

## **CHAPTER II**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

This chapter provides an overview of the theories that are related to the research to be conducted. It describes the information about the theory that the researcher uses in undertaking this research. In this chapter, the researcher would like to discuss about previous studies that discuss novels and also use the same theory, narrative fiction, and semiotic by Peirce.

#### **2.1 Narrative**

According to Abbott (2014:1) a narrative is a story or in general it means telling a series of stories. So, a narrative can be defined as one or more events that are told through a medium—such as a novel—and that occur in a chronological order. Novels can be defined as lengthy narrative texts with story components like plot, setting, character, etc. According to Tarigan (2011:16) a novel is a story that follows the lives of imaginative men and women and has a plot that could fill one or more books. According to Paul Cobley (in Ribó, 2019:6) novels is an examples of contemporary narrative genres from the European Renaissance. As part of prose fiction, novels employ narrative texts. According to Tarigan (2011:85-86) divides narrative based on whether or not a story is real, namely:

##### **2.1.1 Narrative Non Fiction**

Narrative non-fiction is a narrative that tells about real things that have happened. This type of novel is based on someone's experience, a true story or based

on history. For instance bibliography, science, medical, history, diaries, etc. The well-known book Anne Frank: Diary of a Young Girl, for instance, is divided into each of her individual journal entries. This book is simply the published diary of a teenage Jewish girl during World War II who escape the Germans. Following the girl's death, the diary was discovered, and her family published it precisely. Anne wrote the truth. It was her life, and a wonderful example of nonfiction.

### **2.1.2 Narrative Fiction**

Narrative fiction is an imaginative work that is in the form of a fictional or imaginary story and is not based on reality in human life. According to (Mustadi, 2021:140), Fiction is described as narrative text that is imaginative but typically plausible, and contains truths that dramatized human interactions. The foundation of narrative fiction is a solid structure that helps with in-depth analysis of a narrative. To put it simply, narrative fiction is a literary genre in which an imaginative story that is not based on real life. Roland Barthes, a semiotician philosopher and literary critic, is quoted as saying:

*“There are countless stories around the world. First and foremost, narrative is an enormous variety of genres that are themselves spread among many media, as if any medium were suitable for holding human stories. Narrative is capable of being conveyed through spoken or written words, gestures, still or moving images, and etc. It can also be found in mythology, fables, tales,*

*novellas, history, tragedies, dramas, paintings, movies, comic books, conversations, and etc.*” (Barthes, 1966:2)

So, from the explanation above, it can be concluded that Barthes sees narrative fiction as a text where narrative structure and symbolism play a key role in constructing meaning. In his view, fiction often uses narrative techniques to express ideas and themes through creative forms. According to (Ribó, 2019:2) the following is a definition of narrative as a semiotic portrayal of a sequence of events that are meaningfully connected by cause and time:

- A narrative is a semiotic representation composed of material signs (spoken or written words, moving or still images, etc.) that represent or convey meanings that the listener must decipher or understand.
- A narrative presents a series of events; that is, it links two or more events (actions, happenings, incidents, etc.) together in a common structure or coherent whole.
- Narratives link events through cause and time, which means they arrange the events according to their relationship in time (e.g., the full moon filters), as cause and effect (e.g., a frog abruptly plunges into an old pond, causing the sound of water to appear), or, in the majority of narratives, by both temporal and causal relationships.
- Meaningful narratives have significance for both the sender and the recipient, though these meanings don't always have to match up.

As the definitions above have shown, narrative is the most important tool for humans to comprehend their own existence. Furthermore, this aligns with Peirce's Theory of Semiotics, semiotics is based on logic because logic studies how people reasoning, whereas Peirce believes that reasoning occurs through signs. According to Peirce, these signs enable us to think, relate to others, and give meaning to the universe's displays. All of the events in our lives are inadvertently linked together in a causal or temporal sequence—or even both. Examples of a work of narrative fiction such as Suzanne Collins's 'The Hunger Games', William Golding's 'Lord of the Flies', and William Faulkner's 'The Sound and the Fury'.

## **2.2 Semantic**

Etymologically, the word semantic comes from the English word “semantics” which is derived from the Ancient Greek “sema” which means “sign” or “symbol”, the verbal form is “semaino” which means “to mark” or “symbolize” (Chaer & Muliastuti, 2013:3). Semantic itself is part of the field of linguistics that studies the meanings contained in language units. Therefore, semantics can be said to be a science that studies the meaning of language. In the study of meaning there is also a field of study called semiotics, according to (Chaer & Muliastuti, 2013:3) Semiotic studies are included in semantic studies. The difference between the two is that semantics studies the meaning in language while semiotics studies the meaning in all systems of symbols and signs.

### 2.2.1 The Description of Semiotic

Criticizing the formal components of literary works using a semiotic approach is a sort of advancement of the structural approach. The study of semiotics focuses on how to interpret signs. Alternatively, semiotics is the study of teaching people to read signs found in specific objects. A sign is something that represent something else in the form of experiences, thoughts, feelings, ideas, etc. Movements of the limbs, the eyes, the mouth, writing styles, colors, flags, house shapes and pieces, clothes, and other objects of art—such as books, paintings, sculptures, films, dance, music, and others—can all be considered signs.

The two semiotic studies pioneers, Saussure and Peirce, are inextricably linked to the field of semiotics research. According to Saussure, semiotics is the study of signs and the rules that govern them in social interactions. This suggests that signs are constrained by social norms. Saussure said that signs have meaning because language plays a role in them. A sign consists of two inseparable elements, according to Saussure (in Sobur, 2016:46): signifier and signified or significant and signifier. The signifier is the conceptual element, idea, or meaning that is contained in the signifier, whereas the signifiant can be spoken sounds or written letters. Saussure is famous for its theory of signifier and signified, langue and parole, synchronic and diachronic, and the last one is syntagmatic and paradigmatic.

- Signifier and Signified, the signifier is "meaningful sounds" or "meaningful strokes." The signifier is the material aspect of language: what is said or heard and what is written or read. A signifier is a

mental image, thought, or concept. So the signifier is the mental aspect of language.

- Langue and Parole, langue is a sign system that functions as a means of verbal communication between members of a language community, and its nature is abstract, according to Saussure langue is the totality of a set of facts of one language, which is deduced from the memories of language users and is a repository of language that exists in every individual. While what is meant by parole is the use or realization of language by each member of the language; it is concrete because parole is nothing but a physical reality that differs from one person to another.
- Synchronic and Diachronic, synchronic linguistics examines language at a certain time by emphasizing the study of language in its structure. While diachronic linguistics examines language with the passage of time which emphasizes the study of language in its history.
- Syntagmatic and Paradigmatic, this syntagmatic and paradigmatic relationship can be seen in the language structure in the sentences we use everyday, including Indonesian sentences. If the sentence has a syntagmatic relationship, it shows the unity of meaning and relationship in the same sentence in each word in it. Meanwhile, the paradigmatic relationship shows the unity of meaning and relationship

in one sentence with another sentence, which is not visible if you look at one sentence alone.

While Peirce (in Sobur, 2016:40) defines semiotic, which has the concept that semiotic studies of signs are inextricably linked with logic. Humans use signs that they see around them to reason using logic. Signs have the power to link people's thoughts with one another. Peirce categorizes signs into three triadic (ground, object, and interpretant). This second trichotomy is widely used of Peirce's semiotic theories. The second trichotomy relates between the representamen and its object. Three categories of relationships are identified by Peirce (in Sobur, 2016:42) between the representamen and the object:

- Icons, or relationships of similarity. For instance, photograph and maps.
- Index, a measure of how closely something exists. For instance, a face that appears gloomy denotes melancholy, black smoke indicates a fire, and arrogance is indicated by having received repeated reprimands but not wanting to return the favor.
- Symbol, a relationship established through convention. For instance, different limb movements convey a particular meaning, and colors have symbolic meanings.

### 2.2.2 The Semiotic of Charles Sanders Peirce

Peirce's (in Sobur, 2016:41) Semiotics involves breaking down the sign into three aspects: sign A shows a fact (or object B) to its interpreter, namely C. Therefore, a sign is never a solitary entity, but one that has all three aspects. According to Peirce (in Sobur, 2016:41) semiotics focuses on understanding how meaning is created and conveyed through signs, encompassing not just linguistic symbols but also visual cues, gestures, and more. In literature, semiotics serves as a tool to decode the layers of meaning contain within symbols. It involves examining symbols not just as literal elements within a story but as carriers of deeper significance and cultural connotations. To put it another way, if something signifies something else, then it can be considered a sign. An object or reference must be the subject of a sign. Hence, a sign's primary purpose becomes representing its referent.

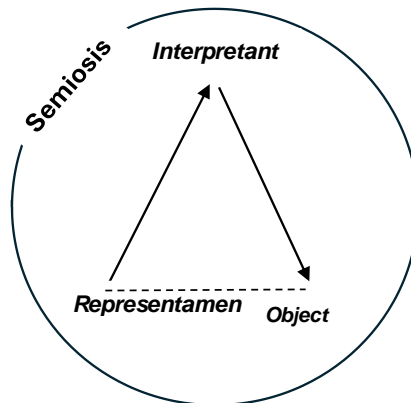
Peirce is known for his trichotomy concept which consists of representamen, object, and interpretant.

- Representamen is the form that is received by the sign or functions as a sign. Sometimes the representamen is also termed a sign.
- Object is something that refers to the sign. Something represented by the representamen that relates to the reference.
- Interpretant is a meaning of the sign.

Something that is used so that the sign can function is called ground/representamen by Peirce, which consequently the sign is always in a triadic



relationship, namely ground, object, and interpretant. Peirce's triadic model is often called the triangle of meaning.



*Image 2.1*  
Peirce Triangle of Meaning

The central point of Peirce's semiotic theory is a trichotomy consisting of 3 types and 9 sub-types of signs into representamen, object, and interpretan (in Sobur, 2016:41-42). The following is an explanation of the first, second, and third trichotomies:

**a. Representamen (First Trichotomy)**

Another definition of representamen is a material form that all five senses are able to perceive and that alludes to something. Three categories comprise representamen, specifically:

- **Qualisign** is a sign based on its inherent qualities. For instance, harsh, hard, weak, soft, and melodious words.
- **Sinsign** is the actual existence of the sign or event that is present in the sign. For example, the word “hazy” or “murky” in the word

sequence “murky river water” indicates that there was rain upstream.

- **Legisign** is a sign that is based on a code, convention, or widely accepted rule. Traffic signs and other convention-based signs are examples of legisigns.

#### **b. Object (Second Trichotomy)**

Specifically, something that can be used to explain a sign or take the place of another item. Object are separated into three categories, namely:

- **Icons** is the relationship between a sign and an object that is similar in character or visually resembles. For example, portrait and map.
- **Index**, a sign that shows a natural relationship between the sign and the signifier which is a causal relationship, or a sign that has a direct relationship with its object. For instance, a face that appears gloomy denotes melancholy, black smoke indicates a fire, and arrogance is indicated by having received repeated reprimands but not wanting to return the favor.
- **Symbol**, a relationship established through convention. For instance, different limb movements convey a particular meaning, and colors have symbolic meaning.

#### **c. Interpretant (Third Trichotomy)**

An interpretant is someone who, in the eyes of a person, represents something else. There are three categories for interpretants as well:

- **Rheme** is a sign that can be said to be subjective because it is influenced by qualities that becomes potential meaning or a sign that allow people to interpret based on choice whether its factual or not. For example, a person with red eyes may indicate that they have been crying, have an eye disease, irritation, or even something else.
- **Dicent Sign (dicensign)** is a sign that is factual or informative. For example, if there are frequent accidents on a road, traffic signs are placed on the roadside stating that there are frequent accidents there.
- **Argument**, is a sign that immediately gives a reason about something.

As the explanation mentioned above, it can be concluded that narrative fiction is a text where narrative structure and symbolism play a key role in constructing meaning. This is in line with semiotics which can be defined as the study of signs that aims to examine symbolism and meaning in its use. The researcher will use Peirce's theory with its triadic/trichotomous concept of representamen, object, and interpret. These three trichotomies will then be analyzed according to the understanding of Peirce's theory.

### 2.3 Previous Study

Researchers found two previous researchers who discussed this novel and movie. The first study (Aditya, 2022:6) examined the imagery in Kawamura's book *"If Cats Disappeared from the World"*. The most common type of imagery identified by the study was visual imagery, which made up 448 of the data. According to the study, the novel primarily uses visual imagery to depict the setting and characters so that the reader can grasp the story. Other than that, (Arsita, 2020:8) uses this novel as the object of her research but she focused on analyzing the postman's schizophrenic symptoms shown in the movie adaptation of this novel.

Furthermore, researchers discovered three studies that used Peirce's method to analyze semiotics. The first study (Suryani, 2017:56-62) examined Tere Liye's novel *"Ayahku (Bukan) Pembohong"* and discovered that school icons and costumes serve as social markers, swimming icons as talent markers, soccer icons as hobbies, and punishment icons as discipline markers. In addition, this novel's indexes include behavioral, occupational, and disease indexes. Finally, symbols in this novel include those representing good looks and intelligence, names, injustice, and love.

The second study was conducted by (Rahayu, 2023:290), who examined Iwan Simatupang's novel *"Ziarah"*. She discovered that in this novel, signs are used to describe the meaning of death. The signs in this novel, specifically the representamen stage using the word pilgrimage, based on the object according to Peirce, are divided into three parts: icons, indices, and symbols. The icon includes the word eye, the

index represents the painter's wife's death, and the symbol is alcohol. The meaning of this novel aims to describe social criticism.

The last study was conducted by (Shofi et al., 2023:43) who examined the rose's symbolic meaning in Sherly Cindya Fransisca's drama *Beauty and the Beast*. Roses are typically associated with expressions of love, as well as the beloved children's fairy tale "*Beauty and the Beast*". A triangle of sign meanings is produced by this research: the rose flower can be interpreted as true love, it can be interpreted as a symbolic object, or it can be represented as a curse. It is clear from these three symbolic indicators that the rose represent a destiny that influences how the characters' lives unfold.

The difference between this research and other research that have been mention above is on the object. This research solely focused on the symbols used in the novel "If Cats Disappeared From The World" by Kawamura.