

A STUDY OF SYMBOLS IN OLIVER BOWDEN'S ASSASSIN'S CREED UNDERWORLD

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A STUDY OF SYMBOLS IN OLIVER BOWDEN'S ASSASSIN'S CREED UNDERWORLD

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ABSTRACT: The title of this study is "A Study of Symbol in Oliver Bowden's *Assassin's Creed Underworld*". This study is made to analyze the symbol of characters in the story of *Assassin's Creed Underworld*. The writer uses descriptive qualitative research. The data are taken from Oliver Bowden's *Assassin's Creed Underworld*. As symbol is a figure of speech which uses objects to signify ideas and qualities, it is found that the characters in the novel have different symbols. From this study it was found that the symbols that appear in the characters in this novel are Tiger, Scale, Ocean, Pawn, Scapegoat, Mountain, Fire, Devil, Water, Compass, Needle, Steel, Telescope, Candle, Tree, Parasite and Garbage. The final result of this research is the explanation of ideas and qualities expressed from each symbol and why the symbol can appear.

Keywords: *character, concept, symbol*

ABSTRAK: Judul penelitian ini adalah "Studi Simbol dalam Assassin's Creed Underworld milik Oliver Bowden". Penelitian ini dibuat untuk menganalisis simbol-simbol karakter dalam kisah Assassin's Creed Underworld, Penulis menggunakan penelitian kualitatif deskriptif. Data diambil dari Assassin's Creed Underworld milik Oliver Bowden. Karena simbol adalah kiasan yang menggunakan objek untuk menandakan ide dan kualitas, ditemukan bahwa karakter dalam novel memiliki simbol yang berbeda. Dari penelitian ini ditemukan bahwa simbol-simbol yang muncul dalam karakter dalam novel ini adalah Harimau, Skala, Lautan, Pion, Kambing Hitam, Gunung, Api, Iblis, Air, Kompas, Jarum, Baja, Teleskop, Lilin, Pohon, Parasit dan Sampah. Hasil akhir dari penelitian ini adalah penjelasan tentang ide dan kualitas yang diekspresikan dari setiap simbol dan mengapa simbol tersebut dapat muncul.

Kata kunci: karakter, konsep, simbol

INTRODUCTION

Symbols are included in several types of figurative language. In literature science symbols can be applied to objects to describe in more detail and are easily understood by readers. Like comparing two different things but have some or something in common. Metaphor is a comparison between two unlike things without using the words 'like' or 'as' (Pierce, 1988: 56). Symbols are use of concept to signify ideas and qualities by giving them symbolic meanings that are different from their literal sense. Symbol can take different forms. Language, written or spoken, is such symbolism. Sounds only from words, or their form on paper, are indifferent. Words are symbols, and their meanings are based on ideas, images, and emotions, which give rise to the listener's mind. A symbol is something that contains a deeper meaning than the real meaning. Symbols can take different forms. In general, symbols are objects that represent other objects to give meanings that are different from the truth and that contain deeper and more significant meanings. This

is the author's way to give more meaning and emotion to the words in his work

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Formalism

As an attitude, formalism emphasizes good will and obedience to forms, expressions, formulations, forms more than content, goals, things formulated, materia. Formalism as an attitude occurs a lot in the fields of law, ethics, morals, and religion. In law, ethics, moral attitudes of formalism are more concerned with the forms, expressions, formulations, letters that express it rather than the content and intent to be stated. In religion, formalism overemphasizes the outward aspect of practice and worship at the expense of its content, meaning and intentions, and is preoccupied with the stipulations of religious behavior, ceremonies and celebrations outlined by ignoring its meaning and purpose. Formalism only focuses on the meaning of the writing itself and overrides the opinions of the reader. According to Leon Trotsky, the **form** of a literary work to discover its

true meaning not what the audiences think but what the text says (Trotsky, 1994: 87).

Figurative Language

If in Indonesian we know the existence of Majas or language style, namely the use of language wealth, the use of certain kinds to obtain certain effects that make a literary work even more alive. Figurative language itself is usually used to analyze the deeper meaning of words. For example songs, this is also used to make the lyrics sound more beautiful. In its journey, there are several types of figurative language that need to be known, including Symbol, Personification or personification, Simile, Onomatopoeia and Hyperbole or hyperbole.

The Meaning of Symbol

A symbol is a form of a word that contains a deeper meaning than the actual meaning (Landy, 1972: 271). Symbols can take different forms. In general, symbols are objects that represent other objects to give meanings that are different from the truth and that contain deeper and more significant meanings. This is the author's way to give more meaning and emotion to the words in his work. In this case, an

object, person or situation can represent a symbol, for example, black is often used to symbolize death or the devil. The color red can symbolize blood or passion. The writers use symbols in his works to carry his message in more ways to be conveyed to readers.

RESEARCH METHOD

Literary Approach

According to Wellek and Warren in the book Theory of Literature, there are two types of approaches, namely intrinsic and extrinsic approach (Wellek and Warren, 1977: 117). Intrinsic approach is based on the approach of the text itself, while extrinsic approach is the approach that is out of the text, such as history, environment, economy, social, and political. Intrinsic approach is to analyze the elements of a prose or novel which consists of plot, character, setting, theme, point of view and style. Extrinsic approach is to analyze the relationship between a literary works with evolving circumstances at the time of the work is created as the relationship mentioned above.

Research Design

This thesis is conducted by using qualitative method due the data used in te qualitative from the text. Qualitative method is used by yhe writer to analyze and expose the obtained data. (Grove, 2003:19) describe a qualitative approach as a systematic subjective approach used to describe life experiences and situations to give them meaning. states that qualitative research focuses on the experiences of people as well as stressing uniqueness of the individual. refer to qualitative research as a form of social enquiry that focuses on the way people interpret and make sense of their experience and the world in which they live. Researchers use the qualitative approach to explore the behaviour, perspectives, experiences and feelings of people and emphasise the understanding of these elements.

Data Source

Data sources are all information or subject that should be collected and chosen by the research. The source of te data is the novel *Assassin's Creed Underworld* published in 2015. This novel is 439 pages of length, which is divided into 85 chapter.

This research is conducted only to analyze symbolism which is shown from the main character of the novel.

Data Collection Procedure

The writer get the data in form of words, phrases, sentences, and paragraphs.

The procedure of the data collection is divided into several steps.

- 1 Reading the novel *Assassin's Creed Underworld* by Oliver Bowden repeatedly.
- 2 Highlighting and identifying the sentences that show symbol from the main character.
- 3 Selecting the text and give code to the sentences. The data coding indicated the pages and lines where the sentences are located in the novel.

Research Instrument

The instrument of tis study is the writer himself, as the main observer who participates in observing and analyzing the data to procedure the valid result in the reading texts taken from the novel *Assassin's Creed Underworld*. The writer uses this fictional text as the data sources.

The writer reads the novel and classifies the symbolism in the novel.

ANALYSIS

This chapter will present the analysis symbol of characters in Oliver Bowden's *Assassin's Creed Underworld*. The novel describes Assassin's history in London, 1862. They put up a fight against the government on the basis of finding a body during the construction of the underground railway, at this time each character in the novel shows their respective metaphors by the symbols. The writer will analyze the metaphorical portrayed through the characters in the novel, according to Shaw (1972).

Symbol of Character

Most of us think of a symbol as a device used in songs or poems only, and that it has nothing to do with our everyday life. In fact, all of us in our routine life speak, write, and think in symbols. We cannot avoid them. Symbols are sometimes constructed through our common language. Symbols can also appear in a literary work, especially a novel that has several

characters in it. This is because the characters in most novels are depictions of real life, the characters also have a nature and life in it. In this analysis, we will discuss how symbols appear in a character. Symbols will appear on the characters that make up the symbol, the basic is to equate two different things to make it easier to understand. Generally, it is an object representing, to give an entirely different meaning that is much deeper and more significant. There are six major characters that bring up several symbols. Each character has several symbols that appear based on their different characteristics.

Ethan Frye

The first symbol that appears on Ethan Frye is a tiger. When talking with his friend who is also a fellow Assassin who wants to help him in completing a mission, and Ethan insisted he always do everything independently like a tiger "A tiger never needs allies to hunt, alone does not mean I feel lonely, friend" (Bowden, 2015: 78). His friend had also suspected Ethan's answer when he offered to help him, then he also responded to Ethan's answer very confidently "You always act like a tiger in

his territory" (Bowden, 2015: 78). The quote above also reinforces an existing symbol in Ethan like a tiger is indeed true, and Ethan is also indeed like a tiger that is in his territory.

Henry Green

While still a student of Ethan Frye, Henry practiced really hard to be what he is now. Henry's hard work produced optimal results so that he could become chairman of the Assassins in the city of London. Henry was also friends with Kulpreet and he was Henry's trusted person while living in London, they always practiced together to keep developing. Kulpreet was very enthusiastic every time he trained with Henry because of the abilities that Henry had, even he was amazed by his physical strength. "ouch! why do I feel pain when I hit you? It feels like hitting steel!" (Bowden, 2015: 227). Even Kulpreet was shocked when he tries to hit Henry but instead he himself felt the pain in his hand, he felt like hitting very hard steel. Henry not only strengthened his physique but also his mentality, because mentality was needed when he was an Assassin. Henry's mentality was as hard and strong as his

body, which creates a balance in Henry. When he is faced with a difficult choice and an increasingly chaotic situation, Kulpreet worry about Henry's situation, but Henry manage to convince Kulpreet that he is fine and not afraid at all and he said his mentality was still strong. "My mental are as strong as steel, my friend" (Bowden, 2015:362). Henry's statement also made him symbolized by steel because physically and also mentally strong and ready to face whatever will happen.

CONCLUSION

Symbols appear in every character that exists. each character has a different symbols. the first character discussed was one of the top brass in Assassin namely Ethan Frye, Ethan had a calm nature in his life and was also a very intelligent thinker. He always thought of the most efficient way of carrying out his duties, like a tiger in the territory. The second character discussed is Boot. Boot is a young man

whose job is to deliver stolen goods, but he is not a professional who can defend himself because he is only a pawn in the game. He also often gets bad treatment from others. The third character is Jacob Frye, He is the son of Ethan Frye. Jacob is an ambitious young man and also has high self-confidence, besides that he also has a strong and strong body like a mountain. Fourthly there is Evie Frye, she is also Ethan Frye's daughter and sister of Jacob Frye. Evie is very different from Jacob, she has a more friendly character. She is also often underestimated because he is a woman, until all realize that he is a needle that is ready to hurt anyone. Then there is

Henry Green, who is the leader of the Assassins in London, he is a good example and is very worthy to become a leader. And have eyes that can see from a distance that is like a telescope. The last character is the enemy of the Assassins in London, namely Cavanagh. He is the most cunning person in the city of London. He only relied on protection from an equally cunning government to reap as much profit as possible, because he was a person who lived like a parasite.

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