problem-solving and offering solutions. To effectively solve a problem, one must possess an understanding of the symbol's meaning. According to Charles Sanders Peirce, symbols, or true signs, possess two distinct characteristics: they are representative and interpretative. A representative sign is a form of representation for something else, while an interpretive sign allows for various interpretations depending on the user and recipient (Rusmana, 2014, p. 107). Peirce emphasizes the significance of the process of meaning-making, as humans assign meaning to reality, thereby infusing words with additional layers of meaning and emotion (Landy, 1972, p. 272). In this context, objects, individuals, or situations can assume the role of symbols (Kennedy, 1991, p. 182-184). For instance, black is often used to symbolize death or the devil, while red can represent blood or passion. Authors employ symbols in their works to effectively convey their messages to readers through multiple avenues.

Symbols are prevalent in literary works and can manifest through objects, characters, figures, or colors, effectively representing abstract ideas or concepts (Barthes, 1964). Symbolic objects can include tangible items, pictures, or letters. In Dan Brown's novel, "Angels and Demons," the central symbol is the Illuminati, a secret organization that seeks its members within society and even worldwide. Historically, the term "Illuminati" refers to the Bavarian Illuminati, a clandestine group of the Enlightenment era founded on May 1, 1776 (Farinelli, 2021, p. 37). This movement, also known as the "Illuminati Order," was led by Adam Weishaupt, a legal advocate at the University of Ingolstadt, who hailed from a non-religious background.

However in regarding this ignition, illuminati has become a content over certain works such as literary work(Garza-Reyes, 2012, p. 22). Nonetheless, the background objective of this research is to analyze the semiotic symbol of Illuminati in Dan Brown's novel "Angels and Demons." By delving into the symbolic representation of the Illuminati within the context of the narrative, this study aims to shed light on the deeper meanings and implications associated with this symbol. The analysis will explore the historical, cultural, and ideological dimensions of the Illuminati symbol, examining its role in conveying thematic messages and enhancing the overall literary experience(Farinelli, 2021, p. 47). This research aims to contribute to the understanding of the semiotic symbol of Illuminati in Dan Brown's novel "Angels and Demons" and its broader implications. By conducting a comprehensive analysis, it will offer valuable insights into the power of symbols in literature, their cultural significance, and their ability to shape meaning and engage narrative.

In Dan Brown's "Angels and Demons," the story centers around the secretive and historically significant Illuminati symbol. Renowned symbologist Robert Langdon is called upon to investigate a mysterious threat to the Vatican during a papal conclave. Uncovering the Illuminati's involvement, Langdon discovers their plot to destroy the Vatican using stolen antimatter. The novel explores themes of power, secrecy, and the clash between science and religion, symbolized by the Illuminati(Gelder, 2016, p. 106). It provokes questions about the balance between knowledge and belief, prompting readers to contemplate the boundaries of understanding and the influence of ancient secret societies on history. Overall, "Angels and Demons" offers an enthralling journey into mystery, conspiracy, and the intricate interplay of science, religion, and power.

As regarded Dan Brown's novel "Angels and Demons" has gained a significant reputation for its thrilling and engaging storyline. It is widely recognized as a captivating and fast-paced mystery that keeps readers on the edge of their seats. The book's intricate plot, filled with codes, symbols, and historical references, has contributed to its reputation as an intellectually stimulating read(Strauss, 1972, p. 58). Additionally, the novel's exploration of the themes of power, religion, and science has garnered praise for its thought-provoking nature. By doing so, "Angels and Demons" has established itself as a highly popular and well-regarded work in the realm of contemporary thrillers.

Nonetheless the circumstances over the discussion attribute shall face the consideration as its determinant. By doing so, the promotion over this status may be revealed from study of sign theory within pierce semiotic which define in the dimension of icon, index, and symbol(Pierece, 1998). The tangible narrative of foundation also must rejoice in the notion of

intrinsic element consideration as the approach to locate the data(M. H. Abrams, 2018). The consideration asserted into the conspiracy theory formula which configure the narrative in certain property of the thrill of the unknown, sense of empowerment, simplified worldview, social polarization, undermining truth expert, manipulation of power, symbolism, celebrity involvement(Farinelli, 2021). Thus, is justified this series tool consideration is uncover the interpretation in significant result of detail.

However, Dan Brown has garnered a significant reputation as a novelist, particularly in the thriller genre. His books are known for their intricate plots, fast-paced storytelling, and incorporation of historical and religious elements. Brown's works have achieved massive consumption and popularity, with his novels consistently appearing on bestseller lists around the world(Michelle Dean, 2016). His books have been widely translated and have reached a vast global readership. In terms of awards, Dan Brown has received recognition for his literary achievements. While he may not have received major literary awards or accolades, his novels have achieved remarkable commercial success, with millions of copies sold worldwide(Michelle Dean, 2016). This widespread readership and the enduring popularity of his works are a testament to his reputation as a bestselling author and his ability to captivate and entertain readers with his thrilling narratives.

By doing so, it is a worth to analyze upon Dan Brown utilize the semiotic symbol of the Illuminati in his novel "Angels and Demons" to explore the themes of power, secrecy, and the clash between science and religion, while provoking questions about the balance between knowledge and belief, and the role of ancient secret societies in shaping history trough the study of narrative and semiotic.

1.2 Research Question

As regarded the provocation over the research background, this proposal constructs the research question as a matter of research ignition as following such a display down below:

1. What are the types of illuminati's signs represented in novel Angels and Demons by Dan Brown 2001?
2. How are illuminati's signs representation proceeded in novel Angels and Demons by Dan Brown 2001?

1.3 Research Objective

The purpose of the research is to achieve a particular result. Based on the statement of problem above, the purposes of the following research, are as follows:

1. To identify the types of illuminati's signs representation based on Pierce's Semiology in novel *Angels and Demons* by Dan Brown 2001.
2. To examine the illuminati's signs representation based on Pierce's Semiology which projected narrative conspiracy theory in novel *Angels and Demons* by Dan Brown 2001.

1.4 Research Significance

The research significance of studying the semiotic form and the projection of the Illuminati symbol in Dan Brown's novel "Angels and Demons" can be understood both theoretically and practically.

Theoretically, it pursues by analyzing the semiotic form of symbols in the novel, researchers can delve into the underlying meanings and interpretive possibilities associated with the Illuminati symbol. This analysis contributes to the field of semiotics by exploring how symbols function and convey messages within a literary context. Also, the symbolism studies, whereby the study of the Illuminati symbol allows for an examination of its symbolic significance within the narrative. Researchers can explore the historical, cultural, and ideological dimensions of the symbol, shedding light on its broader implications and thematic resonance.

Practically is provide the works over cultural context: Investigating the projection of the Illuminati symbol in "Angels and Demons" provides insights into the cultural and historical references embedded within the novel. This analysis aids in understanding the influence and reception of the Illuminati symbol in popular literature and its impact on readers' interpretations. It shall not be abandoned to consider reader engagement; the practical significance lies in how the Illuminati symbol captivates readers and adds layers of intrigue to the narrative. Understanding the symbol's projection allows researchers to explore the ways in which it engages readers, evokes emotional responses, and prompts further exploration of the themes presented in the novel. Therefore the literary works industry also never leave over the intentional aims as the main practically dialectical critic.

Nonetheless the societal discourse, the study of the Illuminati symbol in "Angels and Demons" can contribute to broader discussions surrounding conspiracy theories, secret societies, and the intersection of science, religion, and power. This analysis allows for a better

understanding of how fictional representations of symbols shape societal discourse and influence popular perceptions. There goes by the research on the semiotic form and projection of the Illuminati symbol in Dan Brown's novel has theoretical significance by contributing to the fields of semiotics and symbolism studies. It also holds practical significance by offering insights into cultural context, reader engagement, and societal discourse.

1.5 Definition of Key Terms

These definitions serve as guidance for understanding the key terms that will be discussed and analyzed in relation to the semiotic analysis and projection of the Illuminati symbol in Dan Brown's novel "Angels and Demons."

- **Semiotic Analysis:** Semiotic analysis is a theoretical approach that examines signs, symbols, and their meanings within a given context. It involves studying the relationships between signs and the objects or ideas they represent, as well as the interpretation of signs by individuals or communities.
- **Symbol:** A symbol is a representation of something else, often an object, idea, or concept, using signs. Symbols can convey meaning beyond their literal representation and are used to communicate abstract or complex ideas.
- **Projection:** In the context of literature, projection refers to the portrayal or representation of a particular concept, theme, or symbol within a narrative. It involves the projection of meaning onto a symbol or the integration of symbolic elements into a story to convey deeper layers of significance.
- **Illuminati:** The Illuminati is a historical and often controversial secret society. Originating in the 18th century, the term "Illuminati" has been associated with various conspiracy theories and has become a symbol of hidden power and influence. In the context of Dan Brown's novel "Angels and Demons," the Illuminati symbolizes a secretive organization with historical connotations and a quest for power and control.
- **Dan Brown:** Dan Brown is an American author known for his popular thrillers that often incorporate historical, religious, and symbolic elements. His works, including "Angels and Demons," have achieved widespread commercial success and have been praised for their fast-paced narratives and complex plotting.

1.6 Previous Studies

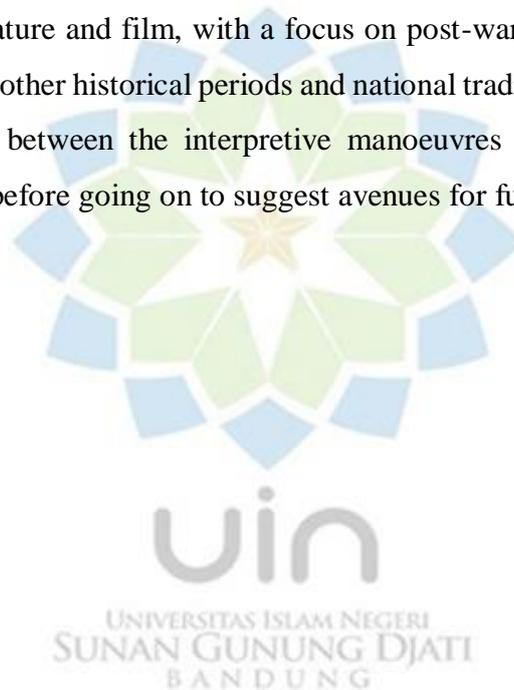
This research is obviously not arbitrary over the discourse which being used as the inspiration and the ignition. However, here are the following research which intentionally become the part in factoring and reasoning as follow down below:

The first ignition which determine this research is from Rahmat Prayogi frand Dewi Ratnaningsih This article discusses icon, index, and symbol on short story text. Semiotics approach is used as literature approach to analize the object of the research. Researcher choose three short stories, (1) Kematian Si Pahit Lidah; (2)Lidah yang Bercerita tentang Jurai; (3) Perang Lidah Tukang Cerita. Both of short stories would be analized with icon, index, and symbol theory. Icon in the short story "Kematian si Pahit Lidah" could be seen from words "Pahit Lidah", index could be seen from the dead of actor on the story (Mak Yun), and symbol could be seen from society which do not believe to medical practice. The word "Ebok" is icon represented to the father on the story. Index could be seen from the situation that the father of the main actor is not a good man, because he has two wives. Symbol could be seen from the word pointed nose, dark skin, bridesmaids, curly hair with thick lips are symbols of someone who is hedonic. The word "Toko Kopi" is an icon of the setting where the debate occuring. The index was marked on the incident of the debate between Cik lam and Cik Mim. Symbol seen from the word grunt which means to breathe hard which indicates a heartbeat that is also beating fast (anger)

However, the second inspiration has provided by Syamsidar from Islamic State University of Alaudin Makasar in 2018. This research discussed about illuminati symbols in the "Star Wars "The Force Awaken" Movie was directed by J. J Abrams and the script was written by Lawrence Kasdan which aimed to describe the usage of that symbol in the movie. The researcher focused on Pierce's theory about symbols of the semiotics triangle such as representament, object, interpretant and Marrs's theory about the object of the illuminati symbol. This researcher applied descriptive qualitative method in revealing the data. The researcher used note taking as instruments to get the valid data. The result of this research revealed that seven kinds of illuminati symbols were found in the movie, they were; All Seeing Eye (one eye of Horus), the light symbol, theosophy crowned Oroboros, the shaped symbol, skull and bones, black crowes or a crock singing group and X cross saltire. The explanation of this research shows that there are seven kinds of symbol that refers to illuminati symbol.

The third ignition is determined by Michael Butter and Peter Knight in 2020. This chapter discusses how historical, cultural and literary studies have analysed conspiracy

theories. It summarises the key contributions in each field and assesses their strengths and weaknesses. The first section traces the shift from conspiracist interpretations as the norm in the nineteenth century, to their becoming characterised as a flawed approach by the middle of the twentieth century. A more concerted focus on the dangers of conspiracism as a significant aspect of European and American political history came with attempts from a psychohistorical perspective to explain the rise of mass political movements. The second section shows how cultural studies scholars around the turn of the millennium challenged the psychopathologising interpretation of the ‘paranoid style’ of American politics, instead viewing conspiracy theories as increasingly justified, creative and potentially radical challenges to the status quo. The third section explains how literary scholars have examined the connection between conspiracy plots and narrative plots in literature and film, with a focus on post-war American culture at first, but more recently taking in other historical periods and national traditions. Finally, we consider the discomfiting parallels between the interpretive manoeuvres of conspiracy theory and ideological critique itself, before going on to suggest avenues for future research.





uin

UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI
SUNAN GUNUNG DJATI
BANDUNG