

CHAPTER I

Introduction

1.1 Background of the Study

Literature, as a mirror of life, often reflects the complexity of human experience through a variety of profound themes. One of the universally relevant and often explored themes in literary works is separation. Separation, both physically and emotionally, can have a profound psychological impact and affect an individual's perception of reality. In this context, the novel "00:00" by Ameylia Falensia published in 2021 is now an interesting literary work to study, especially in the representation of the theme of separation through the use of metaphors and symbols.

In this context, the novel "00:00" by Ameylia Falensia published in 2021 is one of the interesting literary works to study. This novel tells the emotional journey of the main character, Lengkara Putri Langit (or Lengkara), who experiences various forms of loss and alienation due to separation from those closest to her. Set in a symbolic time—midnight or "00:00"—the novel represents the transition point between the past and the future, as well as the emptiness that arises between them. The author uses metaphors and symbols intensively to describe the emotional and psychological nuances associated with a breakup. These metaphors and symbols serve not only as rhetorical tools, but also as a means to deepen the reader's understanding of the complexity of the theme of separation. This research will focus

on the analysis of how metaphors and symbols are used in Ameylia Falensia's novel "00:00" to represent the theme of separation, as well as how these elements reinforce the expressive and aesthetic power of language in the literary work.

The use of metaphors and symbols in literature has long been recognized as an effective way to convey deep and complex meaning. Metaphors allow writers to compare two different things to create a new meaning, while symbols represent a broader idea or concept. In the context of the novel "00:00", metaphors and symbols are used to describe various aspects of separation, such as feelings of loss, loneliness, and alienation.

This study aims to analyze in depth the use of metaphors and symbols in the novel "00:00" as a representation of the theme of separation. Through this analysis, it is hoped that a more comprehensive understanding of how Ameylia Falensia uses figurative language to convey complex and universally relevant meanings. The study also aims to identify the symbolic and metaphorical patterns that are repeated in the novel, as well as how these patterns contribute to the development of the theme of separation.

In addition, this research will explore how the use of metaphors and symbols in the novel "00:00" relates to the broader social and cultural context. This research will consider how the experience of separation is articulated in the context of contemporary society, as well as how it reflects or challenges prevailing cultural norms and social values.

This research is expected to make a significant contribution to the study of literature, especially in understanding the representation of the theme of separation in fiction. Through an in-depth analysis of the use of metaphors and symbols, this research will uncover the layers of meaning hidden in the novel "00:00", as well as how these meanings contribute to our understanding of the complex and universal human experience.

To support this analysis, two main theories are used: first, Charles Sanders Peirce theory of symbols. According to this theory, it consists of not only two parts, but three interconnected elements. First, there is representation, which is the form of the sign itself; second, objects, which are the things referred to by the sign; and third, interpretation, which is the meaning or understanding that comes to mind when the sign is used. Further, this theory classifies signs into three main types: icons (signs that are similar to their objects), indexes (signs that have a causal relationship or proximity to their object), and symbols (signs whose meaning is based on conventions or agreements). Second, the metaphorical theory of George Lakoff and Mark Johnson asserts that metaphor is not just a rhetorical tool, but an integral part of the way humans think and understand the world. These two theories are used as analytical knives in uncovering the meaning of separation in the novel "00:00".

1.2 Identification of the Problems

This research focuses on how the novel "00:00" by Ameylia Falensia depicts the theme of separation through the use of metaphors and symbols. In particular, this study wanted to understand the deep meaning of metaphors and symbols used to represent feelings such as loss, loneliness, and alienation in stories. In addition, this study will also look at how the use of this figurative language relates to the social and cultural context around us, as well as how it can reflect or challenge common views about separation.

1.3 Limitations of the Research

This research, although it is an in-depth effort, has some limitations. First, the main focus of the research is on the use of metaphors and symbols in the novel "00:00" to illustrate the theme of separation. This means that other aspects of the novel, such as character development, storylines, or the broader social context, may not be explored in depth. Second, the analysis in this study relies heavily on the researcher's interpretation of metaphors and symbols in the novel, which may be slightly different from other readers' interpretations. Lastly, this research only focuses on one novel. Therefore, the results of this study may not be directly applicable to understanding the theme of separation in other literary works that may use different ways to express it.

1.4 Research Questions

In connection to the issue that have been presented previously, the research problems to be addressed in this study are framed into two central questions, namely:

1. How are metaphors and symbols used in Ameylia Falensia's novel "00:00" to represent the theme of separation?
2. How does the use of metaphors and symbols in the novel "00:00" relate with the broader social and cultural context of the experience of separation?

1.5 The Object of the Research

The object of this study is the novel "00:00" by Ameylia Falensia published in 2021. This research specifically focuses on the use of metaphors and symbols in the novel as a means to represent the theme of separation. This novel was chosen because it explicitly and symbolically depicts the emotional experiences of its main characters in dealing with loss, loneliness, and alienation. The metaphors and symbols used in the narrative become the central point in analyzing how the theme of separation is constructed and deepened through the figurative language used by the author.

1.6 Significance of the Study

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The two main reasons for the significance of this study are:

1. Deepening understanding of the representation of the theme of separation in literature: This research specifically examines how the theme of separation is expressed through the use of metaphors and symbols in the novel, which can provide new insights into how writers describe complex emotional experiences.
2. Uncovering layers of hidden meaning and universal relevance: By analyzing metaphors and symbols, this study aims to uncover deeper meanings in the novel that may not be immediately apparent, as well as connect those meanings to a broader understanding of the human experience in general.

1.6.1 Theoretical Significance

This study greatly adds to the ideas of literary study by:

- a. **Making Literary Analysis Better in Different Fields:** By bringing together Charles Sanders Peirce's study of signs with George Lakoff

and Mark Johnson's ideas about how we use metaphors, this study shows how combining different ideas can help us understand books better. This way of using different fields gives us a way to carefully look at figurative language, going beyond what one idea can do.

b. Making Ideas About Symbols and Metaphors in Books

Stronger: The study backs up ideas about how symbols and metaphors work, showing they are key parts that shape stories, not just decorations. This finding argues against common ideas that say figurative language is not as important as the story's events and people.

c. Building a Thinking and Cultural Structure for Books:

The study creates a base of ideas that links cultural symbols with how we understand language, explaining how symbols specific to a culture can be understood through common ways of using metaphors. This makes stronger the current ideas about how culture is shared and how meaning is made in books.

d. Making the Study of Feeling Alone Bigger:

The study gives ideas for carefully studying abstract feelings like being apart, using real figurative language, which makes theories richer in both books about trauma and psychological ways of looking at books.

1.6.2 Practical Significance

The practical implications of this research extend to multiple domains:

- a. Literary Education and Pedagogy:** The analytical framework developed in this study can be applied in literature classrooms to teach students how to identify and interpret symbolic and metaphorical elements in texts. The systematic approach provides educators with concrete tools for analyzing figurative language, making abstract literary concepts more accessible to students.
- b. Creative Writing Development:** The findings offer practical guidance for creative writers in contemporary Indonesian literature, demonstrating how traditional cultural symbols can be effectively integrated with modern narrative techniques. Writers can use the identified patterns and strategies to enhance the thematic depth of their own works.
- c. Literary Criticism and Review:** The research provides critics and reviewers with a structured methodology for evaluating how effectively contemporary authors use figurative language to construct meaning. This can elevate the quality of literary discourse and criticism in Indonesian literary circles.
- d. Translation and Cross-Cultural Communication:** Understanding how symbols and metaphors function in cultural contexts can assist

translators in preserving meaning when adapting Indonesian literary works for international audiences, and vice versa.

- e. **Therapeutic and Counseling Applications:** The insights into how separation is represented through figurative language can inform narrative therapy approaches, helping counselors understand how individuals process and articulate experiences of loss and trauma.