

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Research

In everyday life, humans as social beings must always communicate with other people. Communicating with someone certainly uses a tool called language. In addition, to using the language of communication can also take place using a sign. According to Eco (1988: 27), signs are used to provide information, indicating something that others want to know too. Signs can be found in a context of scenarios, images, texts, and scenes in the film, which can be interpreted.

Symbolism is the use of one object or action (a symbol) to represent or suggest something else. Broadly, the term symbolism may refer to the symbolic meaning or the practice of investing things with a symbolic meaning. The use of symbolism and language," say Leonard Shengold, "makes our minds flexible enough to grasp, master, and communicate thoughts and feelings" (Delusions of Everyday Life, 1995). The history of **symbolism** shows that everything can assume symbolic significance: natural objects (like stones, plants, animals, men, mountains and valleys, sun and moon, wind, water, and fire), or man-made things (like houses, boats, or cars), or even abstract forms (like numbers, or the triangle, the square, and the circle). In fact, the whole cosmos is a potential symbol (Carl Gustav Jung, *Man and His Symbols*, 1964).

Symbol is an important part that integrated in a sign that can give meaning in a message. Symbols are tools for conveying information or channeling implied messages in the form of words, sentences, icons, images, actions, etc. which anywhere and anytime will be used for human needs in life. symbols will give an impression to the community and show identity to the individual or the community itself. the symbol itself has the benefit of expressing indescribable concepts, abstract ideas, complex emotional meanings that are difficult to say, because symbols can summarize many things.

In the inferno novel there is a symbol presented by Dan Brown. Inferno is a thriller novel that deals with murder, code breaking, and involves situations that threaten national security. The main character is Robert Langdon, a professor from Harvard University who is an expert in symbology. Inferno itself alludes to the excess of the human population which is increasing day by day resulting in global world disasters. This is the main theme in Dan Brown's fourth novel. Dan Brown raised the antagonist namely a scientist and genetic engineering doctor named Bertnand Zobrist who is very concerned about the future of life on earth if population growth becomes out of control.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher took the title "Symbolism in the novel Inferno" by Dan Brown, because in the Inferno Brown raised symbols as clues to conflict in this storyline. In this research, the researcher analyzed what symbols contained in the Inferno novel were in

accordance with Peirce's theory and used a semiotic approach. The researcher wants to find out more about whether the symbols that appear in the story and the influence it has on this story. The story of this novel is about populations that threaten the world.

Researchers choose to analyze symbols because by analyzing symbols, this will help the researcher to find deeper meaning for this research as a whole. The particular reason is that when reading this novel, researchers found that this story is a representation of Dan Brown's novels including *The Da Vinci Code* and *The Lost Symbol*, where symbols are the solution needed by the main character to resolve conflicts in the story. Researchers see that in the novel "Inferno" and the previous novels are very interesting because symbols are Brown's main goal in each of his writings. In addition, the novel written by Dan Brown the choice of the famous main character is Tom Hanks.

### **1.1 Statements of the Problem**

The problems of research formulated as follow:

1.2.1 What kinds of symbol are presented in the novel "Inferno" by Dan Brown?

1.2.2 How does each symbol contribute to the developed of the story in the novel "Inferno" by Dan Brown?

### **1.3 Scope of the Research**

In the novel "Inferno", there are many conflicts that have a storyline solved by puzzles. because this story is about human overpopulation that is seen as a global threat, then Bertnand Zobrist offers a solution that the WHO believes is a crime if not immediately prevented.

To support this research, researchers will analyze kinds of symbols in the novel and the influence of each symbol in the novel "Inferno". These symbols will solve the puzzle for Robert Langdon as a symbologist on his journey to stop the extreme mission of Bertnand Zobrist. in addition to researchers analyzing symbols, there are icons and indices that will complement this research using a semiotical approach.

### **1.4 Objectives of the Research**

The objectives of the research sa follow :

1.4.1 To identify the kinds of symbols in the novel "Inferno" by Dan Brown

1.4.2 To elabrate the symbol to contribute the story in the novel "Inferno" by Dan Brown

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

1.5.1 Theoretical Significances

In theory, this research as knowledge that support the Science of Literature, especially the analysis of novel using a semiotic approach and hopes to be useful for myself and others.

### 1.5.2 Practical Significances

This research is expected to provide additional information to help readers, especially students of the Faculty of Culture, majoring in English Literature, to explore or research more about symbols that are not only found in literature but also in the real world such as those in the environment around us.

### 1.6 Review of Related Literature

This study also has a relation with other studies, namely the first analysis of three students, one of which is Maulana (2016), she was from Telkom University Bandung, with the title "Discourse Analysis of Teun A. Van Dijk in *Inferno* Dan *Brown Novel*". This research focus on how the discourse about the long beaked mask in the novel "*Inferno*" by Dan Brown. She is seen from the text level (macro structure, micro structure, superstructure) and how the meaning of the long beaked mask communication symbol.

In the Teun A. Van Dijk discourse analysis which is described as having three dimensions or buildings, namely text, social cognition, and social context. The essence of van Dijk's analysis is to combine three dimensions of discourse into integrated analysis. In the text dimension, what is examined is how the text structure and discourse strategy are used to emphasize a particular theme. In this case study, researchers examined novels involving writers. Different from the analysis of researchers with the title "Symbolism In The Novel *Inferno*". While in this research, researcher analyze the symbols that appear in the novel as conflict story solved and the influence of symbols in the story.

Some students from the Khairun of University, especially the Faculty of Cultural Sciences, analysis about the symbol. Among them are Mahadun (2016) with the titles of Symbols In The Novel "The Black Sheep" by Susan Fox using the simiotical approach. Her research is knowing about what kinds of symbolsm appear in the novel "The Black Sheep" and how effect of the symbols and then social background the author (Susan Fox) raises the theme about symbolism. The analysis of the researchers with the title "Symbolism In The Novel Inferno", the researcher analyzes the kinds of symbols in the novel as conflict story solved and what influence of each symbol on the story.

Musa (2015) with his research entitled Symbols in Tennessee Drama "Cat On A Hot Tin Roof" uses the same approach, namely the semiotics approach. His research is to find symbols that reflect the drama of paint on a hot zinc roof and to find symbols that affect characters in the drama. the same approach in this study, namely the semiotic approach. however, researchers analyzed the influence of symbols in novels about overpopulation.

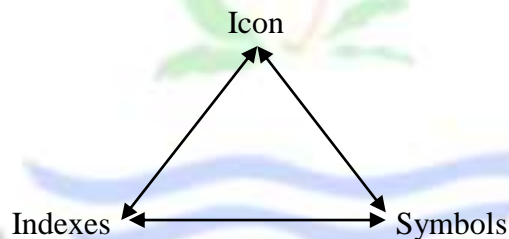
This analysis is different from the analysis in the novel "The Black Sheep" and the drama "Cat On A Hot Tin Roof". The analysis in the novel "Inferno" not only knows the symbols, but how they influence the storyline and meaning behind it. however, not all symbols in this research have meaning.

## 1.7 Theoretical Base

### 1.7.1 The Concept of Sign

Every day we always encounter many problems, one of which is a symbol. Symbols themselves will explain or give answers about something. Symbols can be of various forms, in the novel "Inferno" author Dan Brown raises codes as a solution or story. Therefore to strengthen this research, the author needs concepts and theories to support his research.

According to Peirce, there three important kinds of sign are icon, indexes, and symbols.



“ every sign is determined by its object, either first, by partaking if the characters if the object, when I call a sign an icon; secondly, being really and its individual existence connected with individual object, when I call rhe sign an index; thirdly, by mon! or less! Approximate certainty tha it will be interpreted as denoting the object, in consequence of a habit ( which term I use as including 2 natural disposition), when I call the sign a symbol ”

If you look, there are three complement in the definition sign of Peirce, namely representament, interpretan, and objects. Therefor, the definition sign of peirce referrend to three sign. Note to the triangle drawing sign of pierce; Representatement are (1) can be perceived; either with senses or the minds or

feeling; and (2) save as a signifier. Object, the object is represented by sign component; the object is something else, these components can be that caught of the material senses, can be also mental or imaginary. Interpretan, interpretan meaning. Some other term which often used to refer interpretan of peirce is “significance” and this is “interpretation”. From some of the explanation above are competent of the sign according to Peirce and then will be discussed about the kinds of sign according to the Peirce.

### 1.7.1.1 Symbols

Which are purely conventional and whose meanings have to be learned. Symbol is a part of the relationship between the reference mark, namely the relationship which would explain the meaning of a particular referent in life general, or a literally work as a replica of life. A sign which is determined by a generally accepted rule, collective agreement or convention.

Example:

Body movement or a nod of the head as a sign of agreement.

Flag red white

- Symbols of the republic of Indonesia
- Meaning of “brave and holy”

Researcher analyze that sign an a conversation established in accordance with the an agreement stipulated jointly by the society in



which the symbol is still applies. Based on the above explanation, the researcher used a semiotical approach because in this the novel is composed some symbol and researcher want to give understood about symbol especially in the novel “ Inferno” by Dan Brown.

### **1.7.1.2 Icon**

Which communication by resemblance. A sign that occur based on the presence of potential equation with something that signifies. The sign is defined by the relationship between the similarity of the signifier with the reposed. Example: Maps and geographic area, photos with the object (event photos, pictures, of face, ect), with the idea of picture (nature of picture), icon depicting object's that can not be presented.

The analysis of researcher icon is a sign that can describe the characteristic of something even though the object is not present. Icon is the representation of a physical object that has properties resembling. Photo of Mr. Whito is an him icon and mala pictures is an icon image of Mrs. Mala itself.

### **1.7.1.3 Indexes**

Which communicate by logical connection. A sign of that nature depends on the existence of a denotation, or have a casual connection with what it represents. Sign interpreted according to the corresponding relationship casual of evidence of something.

Example:

The word 'cigarettes' has an index of 'smoke'

There is smoke there must be fire

The word 'fire' has an index of 'smoke'

'people who pass' has an index 'footprints'

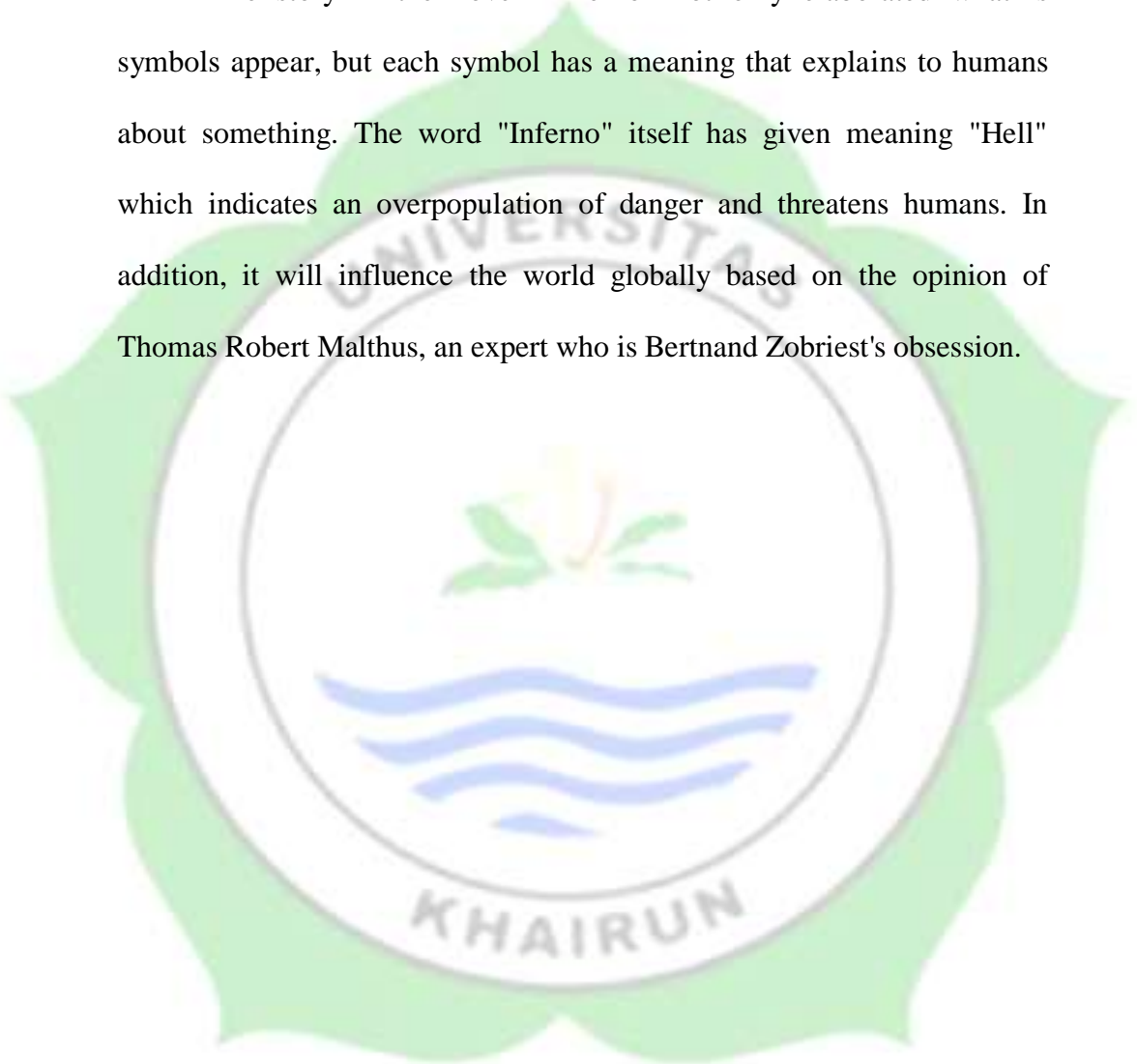
### **1.7.2 Concept of Symbol**

The presence or absence of events, the structure found in something, a habit of all that can be called a sign. A flag, a hand gesture, a word, silence, nervous motion, blushing of the face, gray hair, eye glances and many others, all considered a sign, Zeezt (1993; 18)

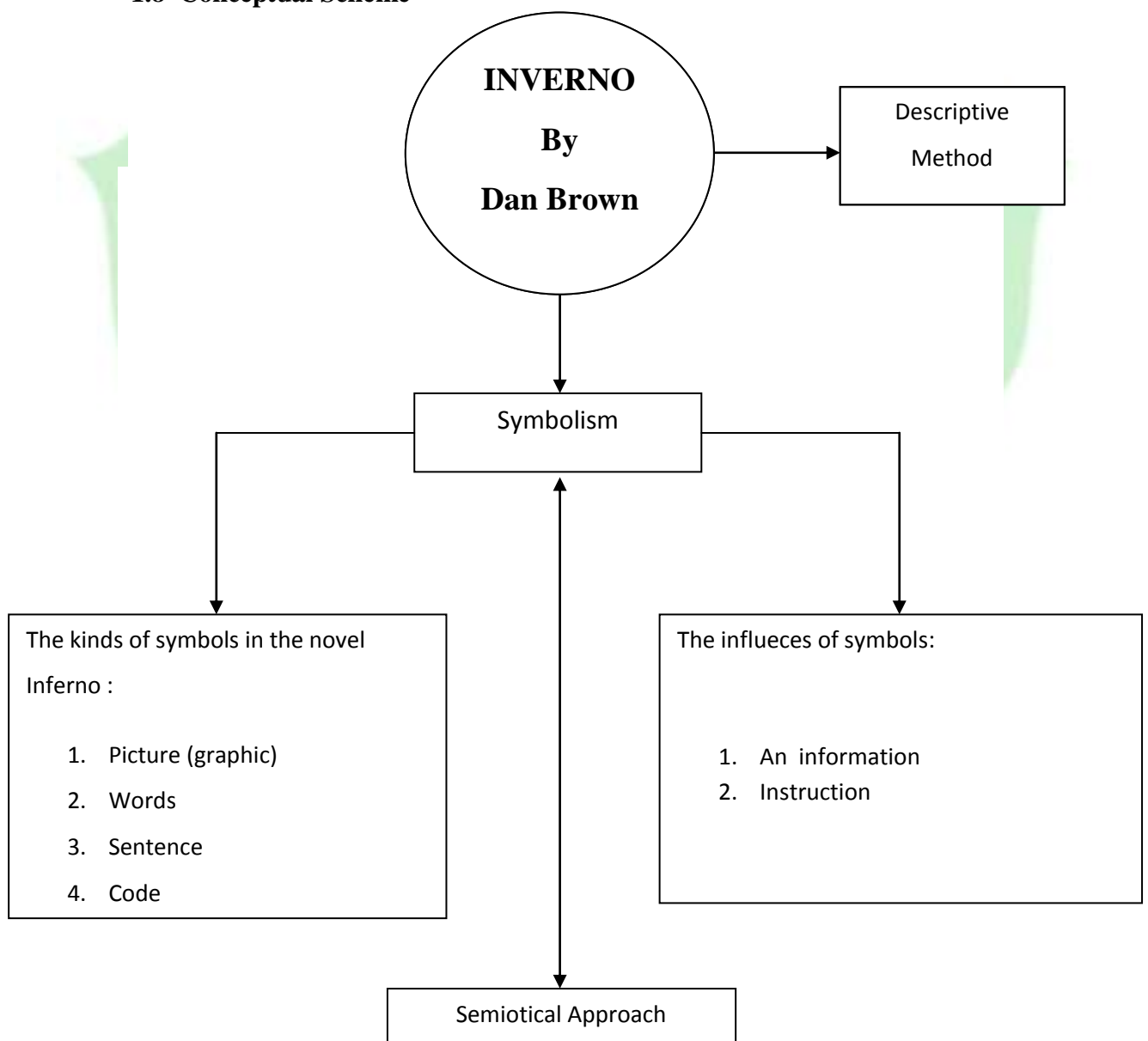
Blumer (in Dharmojo, 2005: 32) suggests that symbols can be in the form of language, gestures, or anything that can convey meaning, and meaning arranged in social interactions. Woods (in Dharmojo, 2005: 32) also suggests that symbols can be verbal and nonverbal. Forms of verbal symbols are expressed in language, while nonverbal symbol forms can be realized in the movements of the body, gestures, views, actions, appearance, and the whole area of 'body language' which is intended to convey meaning as a message to others. According to Ogden and Richard (in Aminudin, 2008: 81) symbols are linguistic elements in the form of words, sentences and so on which arbitrarily represent the objects of the external world and the world of the user community. Pierce argues (in

Santoso, 1993: 11-12) that symbols are part of the sign. Every symbol is a sign, and not every sign can be a symbol.

The story in the novel "Inferno" not only elaborated what is symbols appear, but each symbol has a meaning that explains to humans about something. The word "Inferno" itself has given meaning "Hell" which indicates an overpopulation of danger and threatens humans. In addition, it will influence the world globally based on the opinion of Thomas Robert Malthus, an expert who is Bertnand Zobriest's obsession.



### 1.8 Conceptual Scheme



Based on the conceptual scheme above, the researcher will elaborate the topic by descriptive method, and applies literary semiotical approach to looking kinds of symbolism in the novel *Inferno* by Dan Brown. The conceptual, shows that the researcher will analyze the kinds symbol and to knows meaning as a secret code the contribute the actors to found solution to human overpopulation. This research will also look what the effects of symbol in the plot of story.

## **1.9 Method Of Research**

This research is using the qualitative method and descriptive method which would be explained as follows:

### **1.9.1 Qualitative Method**

The method used in this study is qualitative method. Endaswara defines that a qualitative research is a research done by not prioritizing numbers, but put the depth appreciation of the of the interaction between concepts that are being studied empirically (2004:5). Thus, this research in using qualitative method because the data does not deal with numbering and graphics. In fact, the researcher has to elaborate the data which is in the form of data narrated in word.

According to Merriam (2005:1), qualitative method is a field of inquiry that cross cuts disciplines and matters qualitative researcher behaviour and the reason that govern human behavior.

## **1.9.2 Descriptive Method**

The researcher chooses a descriptive analysis method as a second method in analyzing a literary work. According to Ratne (2003:53), descriptive analysis method is aimed to describe the characteristic of current research and investigate the causes of particular phenomenon. Therefore this research is using qualitative method because the research would be clearly explained by the descriptive analysis.

The statement above is reinforced by Umar (1997:3) explain that “descriptive design aims to describe the nature or characteristic of a phenomenon. Usually descriptive data is directly used as the basis for making decision. This research requires less theory and hypothesis, and can work on a variable. From the statement above descriptive method is to create description in a systematic, factual, and accurate as to fact, properties and relationships between phenomena investigation.

### **1.10 Technique Of Collecting Data**

#### **1.10.1 Library Research**

In this research, the researcher using the library research to collect the primary and secondary data, the primary data are taken from the novel while the secondary data are taken from some book references.

### **1.10.2 Reading Comprehension**

The research tries to read the story precisely and better to understanding the problems that lift up in this work. Heuristic is reading based or grammatical structure. In this, the researcher tries to get understanding the novel “Inferno” from beginning until the last and then make the synopsis which pay attention to the grammatical structures used in the novel “Inferno”. The next technique is hermeneutis is in which this the researcher reads sentence by sentence in other to understand more deeply about the research topic that will be analyzed. The last technique is retroactive, where in this part the research needs novel again focuses and dialogue expressed the novel to understand more about the novel and the messeges conveyed by the author in the novel “Inferno”.

## **1.11 Technique Of Analyzing Data**

### **1.11.1 Classification**

The researcher is using the classification in order to analyze the data. The researcher organizes and classifie the data that appropriate with the topic or based on statement of the problem about the symbols, meaning of symbols, and effects symbols in the novel “Inferno” by using the semiotical approach.

### **1.11.2 Interpretation**

The next is researcher continues to interpreting data. The interpretation technique itself is by read the novel “Inferno” comprehensively and carefully in order to get a good and rational interpretation which are related with the problembs.

### **1.11.3 Explanation**

Explanation is the technique that use by researcher to provide the work or result of the interpretation in the from such as text, quotation, meaning and message which are related with the researcher statement of the problem.

### **1.11.4 Conclusion**

In the step researcher take conclude from the interpretation as the result of analysis about the symbols, meaning and influence symbol to the story.