SYMBOLIC MEANING IN WHITE'S *CHARLOTTE'S WEB*

A Thesis

Submitted to the Faculty of Cultural Sciences Hasanuddin University in Partial Fulfilment for The Requirement to Obtain Sarjana Degree in English

WRITTEN BY

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SYMBOLIC MEANING IN WHITE'S "CHARLOTTE'S WEB"

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It has been examined before the Board of Thesis Examination on Friday, 5 July 2024

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On July 17, 2024, the Board of Thesis Examination has kindly approved a thesis by Faizah Annisa Firmansyah (F041201098) entitled *Symbolic Meaning In White's "Charlotte's Web"* submitted in fulfillment of one of the requirements to obtain Sarjana Degree in English Literature Study Program, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University.

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The thesis by Faizah Annisa Firmansyah (F041201098) entitled *Symbolic Meaning In White's*

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Hereby, the writer declares that this thesis is written by herself. This thesis does not contain any materials which have been published by other people, and it does not cite other people's ideas except quotations and references.

Makassar, July 10th, 2024

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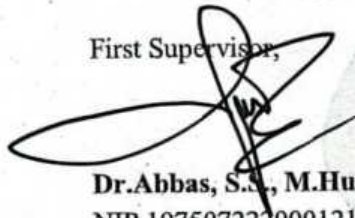## FACULTY OF CULTURAL SCIENCES
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With reference to the letter of the Dean of Cultural Sciences Number 1424/UN4.9.1/KEP/2023 regarding supervision, we hereby confirm to approve the thesis draft by **Faizah Annisa Firmansyah** (F041201098) to be examined at the English Department, Faculty of Cultural Sciences.
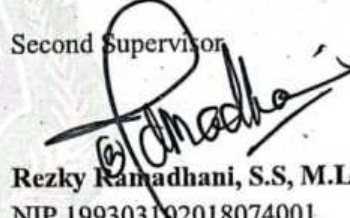
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Makassar, 2nd June 2024

The writer

Faizah Annisa Firmansyah

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ABSTRACT

Faizah Annisa Firmansyah. 2024. Symbolic Meaning in White‟s *Charlotte's Web*. (Supervised by **Abbas** and **Rezky Ramadhani**)

This thesis research discusses the characterization of the *Charlotte's Web*. The novel tells about Wilbur's journey as a pig, determined to avoid his tragic destiny as a pig on a farm. On this journey, Wilbur meets his faithful friend, Charlotte, the spider, who helps him escape his fate. In this study, the author explains the symbols in *Charlotte's web*.

The thesis uses a pure structuralism approach to analyze the intrinsic elements: characterization, plot, setting, and theme. The writer also uses the symbol theory by Pickering and Hoeper (1981) to analyze the aspects of symbolism in the novel. This research uses a qualitative descriptive method. The main data source comes from the novel *Charlotte's Web*, published in 1952 and revised in 2012 by HarperCollins.

The results of this study show that E.B. White uses aspects of symbolism in his novels, such as characters, objects, and events. The writer finds symbols. There are several things that the author underlines regarding the meaning of symbolism in the novel, such as symbols in characters Wilbur, Charlotte, Fern Arable, Templeton, Mr. Zuckerman, Dr. Dorian, geese, and old sheep. Object symbols are the barn, Templeton's stash, and Charlotte's web. And for event symbols, the author found the county fair, the community's reaction, and Charlotte's death. It is shown that children's literature also has complex meanings.

Keywords: *Symbolism, Structuralism Approach, Charlotte's Web*

ABSTRAK

Faizah Annisa Firmansyah. 2024. *Symbolic Meaning in White's Charlotte's Web*. (Dibimbing oleh **Abbas** dan **Rezky Ramadhani**)

Penelitian skripsi ini membahas penokohan novel Charlotte"s web yang mengisahkan perjalanan hidup tentang Wilbur, seekor babi yang bertekad untuk menghindari takdir tragisnya sebagai babi di perternakan. Dalam perjalanan ini, Wilbur bertemu teman sejatinya Charlotte si laba-laba yang menolongnya untuk lepas dari takdirnya. Dalam penelitian ini, penulis menjelaskan simbol-simbol yang terdapat pada *Charlotte's web*.

Penulis menggunakan pendekatan strukturalisme murni untuk menganalisis unsur intrinsik yaitu penokohan, plot, setting dan tema. Penulis juga menggunakan teori simbol oleh Pickering and Hoeper (1981) dan menganalisis aspek simbolisme yang ada dalam novel. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif. Sumber data utama berasal dari novel *Charlotte's Web* yang diterbitkan pada tahun 1952 dan direvisi pada tahun 2012 oleh HarperCollins.

Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa E.B White menggunakan aspek simbolisme dalam novelnya seperti tokoh, objek, dan peristiwa. Penulis menemukan simbol Ada beberapa hal yang penulis garis bawahi mengenai makna simbolisme dalam novel seperti, simbol dalam karakter: Wilbur, Charlotte, Fern Arable, Templeton, Mr. Zuckerman, Dr. Dorian, angsa, dan domba tua. Simbol objek adalah gudang, barang simpanan Templeton, dan jaring Charlotte. Dan untuk simbol peristiwa penulis menemukan, pekan raya daerah, reaksi masyarakat, dan kematian Charlotte. Hal ini menunjukkan bahwa karya sastra anak juga mempunyai makna yang kompleks.

Kata kunci: *Simbol, Pendekatan Strukturalisme, Charlotte's Web*

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the writer explains the introduction of the research, consists of the Background of The Study, Identification of The Study, Research Question, Objective of The Study, and Sequence of The Writing.

1.1 Background of the Study

Literature plays a very significant role in the maturity of knowledge and understanding of life. Literature is a combination of words produced by the authors based on their imagination. It has artistic or intellectual value and also uses language in various ways, so literature is considered an art form. According to Abrams (1999:103), *"Literature is a form of human expression that uses language to represent and imagine experiences and events, convey ideas and emotions, and reflect and comment upon human existence."* Literature can also be interpreted as the culture of a person or group, historical records, reflections of real world events, social reality, or imaginary.

The author often uses a combination of insightful means, artistic installations, and programs that provide various methods for processing outstanding works to update complex literary frameworks from specific works. According to Rosmaidar (2012), literature is a form of writing that tells stories with dramatic situations and emotional expression. Literature also means a strategy for establishing an emotional relationship between readers and authors of works. If readers do not read it carefully or understanding and interpreting works, then readers will not quickly feel the meaning of the literary work.

One of literary methods that had been use for centuries is symbolism. Symbolism is a literary device used to represent abstract ideas or concepts through the use of symbols.

Symbol is a representation of an object in someone''s thinking. Symbol can also be a medium for a person to represent an object that is abstract, for example a rose is a symbol of love and black cat as a bad luck symbol. In literary works, symbols can be objects, characters, or even actions that have a deeper meaning beyond their literal interpretation (Deguzman, 2023). Symbols are used to influence and attract readers to read novels or other literary work, so symbols can appear in literary works in various ways. This is to dig into a few different things. Generally, symbols exist in the form of words, figures of speech, events, total actions, or characters.

Symbolism in literature is like a tool for the author to deliver their messages, so they will be understood by the reader completely. The sense of messages will be different when the author uses symbolism. By using symbol, one message can become more powerful. Symbolism does not only give powerful message (Green, 2013), but also adds the richness of a story and shares the author philosophies (O'neal, 2013). Fadaee (2010) also stated his opinion if symbolism is the uses of symbols by using an object, place, attitude, belief, or value to represent the hidden meaning or idea that takes something to hide the real meaning from the reality.

ymbol is one of the most frequently appears in children novel''s

's Web. This story is set on a farm located in Maine, and it centers on the

friendship of a pig named Wilbur and a spider named Charlotte. When Wilbur faces the threat of being sent to the slaughterhouse as a litters pig, Fern Arable, a young girl, convinces her father to let her take care of him. Under Fern's care, Wilbur grows well, but as he grows older, he learns his fate and becomes desperate. However, Charlotte, with an uncanny talent for spinning webs, devises a plan to save him by weaving a message praising Wilbur. As Wilbur's fame increases, so does Charlotte's awareness of her own mortality. With the help of Templeton's mice, Charlotte ensures Wilbur's safety before she dies. In the end, Wilbur avoided his fate of being slaughter. *Charlotte's Web* shares characteristics with fables, such as anthropomorphized animals and moral lessons. However, it is not a fable in the traditional sense. The story is more complex and emotionally rich narrative that extends beyond the simple and direct storytelling typical of fables.

Even though *Charlotte's Web* is a children's literature, it can still be read by adults, and when adults read the story, they can find second meanings that cannot be captured when children read it. The writer E.B White was an American writer. He was the author of several highly popular books for children, including *Stuart Little* (1945), *Charlotte's Web* (1952), and *The Trumpet of the Swan* (1970). Therefore, we can conclude that the author is very concerned about children's stories and also explains reflections on life from the perspective of children with characters that children can understand easily.

he reason why the writer is interested in analyzing symbolism in *'s Web* is because the author of this novel is an adult who wrote story for

children and the characters of the story can be understood by children, and we as adults who read it get a different perception or second meaning behind the words itself. This is also showing how complex children story is. By reading the results of this research, the writer hopes that readers will understand that in literary works there are many words that have a deeper meaning when we read them carefully. And by understanding the symbolism in literary works would help in exploring truth, creating complex worlds, and engaging the reader in philosophical contemplation, enhancing the depth and meaning of the words.

1.2 Identification of the Problems

In *Charlotte's Web* by E.B White has some problem between the characters after read the stories, the writer found some problems in these two short stories, as follows :

1. Templeton the rat behavior impact the other characters.

2. The barn as home for the animals.

3. The other animals in the barn roles towards Wilbur.

4. Charlotte"s effort to solve the problem in the story.

5. Charlotte"s ending at the end of story.

6. The people reaction in the story when faced something new.

1.3 Scope of Problem

As mentioned above, there so many problems of this novel that can be analyzed. However, in this study the writer only discusses about the intrinsic such as characters, setting, plot, and theme and the symbolism that exist vel.

1.4 Research Question

From Identification of the problem, the writer emphasizes the analysis to answer these questions as follows:

1. What are the structural aspects in the *Charlotte's Web*?

2. How the symbol and its meaning portrayed in *Charlotte's Web*?

1.5 Objective of the Study

Based on these research question statement above, the writer determines two objectives of the study as follows:

1. To explain the plot, character, theme and setting in the *Charlotte's Web*.

2. To analyze the meaning of symbolism in *Charlotte's Web*.

1.6 Sequence of the Writing

This research consists of five chapters. Chapter one is an Introduction consists of Background, Identification of The Problem, Scope of Problem, Research Questions, Objectives of The Study, and Sequence of The Study. Chapter two is Previous Study which provides an overview of several Related Research, and Theoretical background that will explain about the theory that will be used in this research. Chapter three is Methodology which contains Methodological Design, Method of Collecting Data, Method of Analyzing Data, and Research Procedure. Chapter four is about discusses data of collection and the results of research related to the novel. And Chapter Five is the closing chapter ists of a conclusion of the research and suggestion from the writer.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter consists of relevant research in related to this thesis the writer used a structuralism approach and symbolism theory by Pickering and Hoeper in analyzing the novel. To support this thesis, the writer uses or compared it to another researcher's thesis to help the writer to compare some of the problems and develop the research. The following below are some previous researchers related to this writing.

2.1 Previous Studies

The first researcher is from Tiffany (2017) in her thesis entitled *Symbolism and Their Meanings in The Little Prince* from Soegijapranata Catholic University. In this research the writer focused on analyzing major symbols and their meaning in *The Little Prince*. The writer using symbolic theory by Pickering and Hooper''s, in this study the writer found five main symbols in the story, Desert, Star, Baobab, water, and Rose. These five symbols are related to each other in the story and make the story more interesting. The writer also compares the denotative meaning of each symbol with its symbolic meaning so that people understand that the symbols used have different meanings from their actual meaning.

The second is written by Arinda (2019) in her thesis entitled *Symbolism in Three Version of Cinderella Stories: An Analysis of Representation* from UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. In this study the writer found there are some positive and meanings that represent the symbols. The research using representation Stuart Hall to define the real meaning of the symbols appears in the

stories. The writer found that there are symbolic dominant that often appeared in *Cinderella Stories,* the glass slipper represents about true identity, gentleness, and purity; the gown represents about double identity and unusual beauty; the pumpkin represents about transition, wealth, and relationship; the animals represents about temerity and lower class; and the characters represents about struggle, God, dream, and jealousy. This research provided clear explanation and description of the meaning of the symbols and the reader's perceptions about the symbols that appear in the stories.

The third is written by Hardina (2021) in her thesis entitled *Moral Value in Lewis' The Chronicles of Narnia the Lion the Witch and The Wardrobe* from Hasanuddin University. This study focused on analyzing the main characters and the objects function as symbol to revealed significant message. The writer used symbolism theory by Perrine and structuralism approach in her thesis to underlines the meaning of symbolism in the novel, such as the sacrifice of Jesus, symbols of Satan, traitors, strict religious forms and moral values. The writer aims to provide a deeper understanding of the symbolic representations in the novel and their implications on the narrative and characters within the story.

Another thesis is written by Zulhana (2021) in her thesis entitled *An Analysis on Hierarchy of Human Needs of The Main Character in Charlotte's Web by E.B White* from Hasanuddin University. This research focuses on identifying the dominant needs of the main character and describes the five levels hy of needs faced by the main character. The writer used a psychological and Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory to analyze dialogue

and narratives that reflect the main character's needs. The writer also described the character's behavior, feelings and motivation to provide insight into the main character's psychological dimensions. This paper aims to provide insight into the psychological aspects of the characters in the novel, by emphasizing the relationship between literature and psychology.

After read some of the previous studies above, the writer see that all the previous studies have some common study with this thesis it is focus on symbolic meaning. While the difference is the first research she focused on 5 symbolic that appeared in the story. The second focused on finding the dominant symbolic in the stories, the third researcher is analyzing about the symbolism in religious aspect and using structuralism approach and the fourth researcher using the same novel but focused on analyzing the main character human needs and using Abraham Maslow theory. From the research that conducted above, the writer examined the issue of this study is symbolic meaning that occurs in *Charlotte's Web* by E.B White as the object of study.

2.2   Structuralism Approach

In analyzing the stories, the writer uses structuralism approach. According to Abrams, in approaching a literary work, *"structuralism criticism stands free from poet, audience, and its environment. It describes the literary work as a self-sufficient object"*(Abrams, 1981: 87). The structuralism approach is an approach in literature that his work analyzes the structural elements that build literary works

hin, as well as looking for a relationship or interrelationship of the

with one another in order to achieve unanimity of meaning. The origins

of the structuralism approach in literature began in the early 20th century, drawing ideas from linguistics and expanding them into literary analysis. It started with Ferdinand de Saussure, who studied language as a system of signs. His ideas influenced Russian Formalists like Viktor Shklovsky, who focused on the structure and techniques of texts rather than their content. Later, thinkers like Roland Barthes and Gérard Genette applied these ideas to literature, studying the rules and patterns that shape narratives. Structuralism in literature looks at the hidden structures within texts to understand how they create meaning.

A structural approach is an approach that involves part of the intrinsic elements in the novel and every literary work of course has a structure of intrinsic elements that are interconnect with each other in forming a story that makes the story meaningful, reasonable, and easy to understand. The structural approach was first introduced by Ferdinand de Saussure who stated that structuralism is a philosophical school in France through a book by linguists in Switzerland entitled *Cours de linguistiquegénérale*, which was published in 1915. Overall, the structuralism approach has the aim of analyzing the relationship of a literary work from all its elements as a whole. Structural approach is often referred to as an intrinsic approach that discusses all the elements that exist in literary works and is developed. This approach is also used to carefully analysts the relationship between the author's thoughts and his literary work by looking at each of the intrinsic elements that exist.

tructuralism approach is very important for an analysis of literary works.

piece Literature is built by elements that form a unified whole in a work

literature. Literature is a structure. Structure here in the sense that the literary work is a systematic arrangement of elements, between the elements there is a relationship reciprocal. So, the unity of the elements in literature is not just a collection or collection of elements piles or things, or things that stand alone, but things that are mutually related, and interdependent (Pradopo, 2012: 14). Structural analysis aims to unpack and explain as carefully, as precisely, as much detail and in-depth and entanglement all elements and aspects of literature that together produce a comprehensive meaning (Teeuw, 1984: 135). Through structural analysis, a literary work can be analyzed in depth and detail from every aspect of its literary elements to create a broadly defined work.

When reading a literary work, the reader will of course find several characters with different characters, in different places and times, each element building and supporting each other, where each element has its own meaning, which the author wants to convey. To the readers through this structural approach, the author will analyze each of these elements to find the meaning that the author wants to convey to the reader. Structure is included in content and form to achieve aesthetic goals in the structure of literary works (fiction) which consists of intrinsic elements, namely plot, characters, mandated themes, and setting as the most basic and most dominant support in building a literary work (Wellek and Warren 1992: 56).

To determine the structural approach used in a literary work, it must be y identifying, researching, discovering, describing and then connecting perfect meaning of the entire work literature. The structural approach if

used in analyzing a work will go through many stages to achieve the desired result. This, according to Nurgiyantoro (2005: 20), is as follows:

1. Identifying the internal elements that make up a literary work and mark the internal elements including themes and characters in the story.

2. Analyze the identified elements to identify and distinguish character, plot, setting, and theme.

3. Explaining the intrinsic element that has been known between the Characterization, theme, plot, and setting, in a literary work.

4. Connecting each of these intrinsic elements to obtain the perfect meaning of a literary work.

Based on the explanation about the structuralism approach, it can be understood that this approach focuses on the intrinsic elements that exist in literary works to explain in more depth and detail the meaning of the entire literary work by identifying, analyzing, elaborating and collaborating to achieve a perfect meaning. This intrinsic element consists of several supporting elements of a literary work, namely characters, plot, setting and theme. These four intrinsic elements are interrelated in their respective functions.

2.2.1 Characters

Characters are the human elements of the story, attracting our curiosity and sympathy (Langhlin, 1989: 375). The representation of characters and the appearance of characters in the story of a literary work is a combination of many ... es and creative processes. Readers can learn about many characters in ... through conversations between that character and other characters.

Characters can be identified from their reactions to other characters, although they are not always portrayed accurately, so characters in novels are creative, expressive people present and have attitudes that can be evaluated by both other characters and the reader. Character is a person presented in dramatics of narrative who work are interpreted by reader as being endowed with moral and dispositional qualities that are expressed in what they say and what they do in action (Abrams 1981: 20).

Through the characters created by the author in their work, each of these characters has values or moral qualities in their character, both in positive and negative terms, which will be conveyed by the author, while the dispositional quality will be shown by the moral of the character based on their behavior or dialogue in the story as according to Abrams via Nurgiyantoro (2009: 165-166) the characters in the story are the people featured in a drama, narrative work, or that the reader interprets. Based on the character appearance the character can be divided in to protagonist and antagonist. Characters in a novel are the people or creatures make the story come alive. They are like the main actors in a play, each with their own personality, background, and reasons for doing things. The main character, called the protagonist, is usually at the center of the action. They're the one who faces challenges, learns lessons, and grows throughout story.

Opposite the protagonist is the antagonist, who creates conflict and stands in the way of the protagonist's goals. Antagonists can be villains, rivals, or even agonist's own inner struggles. Supporting characters are like the st's sidekicks or helpers. They add depth to the story by providing

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different viewpoints or experiences. Minor characters are like extras in a movie or stories. They may not be as important to the plot, but they still add flavor to the story and can sometimes surprise us with their actions or words.

Based on the previous explanation, the writers conclude that the character is an important actor in conveying the author's moral message to the reader because the role of depicting the character is based on the behavior or speech of the characters so that the reader can catch the moral message, whether it is good or bad, through the characters.

2.2.2 Plot

Plot is one of the intrinsic elements of a literary work. It is a series of incidents in a story arranged in chronological order. Plot is the backbone of narrative storytelling in literature. It refers to the sequence of events that unfold within a story, providing structure and coherence to the narrative. A well-crafted plot engages readers, creates suspense, and drives the story forward. Plot is used to govern how the actions of a story relate to each other. In other words, plot is the sequence and steps through which the author can tell the story. Perrine (1988:41-44) believes that the plot is the storyline when events occur in a novel, to find out the essence of a novel, it can be analyzed through a plot.

The essence of understanding plot lies in cause and effect, but the most important thing is one of conflict and climax, which originates from internal and external conflict. What is emphasized in plot analysis is how it is formed, not how

rtag (1990: 115) considers five important parts of the plot, these parts are

n, rising action, climax, falling action, and ending.

a) **Exposition**

The exposition introduces readers to the main characters, setting, and initial situation of the story. It sets the stage by providing essential background information and context for understanding the events that follow.

b) **Rising Action**

The rising action encompasses the series of events that occur as the story unfolds and the tension gradually increases. It includes obstacles, conflicts, and complications that the protagonist encounters on their journey toward achieving their goals.

c) **Climax**

The climax is the turning point of the story, representing the peak of tension and conflict. It is the moment of greatest suspense or emotional intensity, where the protagonist faces a critical decision or confrontation that determines the outcome of the narrative.

d) **Falling Action**

Following the climax, the falling action depicts the consequences or aftermath of the climax. It shows how the resolution of the conflict begins to unfold and ties up loose ends as the story approaches its conclusion.

e) **Resolution (or Denouement)**

The resolution, also known as the denouement, is the final part of the plot where the main conflict is resolved, and any remaining questions

or conflicts are resolved. It provides closure for the story and often reveals the ultimate fate of the characters.

The resolution part is the final explanation of what has happened. These are moments where characters express their emotions about what happened, including the events during the resolution and their reactions to how they have changed throughout the novel. This is the end of the story and ends with a happy or tragic ending.

2.2.3 Setting

The setting is part of a story who tell the situations and conditions in the story which consists of the setting of time, place, and atmosphere. Warren and Wellek said, *"Setting is environment; and environment, especially domestic interiors, may be viewed as metonymic, or metaphoric, expressions of characters."* (1970: 221). Settings not only help to clarify a given story‟s themes. They can also help us to understand a character‟s worldview through how they think about their surroundings. Gill (1995: 148) explained that setting includes where the story happens, the people involved like family and friends, the customs and rules of society, specific event locations, and the overall vibe and mood created by these factors.

This explanation shows that setting describes the situation or condition in a story, including the time, atmosphere, and place. Each of these elements has its own purpose and meaning in the story, but they are all connected. For example the ce, and atmosphere of the setting work together to create the overall story ent.

a) **Setting of Time**

The setting of time in a literary work refers to the period in which the events take place. It includes the historical era, specific dates, seasons, and even the time of day. The time setting can significantly impact the narrative by influencing the characters" behaviors, societal norms, and overall mood of the story. In literature, authors often use the time setting to create a sense of authenticity and context for their narratives. By placing the story in a particular time period, they can explore themes relevant to that era and provide readers with a deeper understanding of the characters" motivations and actions.

b) **Setting of Place**

The setting of place in literature refers to the physical location where the events of a story unfold. It encompasses not only the geographical location but also the social, cultural, and political environment in which the characters exist. The setting of place plays a crucial role in shaping the characters" experiences, interactions, and relationships within the narrative. Authors use the setting of place to establish a sense of atmosphere and mood in their works. By vividly describing the surroundings, they can transport readers to different worlds and immerse them in the story"s unique environment. Whether it is a bustling city, a remote village, or a fantastical realm, the setting of place helps bring the narrative to life and adds depth to the storytelling.

c) Setting of Atmosphere

This setting in a literary work refers to the overall mood, tone, and emotional atmosphere in the story. It includes elements such as weather conditions, lighting, sound, and other sensory details that contribute to the reader's experience of the narrative. The atmosphere created by the setting can evoke a variety of emotions and enhance the thematic resonance of the work. The author carefully crafts the atmosphere to evoke certain feelings or reactions from the reader. Whether it is foreboding in a dark forest, serenity on the shore of a serene lake, or tension in a bustling marketplace, the atmospheric setting sets the stage for dramatic tension, character development, and thematic exploration in the text.

The three settings are related to building a story until it reaches the end expected by the author and this setting has an important influence on the reader so that it is easy to understand the author's intentions and goals.

2.2.4 Theme

Theme in literature is a central idea or message that an author conveys to the readers through the narrative. It is the underlying meaning or insight that the author wants the audience to take away from the story. Themes can be universal concepts, moral lessons, social issues, or philosophical ideas that are explored and developed throughout a literary work. The theme is often also referred to as the ·y. The theme is the notion, idea, or the main thought in both the revealed and that has not been revealed (Sudjiman, 1990:79).

Menrath (2013:173) stated that theme as the overarching message or central concept conveyed within a piece of literature. This underlying idea is typically inferred by the reader rather than explicitly stated. Various motifs and elements may revolve around the central theme of the narrative. According to Stanton (2007:7) theme provides a cohesive explanation of the interconnected events within the story, offering insights into universal aspects of human life. In essence, theme encapsulates the fundamental meaning of a literary work, whether it is directly articulated or subtly implied, and it serves as a cornerstone in the development of the entire narrative.

The purpose of a theme is to give shape and effect to our minds that making the story easy to remember. A good theme must represent the entire story in the novel. Sometimes the themes are formed based on facts originating from human experience. Sometimes because of the length of the novel and things like that characters, conflicts, and scenes contained in it, readers can look at various aspects of the work to reveal different interpretations of the meaning of the story.

2.3 Theory of Symbolism

A symbol is a mark, sign, or word that indicates as representing the idea, object, or relationship. Symbols allow people to go beyond what is known or seen by creating a relation between other very different concepts and experiences. People used symbols for expressing their feelings and thoughts about phenomena, life, and death (Fadaee, 2010: 20). The subtlety of symbolism makes it difficult to and interpret at times. It might be challenging to determine whether an

author meant for something to be symbolic or not. An event, a character, or a physical object may be a symbolic.

According to M. H. Abram (1999:311), a word or phrase is only considered a symbol if it denotes an item or event that denotes something else or has a higher degree of significance than itself. In other words, something that has a hidden meaning that denotes something different from its literal meaning makes it difficult for others to accept it as a sign.

2.3.1 Types of Symbol

Symbols are often classified as being traditional, original, or private, depending on the source of the associations that provide their meanings. Pickering and Hoeper in their book *Concise Companion to Literature* stated about three kinds of symbol (Pickering & Hoeper, 1981, p.71-72):

a) Traditional Symbol

Traditional symbols are those whose association are the common property of a society or a culture and are so widely recognized and accepted that they can be said to be almost universal. Traditional symbols include the associations that often exist between the forest and the sea, the moon and the sun, night and day, the colors black, white, and red, and the season of the year are examples of traditional symbols. They are so much a part of our culture that we take their significance pretty much for granted. The presence of traditional symbols, it should be noted, does not mean that we are free to ignore the framing context of the work and to impose from the outside one

pattern or another as we see fit. Traditional symbols, for all their accompanying associations, must always be established by the context of the work and find their significance inside the work, not beyond it.

b) **Original Symbol**

Original symbols are those whose associations are neither immediate nor traditional and that derive their meaning, largely if not exclusively, from the context of the work in which they are used. For example, blue color in map means everything related with water, but blue color in weather information means cold weather. Original symbols are unique to a particular work of literature and are created by the author to convey specific meanings within that context. Unlike conventional symbols, which rely on widely recognized associations, original symbols derive their significance from the unique way they are used in a specific text.

c) **Private Symbol**

Private symbols restrict the source of their meaning even more than original symbols. Just as all of us have certain objects in our lives that call to mind a variety of private associations (in the way a family heirloom does), certain authors employ symbols that are the products of their own peculiar and idiosyncratic systems of philosophy or belief. Private symbols, by virtue of their source, are esoteric and largely unintelligible, except to those whom the author or that author's critics and interpreters have succeeded in educating. Fortunately, most of the

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symbols that the average reader encounters are either traditional or original.

The identification and understanding of literary symbols requires many things from the reader. They demand awareness and intelligence as well as the ability to detect when the emphasis the author gives to certain elements in the work can be said to take those elements to a broader, symbolic tone, and when the author intends to imply nothing other than what is literally stated.

2.3.2 Step to Recognize Symbol

A symbol is not difficult or easy to be recognized as it is like a hidden message where people need practice or read the sentence more carefully to recognize it in a literary work. According to Perrine (1974), it is important to follow some steps to recognize symbols in a story by observing the following:

1) The story itself has to indicate, by emphasis, which details are to be interpreted symbolical. A symbol will indicate to the reader that it is there by being emphasized or repeated.

2) The entire story's background must be used to develop and bolster a literary symbol's significance.

3) An object has to imply a meaning that differs somewhat from its literal meaning in order to qualify as a symbol. A symbol is more than just a picture of a certain kind or class.

4) A symbol can signify several things. It could imply a variety of interpretations.

Most of our daily symbol making and symbol reading is unconscious and unintentional, the inevitable result of our human experience. But in literary works, symbols in the form of words, images, objects, settings, events, and characters are often used deliberately to impress and strengthen meaning, to provide enrichment by enlarging and clarifying the experience of the work, and to help organize and unify the whole.