SEMIOTICS ANALYSIS ON THE NOVEL NIGHT ON THE GALACTIC RAILROAD BY MIYAZAWA KENJI USING CHARLES SANDERS PEIRCE'S TRIADIC MODEL

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ABSTRACT

This reserach about the *semiotic analysis* in the novel "*Night on The Galactic Railroad*" written by Miyazawa Kenji in 1927. The writer wrote this thesis in order to find the sign inside the Novel and interpret the signs using Peirce's theory by using a *Triadic Model*. The author decided to further ease the process of interpreting the sign by using *Peirce's triadic model*. The writer decided to use qualitative method to find the result for this research. The writer used 2 objects for this research, formal and material object. The formal object being the *Charles Sanders Peirce's theory*. While the material object being the Novel *Night on The Galactic Railroad* by Miyazawa Kenji. The novel was written in 1927 and published by Bunpoudou in 1934. The writer used a note taking method in this research as an instrument. The writer used Peirce's theory to analyze the data. The consideration of choosing Pierce because this theory can cover all level in semiotics process of meaning interpretation. Based on the analysis process, the writer found that there are 24 signs, which is 17 indexes, 5 symbols, and 2 icons. The writer concludes that the most frequent signs found in the novel are indexes.

Keywords: *symbols, semiotics, Pierce, novel*

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini membahas analisis semiotika dalam novel "Night on The Galactic Railroad" karya Miyazawa Kenji pada tahun 1927. Tujuan penelitian ini untuk menemukan tanda di dalam novel dan menginterpretasikan menggunakan teori Peirce menggunakan Model Triadik. Penulis menggunakan metode kualitatif untuk menemukan hasil penelitian ini. Penulis menggunakan 2 objek untuk penelitian ini, objek formal dan material. Objek formalnya adalah teori Charles Sanders Peirce. Sedangkan objek materialnya adalah Novel Night on The Galactic Railroad karya Miyazawa Kenji. Novel ditulis pada tahun 1927 dan diterbitkan oleh Bunpoudou pada tahun 1934. Penulis menggunakan teori Peirce untuk menganalisis data. Teori ini dapat mencakup semua level dalam proses semiotika interpretasi makna. Berdasarkan proses analisis, penulis menemukan 24 tanda, yaitu 17 indeks, 5 simbol, dan 2 ikon. Penulis menyimpulkan bahwa tanda yang paling sering ditemukan dalam novel adalah indeks.

Kata Kunci : *simbol, semiotik, Pierce, novel.*

INTRODUCTION

Semiotics is one of the branches of language study, that learn how a sign or meaning is created and realized. Sign or representamen can be defined to something that can stand for something else or anything that can convey a meaning of an object. Which mean, there is a lot of things that can be defined as a sign, words can be signs, drawings can be signs, photographs can be signs, even a graphic design can be signs. In short, Semiotic is study of signs and their meaning in society.

As mentioned by Halina Sendera Mohd (2014). In her research paper "*The Semiotic Perspective of Peirce and Saussure: A Brief Comparative Study*", In the study of semiotics, there is 2 ways to analyze the sign, Ferdinand de Saussure's (1916) theory, and Charles Sanders Peirce's (1902) theory. The things that differ Peirce's and Saussure's semiotic analysis is the aspect of reality as well as the discipline of epistemology. Differs from Saussure where he thinks that reality has a bond with our physical or human minds, Peirce think that reality lies outside the internal structure of humans and not related to each other.

This might as well be affected by the difference in their discipline, Pierce is in the field of philosophy that queries the association between reality in total with the nature and the existence of the sign whereas Saussure stand in the field of linguistics, which focuses on giving a review of the association between a sign which is considered as an aspect of word construction.

The theory that writer will use in this paper is Charles Sanders Peirce's theory (1931), by using the triadic model that is being applied in the theory, writer will try to find the sign, object, or interpretant in the novel of "Night on the Galactic Railroad". After finding the sign, object, and interpretant in this novel, write will list writer's finding. Then writer will try to break down and analyze writer's founding in the novel.

The writer aims to analyze the semiotic elements that the writer can found in the novel. The research will be focusing on finding down the information based on the signs that can be found, how is the sign being realized within the triadic model of Peirce's method, then analyze the sign that writers can find within the Novel.

In this paper, the writer focuses on using Charles Sanders Peirce's theory, Writer has arranged some scope and limitation. The scope of this study is to interpret the

signs that are being shown in the novel "Night on the Galactic Railroad" from the first arc to the last one. The scope of this study will be presented in the form of qualitative in which the researcher uses Charles Sanders Peirce's theory of signs. The limitation of this research is due to this written piece being a short-written piece, The Writer got a hard time trying to find a sentence or data that contain a sign to analyze.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Semiotic is a study of an object that can be used to define something, it is the study of how meaning is created, not what it is. Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (2007) defines semiotics as the study of signs and symbols and their meaning and use. The term semiotics according to Encarta Encyclopaedia (2004) is the science of signs. The two major founder of the semiotic theory are the American Philosopher Charles Sanders Peirce and the Swiss linguist Ferdinand de Saussure. Both of them base their theories on the fundamental distinction in the sign between the signifier and the signified, between the aural or written form of the sign and the meaning it embodies. Peirce termed these as signans and signatum, while Saussure termed it as significant and signified.

In his theory, Peirce classifies semiotic elements into sign or representamen, Object, and Interpretant, in which he presents the result in a form of the triadic model. On the other hand, Saussure classifies semiotic elements as signifiers and signified in which he presents the result in a form of Dyadic model. Quoted from Halina Sendera Mohd.'s paper *The Semiotic Perspectives of Peirce and Saussure: A Brief Comparative Study* (2014) "The primary focus of Saussure's theory is the principle that emphasized language as a system of sign. However, in his opinion the system of linguistic signs or language is the most superior sign system compared to other sign systems that exist because it plays an important role in constructing reality. Instead of focusing on the use of language (parole or speech), he focuses on the system of the language (langue) more. The basic concepts that Saussure used as a base is namely the two-dimensional system, the consensus or conventional system, the networking relationship between signs system and the arbitrary system."

Other than Peirce, there is also 2 common theory of semiotic analysis that is being commonly used, it is Saussure's and Barthes's theory of semiotic. The most common characteristic of Barthes's style is that he uses a lot of words to

explain a few. He provides detailed analyses of short texts, passages and single images to explore how they work. Another trait of his work is his constant systematization. He draws up schemes to categorize the signs and codes with which he used to divide a text, a narrative or a myth into different parts with different functions. He shows how the different parts hold together by drawing a blueprint-like schemes of the areas of discourse that he studied.

Instead of defining linguistic sign as a link between a thing and a name, Saussure think that it is a link between a concept and a sound pattern. The sound pattern is not actually a sound; for a sound is something physical. A sound pattern is the hearer's psychological impression of a sound, as given to him by the evidence of his senses. This sound pattern may be called a 'material' element only in that it is the representation of our sensory impressions. The sound pattern may thus be distinguished from the other element associated with it in a linguistic sign. This other element is generally of a more abstract kind: the concept.

Charles Sanders Peirce (1839-1914), was a Harvard professor of mathematics and astronomy and, at the time, America's foremost mathematician, Sobur (2009:

39). A sign is defined by Peirce in Sobur (2009: 41) as "something which stands to somebody for something in some respect or capacity". These signs may include sounds, words, and everything that could give guidance as a process of communication. Studies of signs have become a serious field in linguistics and literature. Unlike the dyadic model offered by Ferdinand de Saussure, which consists of the signifier and signified, Charles Sanders Peirce offers a triadic model. Golden and Gerber (1994: 204) said that central to the process of semiosis is the triadic relationship involving the sign, the interpretant, and the object. Although Peirce published his work more than 10.000 pages but he never published the book that related to his study.
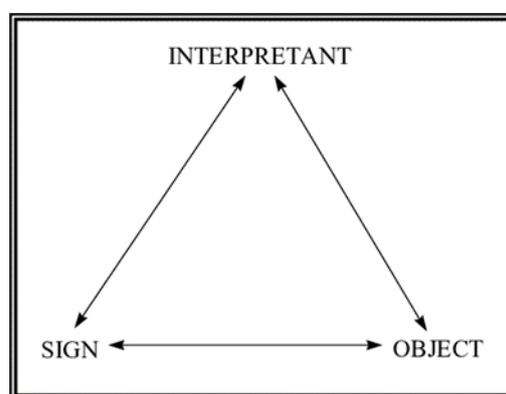

Figure.2.1 Peirce Triadic Model
Source : Peirce, C. *Collected Writings* (8 Vols.). (1931–58)

The first element of the triadic model is The Sign. Sign is the element that represent something interpretable as

saying something about a thing or the element "Object". The second element is object. The object is a fundamental tool in order to find an Interpret ant of a Sign. "Object" can be anything discussable or thinkable including, a thing, event, relationship, or even an argument. The last element is interpretant. Interpretant is the "sign" clarified meaning, a kind of form or idea of the difference which the sign's being true. According to Sobur in his book titled "*Semiotika Komunikasi*" (2009:41), based on its representamen, Peirce divides signs into three, Qualisign, Sinsign, and Legisign.

1. A Qualisign is a quality which is in the sign. It cannot act as a sign until it is embodied. For example, peoples refer the colour white as clean or holy or black as dirty, dark, and gloomy.

2. A Sin-sign is an actual event with a sign, for example, someone who is running with a terrified expression means that they are in a danger that they need to escape from. For example, the sound of a baby crying means that the baby is hungry.

3. A Legi-sign is a law that is in a sign. This law is usually established and agreed by a lot of people, such as traffic lights. For example, Nod means a confirmation or yes, while shaking head means Rejection or no.

Based on its object, a sign may be termed an icon, an index, or a symbol.

1. An icon is a sign that refers to the object that it denotes merely by virtue of characters of its own, and which it possesses, just the same, whether any such Object actually exists or not. For example, a picture of president Soekarno means the picture is an icon of president Soekarno.

2. An Index is a sign that show some sort of physical relationship with what is represents and point toward its meaning, but they will not be directly related to the signified. For example, smoke is an index of fire.

3. A symbol is a sign that refers to the object that it denotes by virtue of a law, usually an association of general ideas, which operates to cause the Symbol to be interpreted as referring to that Object. Such as traffic lights and national flags.

Based on its interpretation, signs consist of a rheme, a dicent, and an argument.

1. A rheme is a sign which is understood to represent its object in its characters merely such as red-nose which indicates that the person feels cold or was crying.

2. A dicent is a sign to describe the information of the interpretant. For example, the dangerous road in a city has a sign that indicates the road is dangerous

because there are so many accidents happened on that road.

3. An argument is the logical reasoning of an interpretant. The example for Argument is the no smoking sign in gas station which indicates that the gas station is a place that easily flammable.

In this research the writer will use novel as the object. According to Merriam Webster (2022), a Novel is an invented prose narrative that is usually long and complex and deals especially with human experience through a usually connected sequence of events. Novels are dedicated to narrating individual experiences of characters, creating a closer, more complex portrait of these characters and the world they live in. Inner feelings and thoughts and complex, even conflicting ideas or values are typically explored in the novel. It's not just the stories themselves that are more personal, but the experience of reading them as well.

According to Amanda Prahl's (2019) writing "What is a novel? Definition and Characteristic", Traits that indicates a word to be considered as a Novel is: Written in prose, as opposed to verse. Narrators could have a different POV compared to the reader (first person versus third person and so on). While stylized novels such as epistolary

novels do exist, the key distinction here is between prose and verse.

1. Of considerable length/word count. There is no specific word count that automatically makes a work a novel, a short novel would be considered a novella, and even a shorter one would be short fiction.

2. Fictional content. Semi-fictionalized novels (such as historical works inspired by true events or persons) exist, but a work of pure non-fiction would not be classified as a novel.

3. Individualism, both on the page and for the intended audience.

Most of the time, the novel is mostly associated with fiction, as opposed to nonfiction. Which birth the saying of "not all fiction is novels, but all novels are fiction". A non-fiction prose work that is of the same length as a novel as historiography, biography, etc. wouldn't be considered as a novel.

Although in general, a novel is a work of fiction, many novels tell a story of real human history. This can range from full-fledged novels of historical fiction, focusing on a specific era in history or depicting semi-fictional narratives about real historical persons, to works of fiction that simply exist in the "real" world and carry that baggage and implications.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In conducting research, there are two types of approaches in doing a research, quantitative, and qualitative approach. This research uses the approach of qualitative, where the qualitative approach will be used to explain all the symbols that the researcher found. The researcher chooses to use qualitative approaches because the researcher is trying to analyze thoroughly the symbol and the graph of the semiotic symbol that can be seen in the novel. Primary data is a type of data that is collected by researchers directly from a main source through interviews, surveys, experiments, etc. Primary data usually collected from the source where the data originally originates from and are regarded as the best kind of data in research. Whereas secondary data is a data that is compiled but not by the writer or data in the form of documents, for example, the articles, supporters, geographical data, and so on (Safi'I, 2005:141). In another word, secondary data are a data that already exists. In this research, the researcher is using secondary data because the researcher used a novel as a data source that already exists even before this research was made.

The data source for this research is a novel written by Miyazawa Kenji titled "Night on the Galactic Railroad" The novel is being published on 1934 as a part of Complete Works of Kenji Miyazawa Vol. 3 by Bunpodou. Even though this particular work from Miyazawa Kenji never received any award, it has been adapted into several other entertainment form such as animated film, stage adaptations, and Illustrated e-book. The reason why the researcher chooses this novel as a source is that the researcher found a short segment in a comic that tells a story about this novel. The character in the novel is being portrayed really well in the comic, and it makes the writer really interested in the novel, moreover the language that the author chooses to tell the story of this novel is intriguing.

DATA ANALYSIS

From the data description that the writer found in the novel, the writer analyses the data in a form of Peirce's triadic model in which covers sign, object, and interpretant. Referring to the relationship of triadic concepts.

Datum 1: *"So you see, boys and girls, that is why some have called it a river, while others see a giant trace left by a stream of milk"* *(Pg.1)*

Based on the sentence, writer assume that

"Giant trace left by a stream of milk" is the sign of the sentence which is an icon. The object of this data "The galaxy which we live in". Writer's interpretant of this sign is "A small space in the vast galaxy that have a lot of living creature including us"

Datum 2: "Yeah, except for Campanella. He never says nasty things. Whenever somebody does, he always looks really sorry for me." (pg.13) Writer assumes that the sentence "He never says nasty things. Whenever somebody does, he always looks really sorry for me." is the sign of the data, it is categorized as index. The triadic model say that the object is "Giovanni can see that whenever he got bullied, Campanella would always look really sorry for him". Writer thinks that the interpretant is "Campanella would like to help Giovanni in this case, but he is afraid that the other kids will think that he is taking sides with Giovanni".

Datum 3: "Giovanni's heart suddenly went cold and he heard a ringing in his ears coming from all around him" (pg.17) Based on the sentence, writer assume that the sign of this data is categorized as an Index, which is "Giovanni felt angry toward Zanelli". The object of this data is "Giovanni's body went cold after Zanelli tease him about his dad, he loses focus ad can only hear ring in his ears". Writer

thinks that the interpretant is "Giovanni hates every time Zanelli teases him, whether it's about his dad or himself".

Datum 4: "Giovanni forgot himself in the map of the heavens" (pg.18) Based on the sentence, writer assume that the sign of this data is categorized as symbol "Giovanni found a map of the galaxy in the watchmaker's shop". The object of this data is "Circular black map of the heavens decorated with green asparagus leaves". Based on the information mentioned before the sentence, writer thinks that the interpretant for this data is "A map of the Milky Way Universe with the zodiacs signs and other star chart".

Datum 5: "The watchmaker's shop had a bright fluorescent light in the window and an owl, made of stone, whose red eyes rolled around every second." (pg.16) Based on the sentence, writer assume that "an owl, made of stone, whose red eyes rolled around every second" is the sign of the sentence which is categorized as an Index. The triadic model of this datum tells that to describe the sign in more simple term writer think that the object of this data is "An owl shaped timepiece that make a movement every second". As for the interpretant writer think "It is an ornament that is shaped like an owl which have its eyes rolling every second"

Datum 6: "Giovanni wondered if the sky was really so crammed with scorpions and brave warriors and things"(pg.18) Based on the sentence, writer assume that "Scorpions and brave warriors and things" is the sign of the sentence which is categorized as Symbol. The triadic model of this datum tells that the object of this data is "A star formation in the sky that sometimes shaped like a certain item". The writer interprets this data is "The star formation of scorpion and brave warriors refer to the star chart of the zodiac Scorpio and Sagittarius"

Datum 7: "The air was crystal clear, flowing through the streets and past the shops as if it were water." (pg.19) Based on the sentence, writer assume that "Crystal clear air as if it were water" is the sign of the sentence which is categorized as an Index. The object is "Giovanni can feel that the air of the street that he passed by is really fresh as if it were a water". From the sign and the object of this data, the writer interprets this data as "An air that feel as fresh as the air in the mountain"

Datum 8: "All of the children, dressed in freshly pressed kimonos" (pg.18) Based on the sentence, writer assume that the sign of this data is categorized as an Icon which is "Kimonos". The triadic model of this datum tells that the sign of

this data refers to the object "Traditional Japanese clothing that have beautiful pattern on it". Writer interprets it as "A traditional one-piece clothes from Japan that have arts and pattern on it"

Datum 9: "O Centaurus, Let the Dew Fall!" (pg.18) Based on the sentence, writer assume that "Centaurus" is the sign of the sentence which is categorized as a Symbol. The object of this data is "A star chart that is shaped like a half human half horse hybrid creature who old a bow and an arrow". The writer interprets this data as "A star chart that symbolize the Sagittarius star chart near The Jupiter"

Datum 10: "And before his eyes there was a flash flood of intensely bright light, as if billions and billions of phosphorescent cuttle fish had fossilised at their most radiant instant and been plunged into the sky" (pg.24) Based on the sentence, writer assume that "flash flood of intensely bright light" is the sign of the sentence which is categorized as an index. The object of this data is "Giovanni and Campanella can see a trail of flood of bright light that surround the milky way universe". The writer thinks that the interpretant of this data is "A flood of stars that resemble a wave or flood of water"

Datum 11: "Campanella's face turned pale, and he looked as if something were hurting him" (pg.26)

Based on the sentence, writer assume that the sign of this data is "Campanella's face turned pale" it is categorized as an Index. Writer thinks that the object of this data is "Campanella's face went blue as if he was out of breath". The writer interprets this data as "Campanella's condition in the real world where he is drowning is being mirrored to his condition in the train"

Datum 12: "'I've made it right into the sky's field!' cried Giovanni" (pg.28)

Based on the sentence, writer assume that "Cried Giovanni" is the sign of the sentence, writer think that the sign is categorized as an index. The writer think that the object of this data is "Giovanni felt touched by the fact that he gets to the sky's field and ended up pouring tear from his eyes". After finding the relationship between the sign and the object, the writer thinks that interpretant is "Giovanni feels happy because he can see the sky field that he always read in the book with Giovanni with his own eyes"

Datum 13: "'I wonder if my mum will ever forgive me,' said Campanella suddenly"(pg.30)

Based on the data, writer assume that the sign of this object is categorized as an index, which is "Campanella feel grief by the fact that he died before his dad". Writer thinks that the object is "Campanella said a word of worry where he thinks his mom will be sad because he died before his dad". The writer interprets this data as "Campanella worried that his mom will be in huge grief when she heard that he died leaving his dad alone in the world of the living"

Datum 14: "The people from the train had gone somewhere and vanished" (pg.34)

Based on the data, the writer think that the sign of this data is categorized as an index, which is "The people form the train had gone somewhere and vanished". Writer thinks that the object is "Passengers who get down the train except for Giovanni and Campanella had vanished in to a thin air". The writer interprets this data as "The passengers that was coming down of the train have reached their stop which refers to their own heaven"

Datum 15: "Giovanni and Campanella raised their eyes and listened carefully. Amid the soft echo of the chugging of the train and the swishing of the pampas grass they heard the bubbly frothing and gurgling of water." (pg.41)

Based on the sentence, writer assume that the sign of this data is "Giovanni and Campanella tried to hear the sound of the

cranes that the bearded man was talking about", which is categorized as an index. The object of the data is "The bearded man told Giovanni and Campanella that if they pay close attention, they can hear the voice of the crane who was chasing the man". The writer interprets this data as "Giovanni and Campanella was trying to hear the sound of the birds that was chasing the bird catcher"

CONCLUSION

The writer found out that the signs that can be found in the novel can be analyzed with a semiotic approach. The method that the writer used to find the answer to the question of this paper is by finding the signs of the data that the writer could found, then determined whether the signs are considered as an Icon, Index, or a Symbol then, by using Peirce's theory of semiotics and triadic model, the writer tried to find a relationship from the signs and the objects to found the interpretant of the data.

There are a total of 24 data that the writer found in this novel. From these 24 data, the writer can conclude that most of the signs in this novel is are Indexes, 17 indexes, 5 symbols, and 2 icons. In brief, the research result provided in the Chapter IV is a proof that the triadic concept of Peirce's theory can be used to interpret the meaning of signs that showed up in the novel.

Based on the result of the study, the writer realized that there was a lot of imperfection and mistake in this paper and, some corrections are needed in order to accomplish a better analysis but, The writer would like to suggest that the theory of literature work, especially subject that have a relationship with a semiotic theory should be intensified among students of the English Literature Department and the writer also would like to suggest for the university to enroll some activity that will improve students' interest toward reading a literature work should be implemented in order to further ease the process of making a paper that have the same theme as writer's paper.

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