

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

Literary works are creations that are conveyed communicatively about the author's intentions for aesthetic purposes. These works often tell a story, in both third and first person, with a plot and through the use of various literary devices related to their time. Literary works are known in two forms, namely fiction and non-fiction. Types of fiction literary works are prose, poetry, and drama. While examples of non-fiction literary works are biographies, autobiographies, essays, and literary criticism.

Abrams underlines literary works into three categories, including: the creator (artist), the universe (universe), and the reader (audience). All three exist in the same correlation to literary works. A work-centered literary approach, namely objective, a universal-centered approach, namely mimetic, a reader-centered approach, namely pragmatic, and furthermore, Hopkins explains that the author has freedom of authority over the work he makes. Characters, settings, places, themes, plots and other intrinsic elements in the text of a literary work are entirely within the rights and powers of the author. In this case deciding the text of the work, the author has absolute power over his work. This is also the background of the Romantics who regard the author as "the I" who has the utmost freedom.

Novel is one of the literary works that also store a lot of signs as a way to communicate with readers. Signs in the novel can be seen from the title, characters, and events in a novel. The title is a tool in the storytelling of a novel that serves to attract readers for the first time. According to Sayuti (2000:147) the title is an element of the outer layer of a literary work. Therefore, the title is the element that is most easily recognized by the reader and the title is often associated with the content of the literary work itself.

Peirce's sign theory, or semiotics is a description of meaning, representation, reference, and meaning. Peirce also treats the theory of signs as central to his work on logic, as a medium for investigating and the process of scientific discovery, and even as one of the possible ways to 'to prove' his pragmatism. Meanwhile, according to Saussure the sign is the whole that results from the association of the signifier with the signified (Saussure 1983, 67; Saussure 1974, 67). The relationship between the signifier and the signified is referred to as 'signifying'.

The theory of semiotics according to Ferdinand de Saussure (1857-1913). In this theory, semiotics is divided into two parts (dichotomy) namely signifiers and signifieds. The signifier is seen as a physical form or form that can be recognized through the form of architectural works, while the signified is seen as meaning that is revealed through the concepts, functions and or values contained in architectural works. The existence of

Saussure's semiotics is the relation between signifier and signified based on convention, commonly called signification.

“The sign of the four” is the second novel by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle featuring Sherlock Holmes, first published in 1890 in Lippincott's Monthly Magazine. The novel, which is set in 1888, has a complex plot because it discusses flashbacks of characters while serving in the East India Company, the rebellion in India in 1857, the theft of treasure, as well as a secret agreement between four prisoners and two corrupt prison wardens. This novel also tells of adventures, mysteries, and has signs or symbols that we must know in order to understand the contents of this novel. Sherlock Holmes is the main character in this novel who becomes a smart detective but relies on illegal drugs (drugs) while making him more human when compared to the previous novel, Study in Scarlet.

To analyze the symbols in the novel "The Sign of Four" by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, of course, will lead to the study of the symbols themselves. Semiotics is an analytical method used to explore the meaning contained in a sign. A sign is a stimulus that signifies or indicates some other condition. For example, when we see smoke it means that there is fire. While the symbol is a sign that is complex with many meanings, including a very special meaning. For example, the dove symbolizes a sign of peace.

The reason the researcher took the topic of Symbol in the novel "The Sign of Four" is because in this novel there are so many signs that then make the reader assume to understand these signs with certain limitations. Therefore the research wants to help to find out more deeply and analyze the signs in the novel "The Sign of Four" by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle by using the semiotic theory of Charles Sander Pierce. So that the meaning of the signs is more relevant. In this novel there are also so many signs where these signs are part of icons, indexes, and symbols. But in this study the researcher will only focus on symbols according to the title raised, namely "symbol in the novel The Sign of Four" by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

## **1.2 Statements of Problems**

Based on the description above, the formulation of problems is as follow:

- 1.2.1 What kind of symbols do appear in the novel "The Sign of Four" by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle?
- 1.2.2 How the author uses of symbols to build the story in the novel "The Sign of Four" by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle?

## **1.3 Scope of the Study**

In analyzing this story, the researcher only focuses on some of the signs found in this novel throughout the story, the symbols are a guide for

how the reader can solve the problems in this novel and then be able to understand the intent and purpose of the author to use these symbols.

#### **1.4 Objectives of the Study**

Based on the formulation of the problem mentioned above, the objectives of this study are as follows:

1.4.1 To analyze the symbols in the novel "The Sign of the Four" by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

1.4.2 To find out how the author uses of symbols to build the story in the novel "The Sign of Four" by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

#### **1.5 Significances of the Research**

The importance of this research is a systematic way to improve goals. Modify and develop knowledge that can be conveyed and tested by other researchers. Any research should essentially be useful in the practice of making decisions as a bookmark in a fairly self-explanatory sense. Benefits for the development of science, benefits for the object under study, as well as benefits for the researcher themselves. The benefits of research should be made in the instructional materials for their own research, and to help others, the benefits will be carried out by researcher to better assess the research of the novel "The Sign of Four" about symbols and theoretical semiotics.

### 1.5.1 Theoretical Significance

Based on the theory, more researchers focus on semiotic aspects. Semiotics is systematic with respect to the production and interpretation of signs, and how they work and the benefits that humans strive for. Because human life is filled with signs with human signs to communicate.

### 1.5.2 Practical Significance

As for the practical significance of this research are as follows; the reader can find out the sign elements contained in the novel "The Sign of Four" by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, especially in the semiotic review and then the reader can describe and become knowledge about the function and meaning in the novel also the reader can use this reading as a novel reference which has limitations in its application in the world of education.

## 1.6 Reviews of Related Literature

This study uses several previous studies as a literature review, in order to provide an overview of the methods and techniques used in research that have similar problems. The existence of a literature review of previous studies is also intended to avoid plagiarism. In relation to previous research, research that uses the novel "The Sign of Four" by Sir Arthur Canon Doyle as an object of research that researchers have never found before. However, there has been the use of various novel titles as objects of research using semiotics and symbolism analysis techniques.

The first study to analyze symbols using semiotic theory came from Kaunar (2013), a student from Khairun Ternate University in her undergraduate thesis entitled *A Semiotic Analysis in the novel "The Virgin and the Gipsy"* by DH Laurence. In this study Kaunar focuses on symbol analysis, the results found in this study are: there are five symbols, flowers, trees, gray, fire and stone, from the five symbols Kaunar analyzes the meaning of the five symbols, which are the social life contained in the novel, where the flower symbol symbolizes loyalty, the tree is freedom, gray is sadness, fire is anger and stone is violence, the whole of this symbol is describing social life.

The second research comes from Amelia Anindya Putri (2017) who is a student of Japanese literature from Diponegoro University in her undergraduate thesis entitled *Symbols and Meanings in the Short Story "Shiroi Boushi"* by Aman Kimiko. This research uses the object of study in the form of a short story with the title *Shiroi Boushi*. And the theory that supports the research. This is Pierce's theory of Semiotics and Riffatere's hermeneutic reading which is used to find symbols and explain their meanings.

The results showed that there were 6 symbols including: mandarin orange, clover leaf, white butterfly, dandelion flower, soap bubble, and *Shiroi Boushi*. The mandarin orange and clover are symbols of good luck, the white butterfly is a symbol of the spirit of someone who has died, the dandelion flower is a symbol of the spirit house, the soap bubble is a

symbol of hope and prayer, Shiroy Boushi is a symbol of someone's older sister who has died.

The third study that discusses the symbols that have been done by Nurhalimah as a researcher from Diponegoro university majoring in Japanese Literature. Nurhalimah in 2014, conducted a study entitled "Analysis of Symbols and Paraphrasing *Tanka* themed Season In *Hyakunin Isshu*". Nurhalimah uses *Tanka* taken at random from a collection of one hundred Japanese poems ( *Hyakunin Isshu* ) as a material object to find out what symbols and prephrases are contained in the *tanka* with the theme of the seasons.

In finding and analyzing symbols, Nurhalimah uses Pierce's semiotic theory. Then he divided the symbols into two types based on the way they were obtained and according to the way they were created. From this research, it can be concluded that there are two symbols found based on the method of acquisition, namely; *Black Symbol* (empty symbol) and *Private Symbol* (special symbol). Meanwhile, based on the method of creation, there are five types, namely: Animal Phenomenon, Water Phenomenon, Air Phenomenon, Plant Phenomenon, and Soil Phenomenon.

When observing some of the previous studies above, the writer can conclude that there are some differences between the previous research and the research that will be conducted this time. The research object used is different. For example, Nurhalimah's research uses *tanka* as the

object of her research, while this research uses novel objects. In Nurhalimah's research, apart from looking for the meaning of the symbols contained in the *tanka*, she also uses Peirce's semiotic theory to look for the prephrases contained in the tanka-tanka. Meanwhile, in this study, the author uses Peirce's semiotic theory to find symbols and how these symbols contribute to building the story in the novel "The Sign of Four". The similarity of this research with several previous studies above is about the semiotic approach, while the difference lies in the object of research.

### **1.7 Theoretical Base**

According to C S Peirce, human life is characterized by a 'mixing of signs'. Humans live by communicating everyday. In the continuity of communication, humans exchange signs, both verbally and non-verbally. Therefore, in addition to exchanging signs, humans also interpret the sign itself. Charles Peirce mentions signs as representations and concepts, objects, ideas, and so on, which he refers to as objects (Danesi, 2004:37). Of the 66 types of signs that can be identified by Peirce, 3 of them are often used. The three are icon, index, symbol.

An icon is a sign that represents a reference source through a form of replication, simulation, imitation, or equation. A sign is designed to represent a reference source through simulation or equations. (Danesi, 2004: 38-39). An existing sign, made to visually resemble the reference source. An icon is a sign that contains a similarity as recognized by the

wearer (Budiman, 2004: 29). Human perception influences the interpretation and formation of this icon. Example: Signs for men's and women's toilets at the entrance to the toilet. Excavator sign on the roadside. The two icons indicate activities that are carried out or take place in accordance with the applicable action.

An index is a sign that represents a reference source by pointing to it or associating it (explicitly or implicitly) with other reference sources (Danesi, 2004: 38). There are three types of index; space index, temporal index, persona index. The index of a sign whose nature depends on the presence of a denotation, or has a causal relationship with what it represents. The space index refers to the location or space of an object, creature and event in relation to the sign user. Examples of arrows that can be interpreted with explanatory words that show something, such as there, there. Temporal index, this index relates objects in terms of time. A time graph with before, after captions is an example of a temporal index. Persona index, this index relates the parties who take part in a situation. The personal pronoun is an example of a persona index.

A symbol is a sign that represents its object by agreement or agreement in a specific context. The meanings in a symbol are built through social agreement or through some historical traditions (Danesi, 2004: 38,44). Symbol is a type of sign that is arbitrary and conventional. (Budiman, 2004: 32). Example: roses are symbolized as a symbol of love.

Pigeons as a symbol of blessing or in Christianity as a symbol of the Holy Spirit.

### **1.7.1 Semiotic Theory**

Semiotics is a science or method of analysis to study signs. Semiotics comes from the Greek word "semeion", which means sign. Semiotics is the study of signs and everything related to them, how they function, their relationship to other signs, their transmission and reception by those who use them. Semiotics studies the systems, rules, conventions that allow these signs to have meaning. According to Berger Semiotics has two figures, namely Ferdinand de Saussure (1857-1913) and Charles Sander Pierce (1839-1914). Ferdinand de Saussure Semiology is based on the assumption that as long as human actions and behavior carry meaning or as long as they function as signs, behind them there must be a system of distinctions and conventions that allow that meaning. Where there is a sign there is a system (Hidayat, 1998:26). While Charles Sander Pierce, semiotics is human logical reasoning through signs, which humans only reason through signs.

The concept of semiotics that tends to be used in studying literary works is the concept of semiotics proposed by C. S Pierce. Given that in literary works, the relationship between the three elements proposed by C. S Pierce is very important to study and analyze, although sometimes other semiotic concepts are also used in a literary study. Basically, the relationship between the three elements in C. S Pierce's theory must be

known by the reader so that the concepts and meanings conveyed by the author in his work can be understood as a complete meaning of the work. C. S. Peirce's concept of semiotics focuses on the trichonomic relationship between signs in literary works. The trichonomic relationship in question is the relationship between object, representamen and interpretant. In the relationship between trichotomies, it is divided into three parts, namely the relationship of signs that are seen based on similarities (similarities) between elements that directly refer to reality, usually called *icons*, the relationship of signs that is seen from the cause and effect between elements as a reference source is called an *index*, and the relationship of signs that are seen based on conventions between sources that are used as reference materials called *symbol*. But in this study the researcher only focuses on symbols, therefore the researcher will explain in more detail about symbols compared to icons and indexes as below:

### **1.7.2 Symbol**

Symbols are abstracted into literary contexts such as settings, characters, actions, objects, names or anything in the world that refers to other meanings. Symbol is a sign that will lose its character if there is no interpretation (Lyons, 1984: 102). This is the mode in which the signifier does not resemble the signified but is so fundamental or purely conventional that relationships have to be learned: e.g. language in general (added certain languages, letters of the alphabet, punctuation

marks, words, phrases and sentences), numbers, morse code, traffic lights cross, national flag.

Pickering and Hoepfer (1981:71-72) classify symbols into three, namely: traditional symbol, original symbol, and individual symbol.

### 1. Traditional Symbol

Traditional symbols are symbols that have general associations from society or culture that are widely recognized and accepted. Traditional symbols can be said to be universal. An example is a dog that symbolizes devotion and loyalty to its owner.

### 2. Original Symbol

The original symbol is a symbol that has nothing to do with traditional symbols. The meaning contained depends on the context. For example, the blue color on the map means everything related to water, while the blue color on the weather information means cold temperatures.

### 3. Individual Symbol

Individual symbols limit their source of meaning even more than genuine symbols. We all have certain objects in our lives that connect to the mind into various personal associations. Authors use certain symbols which are a form of their own imagination and

knowledge either in terms of philosophy or belief. For example, the character of Miss Mary symbolizes a calm personality in any situation.

### **1.8 Significances of Symbols**

Humans use words, both spoken and written, to express the meaning they want to convey. Human language is filled with symbols, although not infrequently signs or images are also used that do not fully have meaning. Some are simply abbreviations or acronyms, such as UN, UNICEF, or UNESCO; others in the form of well-known brands, patent medicines, badges or symbols. The signs have no meaning when they stand alone, but they do acquire meaning through widespread and deliberate use. That is or is not a symbol. They are signs, and mark only the things that are placed on them.

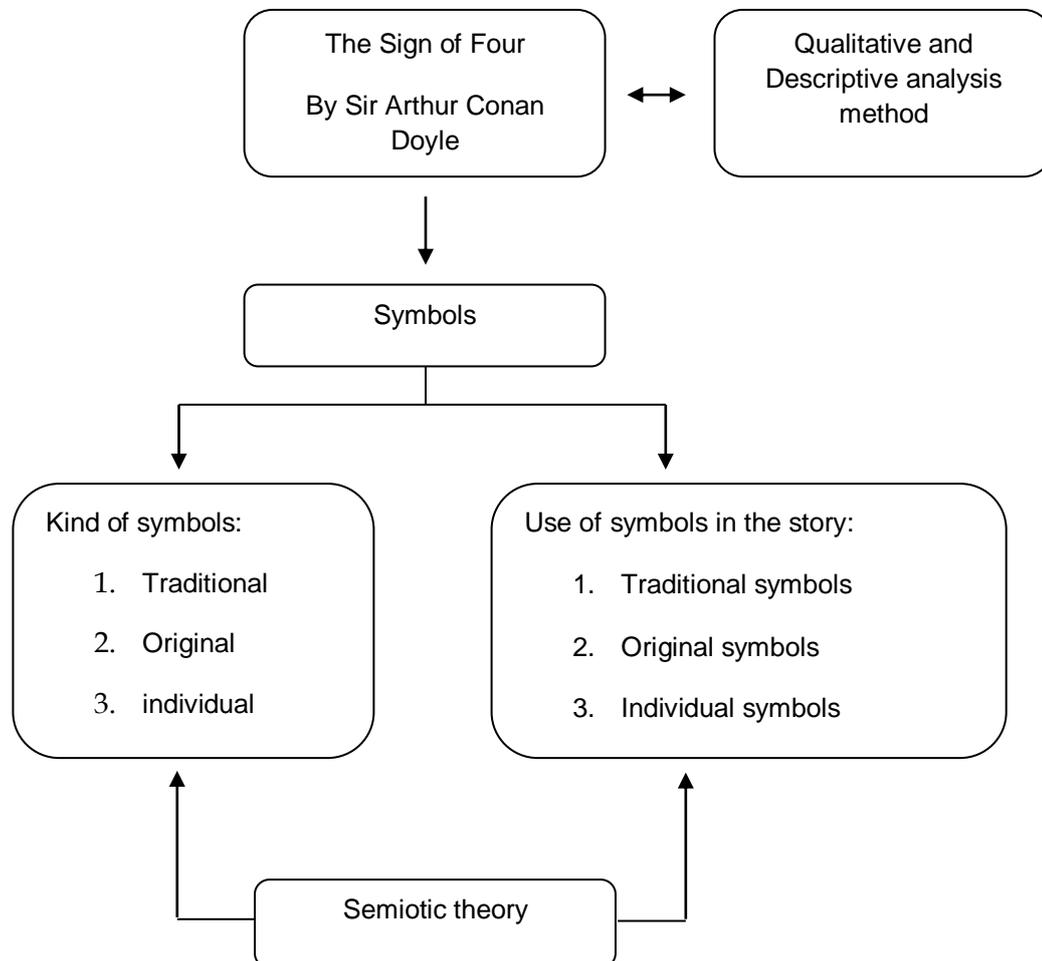
What we call a symbol is a term, name, or image, which is quite common in everyday life, but has a specific connotation beyond its real and conventional meaning. It refers to something that is vague, incomprehensible, or hidden. Examples are the monuments of the Cretan civilization featuring double-edged axes; it describes objects that we know, but the symbolic cues contained behind them we do not know exactly. Because countless things are beyond human comprehension, we always

use symbolic terms to represent concepts that we cannot define, or do not fully understand.

Simply defined, a symbol is an object, a living thing or a feature of the natural world that has been chosen to represent a human concept or quality- usually a positive one. The essential difference between a symbol and a sign is that signs have practical, unambiguous meanings: Private, No Smoking, Danger. Symbols have greater imaginative resonance and more complex, sometimes ambiguous, meanings. Some symbols encapsulate the most ancient and fundamental beliefs that humans have had about the cosmos, their place in it, how they should behave and what they should honour or revere. Many have psychological import. Even symbols that embody simpler ideas heighten the significance of the ordinary object chosen as symbol, expanding it from the particular to the general: a heart carved in a tree is a symbol, not a sign.

Symbols help humans to communicate. Symbols are also stronger than signs. Symbols can help humans explain something that cannot be explained directly. Symbol media in the form of spoken language, actions, objects / visual forms.

## 1.9 Conceptual Scheme



Based on the conceptual scheme above, the researcher wants to analyze the symbols (traditional, original, and individual) contained in the novel "The Sign of Four" by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle using qualitative and descriptive analysis methods which are two methods that can be relied on by semiotic theory to find out what symbols are in the novel and how these symbols uses to build the story in the novel "The Sign of Four".

## **1.10 Methods and Techniques**

In analyzing a novel by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle entitled “The Sign of Four”, this study uses qualitative and descriptive methods based on semiotic analysis related to the problem in the research applied by the researcher in this paper.

### **1.10.1 Analysis Method**

Qualitative methods and descriptive methods are methods used by researcher in this study because with this method researchers can describe and describe the problems that exist in the novel. The qualitative method is a research procedure that produces descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words from people. People and behavior that can be observed while the descriptive method is used in this study because more statements in this study that can be applied are descriptions that use quotations to support this research.

According to Saryono (2010), qualitative research is research that is used to investigate, find, describe, and explain the quality or privilege of social influences that cannot be explained, measured or described through a quantitative approach.

According to Whitney (1960: 160) descriptive method is a fact finding with the right interpretation. It can be said that descriptive research is research that seeks to describe a symptom, an event that occurs at the present time or an actual problem.

Based on the definition of qualitative and descriptive methods above, the researcher realizes that this method is appropriate in research because researchers can easily analyze problems in the novel, especially analyzing symbol by using the semiotic approach which is the title of this study.

### **1.11 Technique of Collecting Data**

In this sub-chapter the research will apply three types of techniques that will be used in data collection, namely documentation as initial data which includes quotes from the novel "The Sign of Four" library research and internet browsing as the second source used in this proposal.

#### 1.11.1 Primary Data

The primary data was obtained from the novel "The Sign of Four" by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Data that is learned by reading repeatedly and accurately and understood, by focusing on words and sentences from certain parts of the novel based on the expression of the words and sentences themselves.

#### 1.11.2 Secondary

The use of secondary data in the form of articles, library research and internet media to support primary data.

## **1.12 Technique of Data Analysis**

Literary works are unique and organic phenomena which also contain a number of meanings and functions. The meanings and functions are sometimes unclear and difficult to understand because they consist of many meanings and are imaginative, therefore in the analysis we need the right technique to understand all of its contents. The following are the techniques used by researchers in analyzing the data, namely.

### **1.12.1 Classification**

Researcher try to classify data that is suitable or appropriate which supports data analysis based on the formulation of the problem in the previous chapter.

### **1.12.2 Interpretation**

Researcher will try to find the deepest meaning contained in this novel by comparing the actual or appropriate meaning. Which contains symbol and semiotic theory.

### **1.12.3 Categorization**

After reading the novel, the research will categorize and share the data according to the category of each symbol, which is contained in the novel.